

Mearns Castle High School
Minutes of Parent Council Meeting & AGM
Monday 8th September

In Attendance: David Barnett, Dean Smith, Valerie Fyfe, Angela Coubrough, Gillian Elliot, Ian Laird, Marilyn Dalgleish, Ian Cairns, Danny McPhail-Smith, Helen Ormiston, Caroline Sincock, Jim Swift, Paul Fletcher, Kathryn Keatings, Jane Ruddock, Andy Sinclair.

Apologies: Claire Davidson, Ken Davidson, Farkat Zaman

Election of Office Bearers:

David Barnett stepped down as chairman of the council. He ran through the salient points of the previous 12 months and encouraged the need to recruit more parents and staff onto the council. Several parents have stepped down as their children have now left the school. The council can consist of up to 24 parents and up to 6 staff.

Helen Ormiston was elected as Chair, nominated by David Barnett and seconded by Marilyn Dalgleish.

Ken Davidson was elected as treasurer, nominated by David Barnett and seconded by Helen Ormiston.

Stephen Pryce was not present at the meeting. David to see if he wishes to continue as deputy chair.

Correspondence:

- Minutes from the East Ren. chairs meeting. A presentation was made on Curriculum for Excellence.
- Enterprise Matters planner, This made suggestions for parental involvement.
- Parent Council Newsletter. The first issue of the national newsletter. A parent council website is being set up.
- A DVD; Curriculum for Excellence, has been sent to all schools. This explains how changes affect pupils and parents. There is also a booklet available.
- MCHS were approached to pilot an idea about parental involvement. Dean Smith, Jim McKenna, Ken Davidson and Paul Fletcher met to discuss this in June.

Consultation:

The next Generation of Scottish Qualifications: These proposals have grown from Curriculum for Excellence. The deadline for the council to respond to these proposals is 31st October 08. It was agreed that Mr Smith would do a presentation on the proposals at the next council meeting. The proposals would be posted on the school website and also in the school newsletter. The next council would be open for all parents and the proposals would be discussed. All responses could then be forwarded before the deadline.

S1 Open Evening:

This would take place on 23rd September. Council to provide teas and coffees and use the opportunity to encourage new parents to join the parent council.

Fund Raising Report:

The PTA had previously met separately. With several parents leaving at the end of last year it was felt that new blood was needed to keep the PTA activities running. There was discussion around going back to PTA meetings. The possibility of parents just being involved in PTA issues was forwarded. Other subgroups that were also discussed were: IT project, Sports involvement and the Enterprise project.

Head Teachers Report:

Mr Smith reported on the results of the Intermediate and Higher exams. S4 results had improved by about 4.5 %. S5 results had dipped slightly but were still higher than ERC average.

This year's P7 will be part of a new structure whereby S1-3 become lower school and S4-6 upper school. This is in line with CfE.

AOCB:

It was decided that charges for siblings for after school clubs would remain the same.

DONM:

Wednesday October 22nd