

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

8 March 2010

Present: J Gilbert, G Young, I Cairns, H Ormiston, V Fyfe, S Pryce, D Smith, E Ferguson,
A Hutchison, K Gibson, J Herald, C Davidson, F Ali, C Sincock

Apologies: Cllr Swift, K KEatings, R Gangi, M Simpson, A Coubrough

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of last meeting accepted on the proposal of H Ormiston and seconded by I Cairns

2. Travel Plan

3 members of the Pupil Council in conjunction with B Cook, the Active Schools Coordinator are working towards a Scottish Government initiative to encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school.

They gave a presentation to the Parent Council with suggestions on how pupils can be encouraged and what incentives can be used. The Council could help by highlighting the initiative to parents and suggest they drop their child further away from the school.

Increased pupil safety would have to be given consideration.

The positive outcome would be an increase in Health and Wellbeing and it could decrease the congestion at the school gates.

A short discussion followed the presentation and suggestions included: pupils to calculate the distance and time it would take to walk from specific points and pupils to meet friends and walk together.

3. Connecting Classrooms

Mrs Herald gave a presentation on this 3 year project. Mearns Castle is the only cluster group in Scotland to have been chosen and partnered with 8 schools in New Delhi, India. Schools were matched through pupil attainment. The aim is for reciprocal understanding and to respect each other's identity and way of life, to develop informed attitudes and foster lasting relationships. All expenses are funded by the British Council.

4. Eco Garden

Miss Ferguson gave a presentation of the work being carried out in the Eco Garden. The school is working towards Green Flag Status and Maxwell Mearns Church has donated the land. To date the ground has been cleared and the layout of the garden has been agreed. Some sponsorship to be received from LEADER but pupils and staff will be involved in the majority of the work.

A brief discussion took place on security. Miss Ferguson has been in discussion with Facilities managers and 4 CCTV cameras will scan the area with one camera being permanently fixed on the site.

5. Head Teacher's Report

- A House System is being developed for the school. Details will follow.
- School Fund Constitution has been drafted from details in the Standard Circular and has been shared with staff. Mr Smith asked for comments from the Council and minor changes were made. The Constitution will be posted on the school's website.
- Journey to Excellence – Dimension 6 to be incorporated into the Improvement Plan. Staff have already discussed this and Mr Smith asked the Council to familiarise themselves with the document so that a workshop style discussion can take place at the next meeting.

5. AOCB

Duke of Edinburgh Malawi Trip. Mr Hutchison will be hosting a build up day on 26 June ending in dinner for parents and pupils. Next fundraising -Bag pack -3 April.

PTA will hold a Quiz Evening on Friday 14 May. Raffle prizes are needed.

PTA fundraising last year:	Quiz Evening	£500
	Christmas Show	£390
	Bag Packing	£1100

6. Next Meeting to be held on Monday 26 April 2010