

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL  
MINUTES OF THE PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 8 June 2009

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Present: H Ormiston, D Smith, C Sincock, D Barnett, C Davidson, K Davidson, A Davis, D McPhail-Smith, G Elliot, G Young, I Cairns, V Fyfe, A Hutchison, C Devenport, K Keatings.

Apologies: K Gibson, L Neil, A Coubrough, I Laird, R Gangi

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- 1 The apologies were read out as above.
- 2 A Davis was asked to take the floor and he gave a presentation on the life of being the Campus Police Officer within MCH. All S1-S6 received drugs education, S3 received input on alcohol safety, S4 received a hard hitting programme on violent crime. A Davis attended JST meetings, YPRG meetings, Parents' Evenings, Christmas dances/parties, Senior Prom, and the occasional Parent Council meeting. He has also assisted the school debating team, accompanied the school Pupil Council to the Local Authority meeting, acted as referee at the 5-a-side football for charities week, and acted as mentor to students during Industrial Awareness Day. He went on to add that if his remaining tenure is as trouble free as the past nine months he would be absolutely delighted. He has only had to wear his 'police hat' 3 times and these were for relatively minor offences. D Smith said A Davis was an invaluable resource not only to MCH but reminded those present he also worked across the cluster. A Davis had already e-mailed primaries for next year regarding internet use, smoking and alcohol. An edited version of this talk would be in the Parents' Newsletter. C Sincock asked A Davis about counterfeit goods which seemed to be appearing in schools. A Davis said he would take this on board. No more questions being asked of him, he then left the meeting.
- 3 **Minutes of last meeting**  
Minutes accepted on the proposal of D McPhail-Smith and seconded by C Devenport.  
  
**Matters arising**  
Still no volunteers for the post of Chairperson.
- 4 **Correspondence**  
One leaflet with details of a Curriculum for Excellence meeting at Hampden Park arranged between the Scottish Government and Learning & Teaching.

- 5 **Council Chair Report**  
No meetings with East Renfrewshire.  
David Barnett, Karen Devenport, Danny McPhail-Smith and Marion Dalgleish were standing down. H Ormiston thanked them for all their hard work.  
P7 Parents Evening – possible members for the Council?  
D Smith said the June newsletter was sent to primaries and there would be space for the Parent Council to ‘advertise’ for members.  
D McPhail-Smith thought to put in the AGM date but maybe call it a ‘lemonade and twiglets’ night, hopefully to encourage people to join, and not giving the impression of having to make too much of a commitment. H Ormiston to contact K Wolfson re follow-up letters.  
D Barnett asked if it would be possible to have an electronic suggestion box. I Cairns would set this up.
- 6 **Fund Raising Sub Committee Report**  
Quiz night was a great success and raised £498.00. Special thanks to D Barnett for donations. There was some left over wines and beers. Wine was given to A Hutchison for raffles. The consensus was that next time round they would have less beer and more soft drinks. The same quizmaster would be used and more time would be required to let people know in advance. Donations for raffles would be asked from all parents.  
D Smith had a proposal for the £498 plus, which would be beneficial to all. J McGowne was looking to buy 2 speakers and tripods which MCH borrows at the moment. These would amount to around £1000. K Davidson said there was enough in the account to cover this and the motion was carried happily by all. They would be bought as a VAT free purchase and the school would be refunded. This would be put in the newsletter to let parents know the good works done by the Parent Council for the school.
- 7 **Head Teachers Report**  
D Smith went through the following:  
Standards and Quality Review – Cluster – moving towards Curriculum for Excellence.  
Cluster transitions – very good reports throughout. Leadership ‘good’ but all relaxed with this as it was a fairly new concept and there were new members within the cluster.  
MCH report was very good throughout. D Smith ambition is to achieve excellent in 2 years.  
Improvement Planning 09/10 draft targets – all staff committed to this.  
Preparation of Curriculum for Excellence for August 2010.  
Possible involvement in Scottish Baccalaureate 2010/11 – this was I Cairns remit.  
90% of parents were entirely satisfied with MCH but we needed to introduce an activities day to expand experiences.  
We have added more promethean boards to the school inventory and there is now one of these in almost every classroom.  
Looking for more parental involvement.  
Looking at equality and fairness and develop more choices and chances for vulnerable pupils. This was also I Cairns remit.

Self evaluation – lesson observation followed by dialogue. Sharing good practice and therefore taking MCH forward.

D Smith also talked about a new software purchase for the use of not only staff and pupils but also for parents. The feedback from this would be gathered electronically and although was £1000 to buy – it would pay for itself fairly quickly when taking into account the man (ie woman) hours spent in the office collating information.

Coming Up

Chief Executive coming out to MCH on Wednesday

Senior Debating – Donald Dewar - on Thursday

6<sup>th</sup> Year prom at the Hilton on Sunday

Gold Award Band Concert on Monday

School Show on Wednesday and Thursday

R Lindsay will be retiring and a new PT Social Subject Head has just been appointment and will start in August – Steven Hale.

## 8 **AOCB**

C Sincok had been asked to bring up inconsistency in uniform. If the pupils wore their blazers they were being subjected to bullying apparently. V Fyfe said this should be implemented by parents and D Smith agreed. He cannot implement the wearing of blazers and it was a difficult one for him. He did say however that for the most part the standards of uniform were very high.

D McPhail-Smith brought up the subject of class sizes D Smith responded by saying that Maths and English in S1 and S2 were the biggest but were OK.

C Devenport was at an Education Appeals Committee and stated that any parent was entitled to sit on these committees. He also talked about places within schools in East Renfrewshire and what some parents would do to get their child into their choice of school.

12/9/09 Bag Packing.

## 9 **DONM**

Monday 31 August 2009

The meeting closed at 8.35pm with a vote of thanks from H Ormiston for everyone's attendance, help and commitment.

D McPhail-Smith thanked H Ormiston for her time and effort and also wished the leaving 6<sup>th</sup> year students the very best for their ongoing future.