

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL  
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

28 January 2008

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**Present:** Mr D Barnett, Mr D Smith, Mr D McPhail-Smith, Mrs M Dalglish, Mrs E Neil, Mr I Kilmurray, Mrs H Ormiston, Mrs K Keatings, Mrs F Fyfe, Mr P Fletcher, Miss G Elliot, Mrs V Fyfe, Mrs A Coubrough, Mrs C Davidson, Mrs S Smith.

**Apologies:** Mrs E Cohen, Mr A Sinclair, Mr I Cairns, Mr K Gibson, Cll Green, Cllr J Swift, Mr S Pryce, Mrs M Duthie, Mr I Laird, Mrs R Gangi, Mrs F Zaman.

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**1. Minutes of Last Meeting (amendments/adoption)**

Minor amendments made and minutes of previous meeting adopted on the proposal of Mr McPhail-Smith and seconded by Mr Kilmurray.

**2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

- Mr Barnett suggested sending a subject specific letter to parents re Mrs McLean's presentation. He had attended the presentation to parents at a primary school given by a teacher but this was not deemed to be advanced enough. It was agreed that Mrs Herald and Mr McKenna together with our campus police constable, Susan Greer would deliver the presentation to parent at MCHS. Suggested dates were 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Smith will liaise with Mrs Herald and Mr Barnett.
- Mrs Ormiston confirmed that registration is free for voluntary disclosures.
- Over £200 was raised by PTA at the Christmas Concert.
- Homework. Amount and complexity would not allow homework to be timetabled. To date there has been no demand for a homework club.
- After school clubs. It has been agreed with the sports co-ordinator that costing for next term would be discussed.
- Contact with parents. Mrs Dalglish suggested e-mail address be taken from new S1 parents and this could be used in conjunction with text messaging.

**3. Correspondence**

- Public performance report being distributed to current P7.
- "Included, engaged and involved" document received from the Scottish Government.
- CD – ERSM sent to all schools and copies can be purchased on line for £7.
- ERC Local Attendance Council looking for 2 nominations.
- Letter from ERC re various Parent Council Forums/Council meetings. Mr Fletcher will attend on 6 May and Mrs Coubrough will attend on 26 February.

**4. Fund Raising Sub Committee report.**

- Total held in accounts is £1580.
- Mrs Duthie is offering her resignation as Treasurer.
- There will be specific changes required to be made to bank details before a new treasurer takes over.

- It was suggested that someone currently working on the fund raising sub committee may be willing to take over the role.
- Next involvement will be at the P7 Parents Evening in June.
- Brief discussion took place on how to spend current funds.

## 5. Head Teacher's Report

Mr Smith's presentation included:

- Recent highlights which have taken place – S6 AH trip to Paris, S5/6 trip to Madrid, S4 Prelims, UniqueCo eco-friendly bags won YES (Young Enterprise Scotland) competition held at Braehead, successful Christmas Concert and Dances, ERC Standards and Quality report, Holocaust Memorial Day Scottish Ceremony attended by S6 pupils, S1/S2 Poetry competition, ERC Enterprise Challenge.
- Parent council possibilities and the use of text messaging (use and breakdown of costs distributed)
- Various future presentations were suggested:
  - PE Fitness testing – trial group being tested at the beginning and end of this session - Mr Gibson
  - Enterprise in Education Business Links. MCHS had been invited to launch this - Mr Gooch and Ms Lewis.
  - Assessment is for Learning – MCHS is a centre of excellence and acknowledged by ERC – Mrs O'Donnell and Mr Stewart.
  - Literacy/Reading. Work being taken to the primaries to encourage children to read – Mrs Drew and Miss McEachern.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed that a 15-20 minute presentation at the next meeting on Aifl would be the best start.

## 6. AOCB

- Mr Fletcher suggested forming sub-groups around specific topics to enhance the reputation of the school in non-academic fields. Mr Barnett thought that it may be difficult to find people to form these but after some discussion the following were suggested:
  - PE presentation by Mr Gibson and then form a sub-committee to enhance sport by linking with local clubs
  - AifL presented to parents of P7 and Parents Forum who will see group as being active and sub-groups could develop from there to show parents what is going on and be more prepared to support their children.
- Discussion took place on how best to distribute information to Parent Forum and following discussion it was suggested that information evenings could take place for specific issues. Mrs F Fyfe agreed that parental involvement is the way rather than just telling parents of academic achievements. Mr Smith advised that the last parent information evening was poorly attended but a low response does not make the exercise any less valuable. Mrs Davidson asked if the website could be used and it was agreed that minutes would be posted on the site with a response slip included.
- Mrs Dalglish asked what the current attendance rate was and Mr Smith confirmed that it was approximately 95%.

7. **Next meeting** will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March.