

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL  
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING & AGM  
2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013

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**Present:** D Barnett (Chair), C Sincock (Vice Chair), A Beattie (Clerk), D Smith (Head Teacher), J Bond, C Devenport, E Ferguson, S Hale, L McGrouther, L Purcell, V Shrestha, G Stewart, J Thomson, I Wilson, J Woods, I Clark, F Young, A Blair, P Nicol, C Dearie, G Ferguson, C McLachlan, K Borland, A Rose

**Apologies:** Jon Mack

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1. **Minutes of Last Meeting** accepted on the proposal of C Devenport and seconded by E Ferguson.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – David Barnett welcomed members to the first meeting of the new session. Members introduced themselves.
3. **David Cunningham, New Campus Police Officer**
  - David Cunningham replaced Andy Davis, as Campus Police Officer, at the start of the session. He looks forward to continuing the very good work that Andy achieved during his time at Mearns Castle. David will endeavour to build strong relationships with pupils, staff and the wider community.
4. **Matters Arising**
  - Banners – D Barnett had looked into costs for banners. Julie Woods to liaise with David re purchasing a banner for PTA events.
5. **Correspondence**
  - D Barnett and C Devenport attended the Parent Council Chairs Meeting in May. Discussion took place regarding Parent Council involvement in helping pupils gain work experience and offering support/advice to senior pupils. Williamwood High School Parent Council has issued a letter along with a 'Flying Start' leaflet to parents seeking their support for senior pupils. Woodfarm High School held a Cluster Parent Council meeting which they felt built closer links with the Schools and the Councils. D Smith will take these suggestions to the SLT, thereafter he will meet with D Barnett to discuss further before next Parent Council meeting.

**6. Head Teacher's Report**

New SQA Results Service 2014

**Changes to the Appeals service**

- In the academic year 2013-2014, the SQA will introduce new 'Results Services' to replace our existing [appeals service](#).
- They have prepared a question and answer guide to give you more information about the changes. As we draw closer to the new services being implemented, they will add more to this guide, giving you the most up-to-date information available.
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65427.html>

**Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service:**

- This service will run prior to results being published. If a school or college believes that a candidate has suffered as a result of exceptional circumstances (for example bereavement or illness during an exam) staff can inform us of the circumstances immediately. If we agree that the exceptional circumstances procedure should apply, the school or college can submit alternative evidence of attainment demonstrated by the candidate, which we will consider. This 'alternative evidence' will be coursework, class assessments or **prelims**. To take a holistic

view on the appropriate result, our Examiners will also take account of how the other candidates at that school/college performed in the exam.

#### **Post Results Service:**

- This service will run after candidates have received their certificates. If a school or college is concerned by a candidate's result, they can request a **clerical check** and/or a **marking review** of the script. The 'script' is the name we give to the candidate's exam answer paper. If this check/review of the marking of the script, leads to a change of grade (**either up or down**), this will be amended on our system and a new certificate will be issued to the candidate. **There will be no consideration of 'alternative evidence' with this service.** If the original grade remains unchanged after the check/review of the marking of the script, **the school or college will be charged for this service.**

#### **Why are these changes being made?**

- The new Results Services will provide better support for candidates and reduce the burden on teachers and lecturers, enabling them to focus more on teaching and learning.

#### **Which qualifications will be affected by these changes?**

- The new Results Services will be introduced for all National Courses that are externally assessed. 'External' assessments are marked by specialists appointed by SQA, whereas 'internal' assessments are marked in schools and colleges by the candidates' teachers and lecturers. So, at the time the new Results Services are implemented, the qualifications they'll apply to will include: **Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher.**

#### **When are the changes being made?**

- The new Results Services will be introduced in academic year 2013-14. So, the first exams to go through these new services will be those sat in the **summer of 2014.**
- <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65427.html>

#### Questions for Head Teacher

- Q1: Will there be the opportunity for Parents to take part in Focus Groups this session?  
A1: Yes. As in previous sessions, Parents will be asked to complete a Self-evaluation questionnaire at Parents' Meetings where they are given the opportunity to put their name forward to take part in Focus Groups.
- Q2: Are pupils given the opportunity to give feedback?  
A2: Yes. Pupils complete Self-evaluation questionnaires, giving them the opportunity to give appropriate feedback.

### **7. Finance Update**

- PTA Account balance is £1602
- £1000 to be donated to school for benches

### **8. PTA Update**

#### Race Night - Friday, 4 October 2014

- Ticket price £5, £25 to sponsor a race (8 races), £3 to buy a horse
- Discussion took place re advertising: school website, advertise in The Extra and What's On East Ren, purchase banner, text parents, Parents' Newsletter, sell tickets at Parents' Meetings

### **9. AOB**

- D Barnett asked members to contact him if they have any future Agenda items
- Date of next meeting – Monday 28 October 2013