

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING & AGM
28th October 2013

Present: D Barnett (Chair), C Sincock (Vice Chair), A Beattie (Clerk), D Smith (Head Teacher), A Carter, C Devenport, E Ferguson, S Hale, L McGrouther, L Purcell, V Shrestha, G Stewart, J Thomson, J Woods, F Young

Apologies: K Borland, Cllr Swift, C McLachlan, C Dearie, I Wilson, P Nicol

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting** accepted on the proposal of L Purcell and seconded by L McGrouther.

2. **Matters Arising**

- Banners – PTA Banner not yet purchased.
- Correspondence – Flying Start leaflet
D Smith discussed a similar leaflet for MCHS. D Barnett will contact WWH Parent Council with the view of producing a leaflet for MCHS for next Session.
- Head Teacher’s Report - Changes to Appeals Service
D Smith shared information at S5/S6 Curriculum Evening, at Pupil Assemblies and with Staff.

3. **Correspondence**

- School Improvement Plan 2013-2014 – on school website
- National Parent Forum of Scotland (Sept update),
New CfE Leaflet for Parents, National Parent Forum (email from J McLachlan), GIRFEC Survey, Parent Council Chairs Forum (Minutes of Meeting 1 Oct 2013)
- Request from ERC for updated information on Parent Council members along with list of members who have completed Recruitment and Selection training. A refresher training course must be completed every three years. D Barnett will inform members when new training dates are available.

4. **Parent Council Chairs’ Forum**

- Held at St Luke’s High School on 1 October 2013
- Discussion took place in Cluster groups regarding the role of the Parent Council. D Barnett was the only Chair from the MCHS Cluster who attended the meeting.
- Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 12 February 2013.
- MCHS Parent Council discussed the profile/purpose/value of the Parent Council.

5. **Head Teacher’s Report**

Some Recent Highlights

- S3 and S4 Hospitality trip to Gleneagles
- S6 AH Art Residential to Ardentenny
- Library trip to WHS to meet author Sophie McKenzie
- Higher RMPS trip to Salcoats Police Station
- S1/S5/S6 Parents’ Curriculum Information Evenings
- S4 Business Management trip to Coca Cola factory
- Reconnected -Boy Band – UPBEAT Reward
- Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award
- 5 Live Radio Debate
- Young Sports Ambassador programme

<i>Action</i>
<i>J Woods to liaise with D Barnett re purchasing banner.</i>
<i>D Barnett will liaise with WWH Parent Council</i>
<i>D Smith will write to Parents detailing changes</i>
<i>A Beattie to email members correspondence</i>
<i>A Beattie to email P Smith</i>
<i>Action</i>

- AH Art work featured in SQA National Exhibition
- Trips to three Premiership Football matches
- S1/S2 Masterchef competition/Red Onion
- S1 Fun Run – c£4000 for School Funds
- School Show – ‘Grease’
- Amnesty International group
- Introduction of a new Senior Phase Benchmarking tool
- Dyslexia Awareness Pupil Group presentation to Probationer teachers
- S2-S6 Careers Fair
- S1-S3 Young Football Journalist of the Year competition
- S3 Public Speaking Team qualified for the Regional final of the Youth Speech Competition
- Charities Week

Coming Up

- S3 Parents Curriculum Information Evening – 29 October 2013
- YES S5/S6 Halloween Dance – 31 October 2013
- S2 Eco Event – Friday, 1 November 2013
- P6 ‘Choices for Champions’ Event – 11&12 November 2013
- Look Back in Laughter – 19&20 November 2013
- Design Faculty Creative Star Exhibition – 25-29 November 2013
- S4 Prelims – 4-13 December 2013
- Scottish Heritage event – 18 December 2013
- Winter Concert – 2 December 2013
- Christmas Dances – S1/S2 10th, S5/S6 12th, S3/S4 16th December

6. PTA Finance

- No change
- Picnic Benches to be purchased in Spring 2014

7. PTA Update/Fund Raising

- Race Night cancelled due to poor ticket sales
- Discussion took place regarding the following issues:

Raising PTA profile – PTA to be more visible at school events, displaying examples of how PTA funds benefit the school and pupils.

Fund Raising – Attend school events to provide refreshments, raffles.
D Barnett to attend next PTA meeting to discuss further.

Sponsorship – Seek support from Local Businesses

Pupil Helpers – Pupils could help PTA at school events

- PTA Quiz Night – Friday, 14 May 2014

8. AOB

- Social Media – brief discussion took place regarding the possibility of using Social Media as a tool to communicate with Parents.
- Date of next meeting – Monday, 20 January 2014