

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Monday 16 March 2015

Present: D Barnett (Chair), D Smith (Head Teacher), A Beattie (Clerk), A Blair, I Clark, E Ferguson, S McQuiston, P Nicol, L Purcell, S Pryce, A Rose, J Thomson, S Wallace,

Apologies: S Hale, L McGrouther, P Nicol, G Stewart, Cllr Swift, S Wallace, F Young

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting** accepted on the proposal of A Rose and seconded by E Ferguson.

2. **Matters Arising:** none

3. **Correspondence**

- Holocaust Memorial Day 26 January - D Barnett attended representing MCHS. Positive feedback from David regarding this event.
- Parent Council Chairs Forum – 18 February 2015. D Barnett attended meeting.
 - Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) now being administered by ERC. A guidance leaflet was issued to members.
 - Traffic Management issues discussed - the members agreed that no satisfactory arrangements are in place for the potential increase in traffic in the areas surrounding Mearns Castle High School, due to ongoing development projects. D Barnett will contact Cllr Swift to share the Parent Council's concerns and seek his support with this matter.

4. **Head Teachers' Report**

- New SQA Advanced Higher Qualifications and SQA National 4 Qualifications – D Smith wrote to A Constance, MSP, regarding some implementation concerns for Advanced Higher Qualifications and a request to consider putting assessment arrangements in place for National 4 courses that result in a graded award on completion of the course. A Allan, MSP, responded with a letter stating there would be no change to current arrangements.
- School Library Statistics – D Smith shared ERC High School Library statistics on books issued to pupils. Mearns Castle has consistently been the highest lender of books e.g. in session 2013/14 MCHS issued 10,670 books with the next highest school issuing 5,533. Reduction in the number of Librarians in schools was discussed and concerns were raised on the detrimental effect this would have on pupils' education. It was noted that Mearns Castle has an outstanding Librarian.
- S3 Exams – discussion took place regarding the value of these exams
- S4/S5/S6 SQA Attainment – statistics shared
- On-line booking system for Parents' Meetings – ERC considering rolling this system out to other schools.

Coming Up

- S6 YES team in Regional Finals
- Presentation of House Cup
- Spring Concert
- S6 Leavers' Ceremony
- S3 Exams
- SQA Exams 2015

5. Finance Update

- Account Balance – after receiving balance from old account, £3698.59, the balance in the new account now stands at £4394.30. Discussion took place regarding school projects that could benefit from funding. S Hale to provide requests from school at next meeting.

6. PTA Update

Quiz Night Friday 15 May

- Jennifer Thomson, PT RMPS, volunteered to be quiz master.
- Laura Purcell has negotiated a deal with Piccolino for the pizza order which will be served at 8.30.
- Laura asked members to try and sell tickets

Spring Concert

- Anne Beattie will arrange for tickets to be printed and send text to parents requesting raffle prizes

7. AOB

- Date of next meeting: 11 May 2015