



## MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

**Meeting:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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**Present:** S Pryce (Chair), D Smith (Head Teacher), K Vallance (Vice-Chair/Secretary), I Phillips, A Rose, A Blair, S Hussain, S Sadiq, C Dearie, E Morrison, M Carter, E Jones, L Donaldson, K Nicol, Cllr Swift (Part)

**Apologies:** Cllr Bamforth, J Thomson, J Scott, J Wong, M Johnston, S Sheikh, G Gass, R McNicol

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### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting:

Accepted on the proposal of A Blair and seconded by A Rose.

### 2. Matters Arising:

S Pryce highlighted that governance of the Parent Council was discussed at the previous meeting and noted that measures were being taken to ensure that the correct structure was in place for the Council both to ensure continuity going forward and to provide representation on more external panels and meetings.

### 3. Correspondence:

S Pryce confirmed the continuing requirement for a central email hub facility for the dissemination of information to the Parent Council. It was also agreed that the notice for the Parent Council meetings required to be cast more widely to ensure everyone is aware of when the meetings are taking place.

S Sadiq confirmed that the Connect training could be completed via a local workshop (date dependent) or online. Details to be circulated. A list of all external meetings has to be added to the minutes. Refer to item 7. below.

### 4. Head Teachers Report:

Digital Technologies at MCHS – Skills 4.0 – Thriving for the Future

*Presentation by Gemma Sloan, Teacher – MCHS*

*Video presentation from Skills Development Scotland - How does Digital Technology enhance learning & teaching (nine key areas)*

35 online courses available through “Scholar” – Virtual Tutorials

National Strategy Aims – 4 key development areas

*Digital Resources*

VR headsets, Promethean Boards, Clickview, Scholar, IT Labs, Classrooms in a Box, Staff Training, Specialists, External Resources and Improvement Teams

*Digital Technology Audit*

Multiple Platforms – enable multi-literate pupils (Glow, Sharepoint, etc)

*Digital Schools Award*

Hope to achieve accreditation by the end of 2019 (five category assessment)

*Future*

Digital technology to be embedded in culture, enhanced staff and pupil skills, improved learning and teaching experiences

Following the presentation, G Sloan confirmed that pupils did not specifically require personal devices.



#### **4. Head Teachers Report: /Cont'd**

G Sloan confirmed that the Classrooms in a box (Chromebook) generally cost £250 each and that approximately 30 are currently required. In addition further charging trolleys are required to augment the four units that the school already have. These cost £1,000 each.

D Smith noted that a major issue is how quickly technology becomes obsolete and therefore continual replacement and upgrades are a necessity. S Pryce highlighted the further technology bonus of assisting with narrowing the gender attainment gap.

D Smith confirmed that Senior School progress and prelims results would be reported at the meeting in January 2020.

D Smith noted that the school debating team led by John McGowan had two members qualify for the Cambridge Union finals. E Morrison noted the significant efforts made by Mr McGowan for the team.

#### **5. Finance Update:**

A Rose confirmed that there is a balance of £2,943.89 in the PTA bank account. *Post Meeting Note* – after adjustment of confirmed raffle ticket production cost and unsold tickets the balance is £2,888.89.

A Rose confirmed that the PTA Quiz night had raised a superb profit of £1,648.80.

#### **6. PTA Update:**

S Pryce congratulated the entire organisational team for an excellent quiz and led a vote of thanks to all concerned. K Nicol confirmed that J Thomson was happy to do the quiz again next year and this was very much appreciated by all Council members.

K Nicol noted that £500 alone was raised from sponsorship of the quiz rounds.

A Blair highlighted the need to increase ticket sales next year. Changing the time of year for the Quiz was noted but D Smith highlighted that the current timing works well for the school calendar. D Smith noted that the school calendar would be finalised in June 2020 and that Parent Council events would now be added to this.

L Donaldson suggested that an 80's disco and raffle may work well as an event. To be further reviewed as part of wider fundraising programme.

S Sadiq highlighted the need to establish an event calendar early and have it in front of all parents to ensure awareness and allow people time to plan. A robust programme of events is essential. S Pryce agreed and noted that going forward more organisation was required earlier in the year.

S Hussain again highlighted the need for a group account on social media to ensure effective dissemination of information.

K Nicol noted that raffle ticket sales had been slow and that more outlets were required if the selling targets were to be achieved. I Phillip agreed to send out further 'tweets' on the raffle process. D Smith noted that direct sales to pupils was problematic and that the preference was to sell at specific events but also to publicise at school assemblies.

Upcoming Parent Evenings - Pre-Easter (I Phillip to provide actual dates)

- S2-S3 Options Evening
- S2 Parents Evening
- S4-S5 Options Evening
- S3 Parents Evening



## **6. PTA Update: /Cont'd**

A Blair queried if there could be a PTA store formed outside of the regulated area in the school in order for the PTA to gain easier access. D Smith noted that it would be too complicated to operate in a manner other than as at present.

## **7. Any Other Business:**

S Sadiq confirmed that the upcoming external Parent Council meetings are as follows (7pm start):

- Parent Council Chairs – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (Barrhead HS), 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (Woodfarm HS)
- Parent Council Equalities Forum – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (Barrhead HS), 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (Woodfarm HS)

Cllr Swift intimated that the Newton Mearns Community Council is keen to get support for planting trees on the school campus and generally in the local area. He noted that if the school applies then the trees would be supplied free of charge from the Tree Trust.

S Sadiq asked if any further decision has been made on the application for funding for a sports/running track to the rear of the school. Cllr Swift noted that the budget decision would be available in February 2020.

## **8. Next Meetings:**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 @ 7pm

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 @ 7pm

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 @ 7pm