



**MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

Meeting: Monday 29th August 2022

Present: S Clark (Head Teacher), K Vallance (Chair/Secretary), L Jones, B Berlow-Jackson, J Thomson, N Siddiqui, P Donnelly, Z Robertson, M Carter, S Hussain, C Dodd, A Majid, S Majid, S Sethi, G Robertson, O Schechter, D Hawezy, K Shalli

Apologies: L Donaldson (PTA Chair), Cllr Bamforth, E Morrison, S Sadiq, J Murphy, O Khan

1. Welcome and Apologies

K Vallance welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that apologies had been received from those noted above. K Vallance noted that it was good to once again meet in person.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (13th June 2022 - AGM)

The minutes were accepted on the proposal of S Hussain and seconded by L Jones.

3. Matters Arising

School Improvement Plan

S Clark will update matters within the Head Teacher Report (see section 4).

Parent Council Targets 2022/23

K Vallance noted that as the leadership team within the PTA were unable to attend this meeting, the discussion regarding targets for the academic year would take place at the next Parent Council meeting.

Campus Police Officer

K Vallance noted that PC Akram was not able to attend this meeting but would hopefully be able to come along to one of the next meetings prior to the end of the year.

Curriculum Evenings

K Vallance intimated a query received regarding the S2 curriculum evening. S Clark confirmed that due to the subject choices being made in that year that both evenings would indeed be held "in person".

PTA Event Schedule

As noted above further discussions regarding the PTA schedule of events will take place at the next meeting.

4. Head Teacher's Report

SQA Results 2022 Review

S Clark outlined the achievements of the S4, S5 and S6 cohorts in the last academic year national exams.

National 5 Results

5+ National 5 Passes – **80.3%**

8 National 5 Passes – **53.7%**

8 National 5 A Grades – **20.5%**

Maintaining a strong overall passes percentage and an equally strong A grade performance.

Higher Results 2022

5+ Higher Passes (Year S6) – **69.3%**

5+ Higher Passes (Year S5) – **49.6%**

5 Higher A Grades – **22.8%**

Increase in S6 higher passes with a slight reduction for S5. Highest ever A grade performance.

Advanced Higher Results 2022

1+ Advanced Higher Pass – **49%**



4. Head Teacher's Report (Cont'd)

S Clark highlighted that significant additional support provided by the school had boosted the grade quality and was pleased to see the S6 results containing the highest ever percentage of pupils attaining an Advanced Higher.

S Clark noted that the results identified an attainment gap in S4/S5 between the highest and lowest that will require some further review and consideration, the course amendments and current context requires some further adjustment and that challenges persisted for some pupils concerning course progression.

The proposed next steps for the school will involve:

- greater targeting of support of borderline candidates,
- re-establishing Pre-Covid expectations,
- consistency of parental partnerships for homework and progress,
- subject analysis and action plans, and
- widening of the in-school curriculum

Specifically in relation to homework (above), S Clark confirmed that homework would be logged digitally and that incomplete homework would result in a demerit. If the situation persisted then a text would be sent to parent/carer and if a number of missed submissions were made a letter would be sent to the parent/carer.

K Vallance and Z Robertson thanked S Clark for the review. C Dodd queried how student performance was tracked against the predictions. S Clark agreed that evidenced analysis was important to ensure personal targets were achieved. An insight update will be provided at the next meeting.

K Vallance asked if target grades were used as part of the appeal process. S Clark confirmed that prelim results, targets and broader information such as class tests and teacher assessments would also be used for appeal purposes.

Z Robertson noted that due to Covid the peer influence was not present in this round of national exams. S Clark agreed that students were not able to assist one another as much as they would have in previous years.

P Donnelly highlighted that the digital homework system would be rolled out shortly and that digital ambassadors would be on hand from the S3 curriculum evening onwards to assist pupils and parents/carers.

MCHS Sports Facility

S Clark highlighted that the re-surfacing of the Waterfoot Road artificial pitch had been delayed. It was meant to be complete for the start of the session but would now be finished in early September. The St Clare's Primary pitch had been used temporarily for PE classes. MCHS were grateful for their assistance. The new sports facility remains on schedule for completion in Autumn 2022. A completion date has yet to be advised.

Campus Update

S Clark highlighted a number of built environment issues that are being dealt with on campus:

- Redecoration of the English Department (completed over summer)
- Ceiling remedial works to the older section (1970's) of the school
- Carpet replacement programme

K Vallance queried whether the operational capital budget for maintenance was the same across all schools within the authority, irrespective of age and condition of the buildings/campus. S Clark confirmed this was the case. K Vallance also queried what actions were being taken regarding rising energy costs and the potential for on-site electricity generation within the campus. S Clark confirmed that these issues were directly administered by ERC and not by the school.

Uniforms

S Clark noted that the standard of uniform has been exceptional on the return to school with no staff time being required to action any uniform issues.

School WiFi Improvement

P Donnelly confirmed that there had been no further developments on improvement works within the school buildings and that an electronic calendar trial would take place on 30th August 2022.



4. Head Teacher's Report (Cont'd)

School Improvement Plan

S Clark discussed the four key themes of the current School Improvement Plan.

Curriculum

- Widen curriculum offer and work towards silver SCQF accreditation
- Consult and explore developments in utilisation of core curriculum time (ie a Mental Health Award)
- Complete curriculum rationale in partnership with cluster primary schools

Learning, Teaching & Assessment

- Develop approaches to formative assessment – build on strengths and utilise whole session evaluation
- Implement professional learning programme
- Facilitate observation programme
- Introduce learning and teaching updates

Wellbeing

- Embed living life to the full
- Expand parental wellbeing programme
- Introduce integrated support for learners department within school
- Expand recognising achievement programme
- Explore tracking of responsibility of all health & wellbeing

Leadership of Improvement

- Implement new self evaluation framework
- Develop phase 2 of leadership academy
- Launch new Mission/Vision/Values

B Berlow-Jackson questioned the tracking of well-being and whether this was a beneficial or positive process. S Clark highlighted the benefits but noted that targeted support was crucial. C Dodd recognised the work being done around formative assessment.

Hayward Review

S Clark highlighted the review being undertaken by Professor Louise Hayward at present into the future of qualifications and assessments in Scotland. The timeframe for submissions within Phase 1 was very tight (2nd September 2022). The three key themes of the review are:

- External assessments could be more innovative to capture a wider range of student capabilities,
- The role of teacher led assessment could be reconsidered, and
- Academic and vocational strands could be better integrated with the assessment system to offer a broader range of curriculum options.

S Clark suggested that the review proposals should be discussed further with the Parent Council under Phase 2 of the review.

K Vallance noted that Connect and NPFS are working together to hear the views of a wide range of parents and carers and have assembled a short survey on the draft 'vision & principles' for the review – see link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YFSK9NW>

General Items

C Dodd noted that persons had intimated a lack of soap in the student toilets. S Clark had no knowledge of any issue but would raise it with the janitor and keep under review.

K Vallance inquired about the vocational subject performance and whether a summary of results could be issued. S Clark to review.

Following a query from K Vallance, S Clark confirmed that the current student roll was just over 1,400, that 8 new members of staff have been appointed and all permanent positions have been filled. Temporary staff positions are due to be filled in the next few weeks.



4. Head Teacher's Report (Cont'd)

General Items (Cont'd)

S Clark noted that the proposed industrial action from 6th to 8th September was not action taken by the teaching staff. If the action goes ahead students will be given continuous learning material via Google Classroom, Teams, etc.

K Vallance queried whether the school bus issues within ERC had specifically affected MCHS. S Clark confirmed there were no issues. K Vallance thanked A Majid for his time and effort in organising the private bus to and from Maidenhill. It currently has 24 regular users but can take up to 49 pupils.

B Berlow-Jackson queried the new anti-bullying policy in that a number of pupils seemed to be unclear as to what process would be followed by the school. S Clark confirmed that any discriminatory or hate based element goes to him and then on to the Campus Police for further investigation. The pastoral staff will report matters back. S Clark noted that assemblies were coming up and this topic would be reinforced to increase awareness. Z Robertson inquired whether there was anything in the process for a "witness" rather than a "bullied" person. S Clark confirmed there were plans in place to address this including the use of a QR code for pastoral input and a school census coming up. O Schechter noted that an incident on day two was dealt with very well by the school.

5. Finance Report

K Vallance outlined the current financial position of the Parent Council bank account as follows:

Opening Balance	£ 83.14
(Expenditure in period)	(£ 0.00)
Receipts in Period	£ 0.00
Closing Balance	£ 83.14

L Jones confirmed that the account is in the process of being changed to the Bank of Scotland branch at Mearns Cross.

P Donnelly intimated thanks from Z Nicklin (Head of Languages) for the support of the Parent Council and the continuing purchase of the French Dictionaries for the incoming S1 year.

6. Parent Teacher Association Report

K Vallance noted that, as the leadership team within the PTA were unable to attend this meeting, further discussion regarding targets for the academic year and planned events would take place at the next Parent Council meeting.

7. Correspondence

K Vallance confirmed that the Connect Membership documentation for the academic year has been issued on 23rd August 2022. The current Connect newsletter (24th August 2022) is to be distributed for information purposes.

The next Parent Council Chairs meeting will be held in person at Barrhead High School on 12th October 2022 and the next Parent Equality Forum meeting is being held on 21st September 2022.

K Vallance to confirm to ERC which members of the Parent Council have a valid recruitment and selection training accreditation.

8. Any Other Business:

K Vallance polled the attendees on the proposed meeting format for this academic year. All present agreed with the proposal to have two virtual meetings and four in person meetings.

P Donnelly asked if the PTA could assist with refreshments at the Senior Awards Ceremony on 14th September 2022. K Vallance to liaise with L Donaldson.

9. Date for Next Meetings

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on **Monday 10th October 2022 at 7pm via MS Teams**. Future meetings will take place on the dates and venues noted below. All meetings will commence at 7pm on the noted Mondays.

12th December 2022 – in person
20th February 2023 - virtual
24th April 2023 – in person
12th June 2023 (AGM) – in person