



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

**Meeting:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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**Present:** S Clark (Head Teacher), K Vallance (Chair/Secretary), L Donaldson (PTA Chair), E Morrison (PTA Vice-Chair) L Jones, J Murphy, S Sadiq, J Thomson, P Donnelly, M Carter, S Hussain, G Robertson, O Schechter, K Shalli, E Love

**Apologies:** Cllr Bamforth, O Khan, Z Robertson, S Sethi, A Majid, N Siddiqui, C Dodd

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### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

K Vallance welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that apologies had been received from those noted above.

### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting (29<sup>th</sup> August 2022)**

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

### **3. Matters Arising**

*Parent Council targets for the academic year*  
Refer to Section 6 below.

*Campus Police Officer*

K Vallance noted that a further invite had been extended to PC Akram to attend the December meeting and a response was awaited.

*Temporary Staff Update*

S Clark confirmed that all posts had been filled except one. This position has been re-advertised but the school is still able to fulfil the complete timetable. S Clark intimated that a new post had been created. The Developing Young Workforce Support Officer will be looking to establish partnerships for students.

*Haywood Review Timetable*

S Clark noted that Phase 2 of the Review would coincide with the meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

*Electronic Calendar Trial*

P Donnelly confirmed that the trial had been largely successful and was being rolled out. There was a Microsoft error with the S1 Glow accounts, but this has been rectified.

*School Operational Budget*

K Vallance relayed discussions with Cllr Bamforth and confirmed that each ERC school operational budget was generally set based on staff numbers [and associated school roll] and not the condition and/or age of the building.

*New Sports Facility*

S Clark intimated that the anticipated completion date was the end of November 2022. K Vallance highlighted that weather conditions were likely to impact on the programme but hoped the works would be completed pre-Christmas.

### **4. Head Teacher's Report**

S Clark opened by thanking the Parent Council / PTA for their support at the senior awards ceremony.

S Clark confirmed that the turnout for the 'in person' S1 & S2 parent evenings was very high, however turnout was lower than expected for the Higher Success Evening. A feedback form has been sent out for review purposes.

The School Census Week survey link has been issued for parents to complete and S Clark noted that over 200 responses had been received at the time of the meeting.

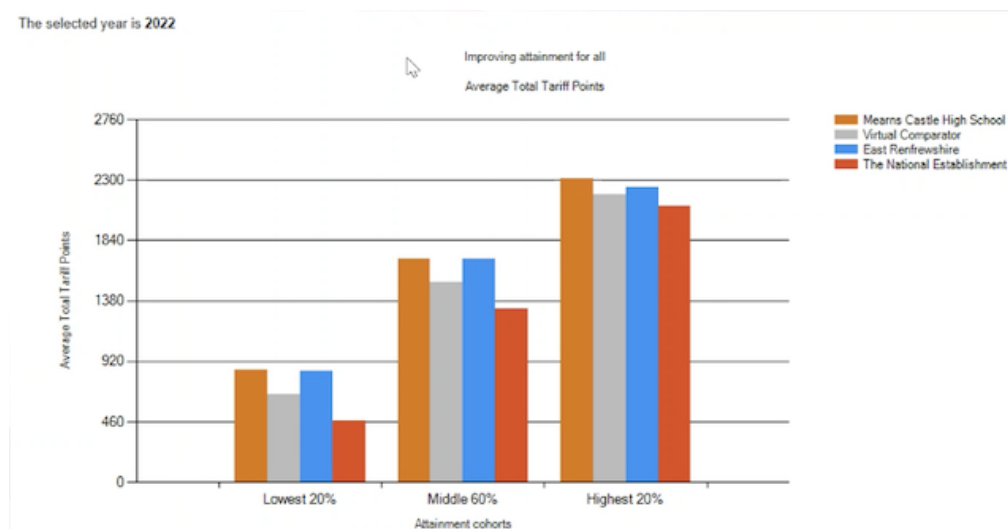


#### 4. Head Teacher's Report (Cont'd)

S Clark confirmed that the re-surfacing of the 'Millennium' pitch had finally been completed in the last period and was now able to be fully utilised by the school.

Charities Week commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 with a number of activities already having taken place on day one. S Clark highlighted a "Teacher" victory over the pupils at Catchphrase. A rematch against the Parent Council was suggested at a future time!

S Clark presented a summary on the Attainment Quality of the recent national exam performance, specifically to illustrate the context of the school's performance against virtual comparators, national levels and ERC attainment. The graph below shows MCHS performance is higher than all three other benchmarks at each performance level.



S Clark reviewed the Attainment Gap over a series of slides covering 2021 and 2022 across S4 to S6. Whilst MCHS benefits from a generally better off location, comparisons can still be made against the Scottish Deprivation Index, measuring the gap between deprivation and attainment. MCHS consistently achieves positive results in each class relative to the national standard but S Clark conceded that targeted support was required and will continue to be actively managed to ensure all pupils are able to achieve their potential. S Clark highlighted the following key areas where this support is being undertaken:

LLTF Group Work	Space to Work Outside Classroom (With WB support)
LLTF 1 to 1 Session	Space to Work Outside Classroom (Independently)
Mindfulness Group Work	Bereavement Support
Relaxation Techniques	Self-Esteem
1 to 1 Relationship Building	General Anxiety/Stress
Growth Mindset Sessions	Counselling skills approach
Creative/Arts Group Work	Flexible Drop In
Outdoor/Horticulture Activities	Coping Skills/Resilience Building

The new Hub resource was specifically created to assist with the provision of these targeted support initiatives.

S Clark reported that for the Vocational Subjects being studied by 77 students within the school over the 2021 and 2022 academic years, 78% had achieved a positive outcome from those studies. In response to a query from K Vallance, S Clark confirmed that a small number of students were in S4 with the vast majority in S5 or S6.



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

S Clark noted that the depth of courses available in the vocational subjects was substantial and provided the summary schedule noted below showing the varying qualifications obtained by the students.

Course
2020/22 Mechanical Engineering – Foundation Apprenticeship - SCQF Level 6
2021/22 Civil Engineering - Foundation Apprenticeship – SCQF Level 6
2021/22 Creative and Digital Media – Foundation Apprenticeship – SCQF Level 6
2021/22 Scientific Technologies (Laboratory Skills) Foundation Apprenticeship – SCQF Level 6
2021/23 Mechanical Engineering – Foundation Apprenticeship - SCQF Level 6
2021/23 Scientific Technologies (Laboratory Skills) Foundation Apprenticeship – SCQF Level 6
Automotive Skills - Green Power - Skills for Work - SCQF Level 4
Beauty and Complementary Therapy skills - SCQF Level 4
Building Services Engineering - National Certificate - SCQF Level 6
Computer Games Development - National Progression Award - SCQF Level 5
Construction Crafts - SCQF Level 5 - Skills for Work - WCS
Construction Foundation Apprenticeship - SCQF Level 5
Construction Management - Higher National Certificate - SCQF Level 7
Construction Skills - Carpentry and Joinery - City & Guilds - SCQF Level 4
Cyber Security - National Progression Award - SCQF Level 6
Early Education and Childcare - Skills for Work - SCQF Level 5
Fashion Brand Retailing – SCQF Level 7
Fashion Textile and Technology - Higher - SCQF Level 6
Human Body Structure and Function - SCQF Level 8
Introduction to Barista Skills - SCQF Level 5 - Friday am
Introduction to Nursing - SCQF level 5
Introduction to Teacher Education
Legal Studies – National Progression Award - SCQF Level 6
Mechanical Engineering – Higher National Certificate - SCQF Level 7
Police Studies - Higher National Certificate SCQF Level 7/8
Pool Lifeguarding - IQL Level 2 Award - SCQF Level 5
Professional Cookery - National Progression Awards - SCQF Level 4
Psychology - Personal Development Award (PDA) - SCQF Level 7
Sport Coaching Through Play - National Progression Award - SCQF Level 6
T.V. Production - National Progression Award - SCQF Level 5
Up in the Air and on the Ground - SCQF Level 4/5

For the School Charter 3 year plan, S Clark tabled an update on the measures being undertaken under the four key themes over the next three years. Refer to the table below for the proposed actions.

Priority/Year	22-23	23-24	24-25	Priority/Year	22-23	23-24	24-25
Curriculum	Curriculum Rationale Renewed	Primary/Secondary Curricular Journey Re-viewed & Curricular Links Re-established	Implement further improvements to Primary/Secondary Curricular Journey.	Learning, Teaching & Assessment	Enhanced Approaches to Formative Assessment	Embed enhanced approaches to Formative Assessment.	Enhanced Approaches to Learners Leading Learning.
	Senior Phase Curriculum Widened	Accreditation within Senior Phase Core Time	Implement Further Curriculum Widening		New Observation Model Implemented	Cohort 2 of Observation Model.	Implement recommendations from evaluation of Leadership of Learning.
Wellbeing	Review of Core Curricular Time		Develop approaches to profiling.		Professional Learning Sessions – Sharing Best Practice in Formative Assessment.	Trial approaches to learner voice in evaluation of Learning, Teaching & Assessment.	Re-visit the evaluation of QI 2.3 – Learning, Teaching & Assessment.
	Embed whole school universal and targeted approach to wellbeing.	Widen the range of interventions available to support pupils with specific needs.	Implement new processes for the monitoring and tracking of Responsibility of All Health & Wellbeing & Wider Achievement.	Drivers of Improvement	Explore approaches to capturing Learner Voice in evaluation of Learning, Teaching & Assessment.	Whole school self-evaluation of Leadership of Learning.	
	Hub/Living Life to the Full embedded & evaluated.	Develop and trial proposals for the monitoring and tracking of health and wellbeing as a Responsibility of All.			Leadership Academy Widened: Coaching Programme, Professional Reading Group, Distributed Leadership Programme.	Further enhance Cluster partnership working alongside our associated primaries – curricular links and progression.	Implement new processes for the monitoring and tracking of Responsibility of All Health & wellbeing.
	Integrated Dept approaches embedded and evaluated.	Further development of Recognising Achievement Events and trial approaches to use of recognising achievement data to track and support in relation to participation.	Implement recommendations from whole school evaluation of Equality, Wellbeing & Inclusion.		New Self-Evaluation Framework Implemented. Whole School Self-Evaluation focus on: Recognising Achievement & Formative Assessment.	Explore cluster approaches to parental involvement and engagement.	Implement further improvements to parental involvement and engagement building on previous session's proposals.
Implement revised anti-bullying policy.	Full whole school evaluation of Equality, Wellbeing & Inclusion		Implement Parental Involvement & Engagement events following feedback from parents. Analysis		Develop proposals, in consultation with Parent Council, for enhanced parental involvement and engagement in learning		
	Whole-School Self Evaluation of Recognising Wider Achievement alongside use of current tracking to identify in-equalities.						

S Clark confirmed that the proposed strapline and school values will be announced shortly around the “achieving personal best” goal. Parent Council members will be invited along to the staff meeting in December as part of Charter process.

S Clark noted that evaluation toolkits will be employed to recognise achievement and for formative assessment and that views will be sought from the wider Parent Forum to input to the development of the proposals. S Hussain commented that the return of departmental teachers to Primary Schools would be welcomed by parents and would assist with the transition from P7 to S1.

S Clark intimated the intention to re-introduce the extra curricula transport levy to cover the shortfall in cost of providing transport to external facilities for pupils. The proposal was a one off £10 charge to all parents and carers, with the school topping up the balance. E Morrison suggested this should exclude pupils on free school meals. J Murphy voiced support for this exclusion. K Vallance called a vote of those in attendance who unanimously backed the proposed levy on this basis.



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

S Sadiq questioned how payment of the levy was monitored by the school. S Clark confirmed there would be follow up to the payment request after a set period. If the levy remained unpaid, then those pupils attending an event would require to be individually charged for the transport costs.

In response to a query from K Vallance, S Clark confirmed that almost all external trips were now back in the diary for the academic year.

#### 5. Finance Report

L Jones 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 still in the process of being changed to the Bank of Scotland branch at Mearns Cross.

#### 6. Parent Teacher Association Report

L Donaldson outlined the proposals for the forthcoming academic year. A 'Dancing Through the Ages' event may be possible in Whitecraigs Rugby Club on a Friday night around February/March 2023 (£190 for the venue/stewarding). Plans to be finalised over the coming weeks.

The Winter Concert on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 provides an opportunity for home baking and tea/coffee sales to raise money, perhaps along side a Christmas jumper day. S Clark did however note that the school was trying to reduce the overall number of "dress down days".

The idea of a golden ticket within chocolate bar sales was also considered but it was agreed that a raffle may be a more straightforward option to progress with having a first prize hamper with possible donations for both the hamper and ancillary prizes. J Thomson noted that the Music Department may be running their own initiative at the Winter Concert and this should be checked. The SLT is to review the fundraising target for this academic year and report back at the next meeting.

S Clark confirmed that the raffle details would be included in an upcoming Parent Update which would highlight the need for donations.

G Paterson queried if the school had a defibrillator and whether it was accessible to the public in an emergency. S Clark confirmed that the school did have one and it is accessible during school opening hours.

L Donaldson queried what training had taken place for school staff in relation to the defibrillator use. S Clark to review and confirm. J Murphy offered up the services of Mr Murphy to train school staff free of charge. S Clark thanked J Murphy for the kind offer. J Murphy also noted that a second defibrillator should be considered adjacent to the new track facility given its remote location. This could also be for public use. S Clark to review further.

#### 7. Correspondence

K Vallance intimated the recent Connect newsletter issue and undertook to email specific points of interest following the meeting.

K Vallance attended the recent Equalities Forum meeting that took place on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022. The key topic of discussion concerned the Children Equal Protection (Scotland) Act and the available parental support measures that were in place within ERC. Further information concerning this topic will be issued to Chairs for dissemination. The next EF meeting will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Woodfarm High School.

K Vallance will attend the Parent Council Chairs Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at Barrhead High School and report back to the Parent Council.



## 8. Any Other Business:

K Vallance suggested that with the meetings returning to the face-to-face format, departmental talks and discussions on specific school initiatives that had previously been included could return to the agenda for future meetings. S Clark to review further.

G Paterson highlighted that the external basketball court area was in a state of disrepair with missing railings and cracks in the paving and tarmac which could be potentially dangerous. S Clark noted that the property manager for the school was visiting on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and he would undertake a review with them. S Clark noted that emergency funding was available for issues that had health & safety implications.

S Sadiq asked for some feedback on the status of the uniform bank initiative. S Clark noted that it had been very successful over the two days resulting in substantial environmental and financial benefits.

K Shalli queried the status of the health & wellbeing census. S Clark noted that the substantial feedback from parents has been considered and that taking part was on a purely confidential and voluntary basis.

S Sadiq queried the omission of an S4 exam for PE. P Donnelly confirmed that in S4 the assessment process was limited to portfolio and practical aspects with no formal exam.

P Donnelly noted the Partnership for Safer Schools initiative and that there would be a Parent's Evening concerning 'Social Media 101' with information dissemination to S1-S3 years via virtual platforms.

G Paterson queried whether halal food was available in the canteen. S Clark confirmed that it was, however the extent of offering was subject to change given the menu variations throughout the year. No pre-ordering is required. S Sadiq noted that halal food is available to every school in ERC.

## 9. Date for Next Meetings

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7pm** in the **school**. Future meetings will take place on the dates and venues noted below. All meetings will commence at 7pm on the noted Mondays.

20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - virtual

24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 - in person

12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (AGM) - in person