

Mearns Castle High School	Parent Council				
Office bearers in attendance	Manira Ahmad (Chair), Ana Mesbahi (Vice Chair), Preethi Sundarajan (PTA joint chair), Eva Morrison (Auditor)				
Date of Meeting	26/08/2024				
Attendees	Mr Clark (Head teacher), Mr Donnelly (Depute Head teacher), Mr Harrison (Depute Head teacher), Mark Carter, Roz Horne, Saj Sadiq, Graeme Paterson, Shabana Hussain, Rob Rudy, Orli Schechter, Asif Majid, Saadia Sohail, Giribaskar Sivaswamy, Iltaf Dean, Mary Ng, Manjunath Bal-Asubramany, Usha Ragunatha-Reddy, Ayobele Akinola, Patience Nyamunda and Pupil Leadership Team.				
Venue	MCHS				
Apologies	Ashwini Rupesh (PTA joint chair) and Colette Mansbridge				
Actions	Date	Action	Name	Due	Outcome
	11/12/23	School to advise PC on what the school needs (funds available from PC)	Mr Donnelly and Mr Clark to discuss with PC	19/2/24	Sports equipment requested. School invites office bearers to attend school fund meeting. Meetings have not been scheduled for current academic year. Ongoing.
	22/4/24	Suggestion to ask for parent donations of equipment to support specialist trips	PTA	10/6/24	To be discussed with PTA, as not at last meeting. Mr Clark proposes support from the school (Rebecca Henderson). Ongoing.
	10/06/24	Increase parent council visibility	Office bearers	Ongoing	PC will endeavour to provide minutes and comms for school website. Ongoing.
Completed Actions	Date	Action	Name	Due	Outcome
	10/06/24	Review distribution list of email list for agenda and minutes	Colette, Ana and Manira	Completed	List at PC meeting reviewed against recorded list on file.
	10/06/24	Increase parent council visibility	Office bearers	Completed	Office bearers and Mr Clark hosting a parents info on PC on 24 th June.

26th of August 2024 *DRAFT* Minutes

1. Previous Minutes

No corrections to the minutes, they were approved.

Proposed: Manira Ahmad

Seconded: Ana Mesbahi

2. Apologies: Ashwini Rupesh (PTA joint chair) and Colette Mansbridge.

3. Matters arising:

- Parent Council commended Mr Clark for the role of Mr Khan as the new Urdu Teacher. He has started the Urdu class following extensive conversation with the Parent Council.
- PC Chair or representative to attend the school fund meeting. This will allow the Parent Council to know what isn't being approved by the school and hence the Parent Council may consider fundraising for it.

4. Appointment of Office Bearers:

Treasurer: Orli Schechter – self nominated, proposed by Preethi and seconded Shabana

Secretary: Mark Carter – self nominated, proposed by Saj and seconded by Shabana

5. Head Teacher's Report: -Mr Clark

- a) SQA Exam Results
 - i) S4 National 5 Results
 - Another increase in pupils achieving at least 5 National 5s - now over 85% - our best ever exam performance.
 - Outcomes are equally important as the experience for the all the pupils.
 - ii) S5 Higher Results
 - Highest ever % of pupils achieving straight As at 23% and 2nd highest ever % of pupils achieving 5 Higher passes in S5 - 57.4%.
 - iii) S6 Advanced Highers Results

- Highest ever % of pupils achieving at least 5 Highers by end of S6 (72.5%) and 2nd best ever % of pupils passing Advanced Higher (50%).
- iv) Similarly to last year, the School will be looking at how to close attainment gap and improve equity. It is important that Equity is for all students and not just the ones that “shout the louder”.
- v) Currently, putting together a calendar for supporting pupils with their studies, activities and transition from High School to Further Education (for S5/S6 pupils).
- vi) It is vital that when pupils are not accepted into additional courses (such as DoE) that alternative routes are explored.
- b) Pupil Leadership Team: input at Parent Council Meetings:
 - i) Newly elected Pupil Leadership Team (S6) attended, led by Mr Harrison.
 - Katie (Head Girl), Srihari (Head Boy), Maisie, Jessica, Dylan and Alexander.
 - ii) There are also 12 School Captains, the School Captains pair up to lead and develop projects based on the values of MCHS with support from a teacher. The values are: Mutual Respect, Equality, Ambition, Resilience, Nurture and Sustainability.
 - The projects are yearly projects, so that results can be seen at the end of the academic year.
 - iii) PLT also chair the Pupil Parliament, there are around 100 members in the Pupil Parliament.
- c) Building Update
 - i) Three new classrooms are nearly ready to be used. These were formed from a teacher break out area and an additional area being split into two.
 - ii) Funding approved for an extension over the coming year(s).
 - iii) Assigned a space which will be turned into a S6 café.

6. PTA update

The Calendar of Events for the year was shared.

- a) Senior Awards Ceremony on the 11th September. Preethi will link in with Mr Donnelly in relation to teas/coffees.

7. Finance Report

- a) Connect Membership: £173 to be paid.
- b) French Dictionaries: £1194.95 to be paid.
- c) Closing balance after these payments are made will be £2050.66.

8. Dates of Future PC Meetings

- a) 7th October 2024

- b) 9th December 2024
- c) 24th February 2025
- d) 28th April 2025
- e) 9th June 2025 (plus AGM)

9. Any Other Business (AOB)

- a) Are there any changes planned to the school uniform? Mr Clark advised that there will be a consultation with parents on this topic this year.
- b) Palestine: is there anything on this being highlighted at MCHS? Mr Clark highlighted that a fundraiser was arranged by the “rights respecting schools group” in 23/24, during which time awareness was raised on this plight.
- c) Is it possible for parents to have an orientation of the school curriculum? Mr Donnelly is looking to arrange some learning and will work with the Parent Council to co-design sessions.
- d) Can we say a structure of the school, like an organogram ? Mr Clarke highlighted the school handbook have all the leads listed which is on the MCHS website. Additionally Mr Clark will do a refresher of the school structure at the next PC meeting.

Date of Next Meeting 7th October 2024 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm