



Kinross High School Parent Council
Kinross High School
Loch Leven Community Campus
Muir
Kinross
KY13 8FQ

**Kinross High School Parent Council
Tuesday 18th January 2022**

Attendance

George Cobb (Chair)
Sarah Brown (Head Teacher)
Graham Armstrong (Teacher rep)
Scott Urquhart (Teacher rep)
David Yeaman (Teacher rep)
Gemma Toon (Treasurer)
Jennifer Thompson
Kathryn Neill
Catriona Scott
Lisa O'Hare
Laura Alexander
Christina Smith
Stephanie Chadwick
Annette Ward
Lynne Prentice (KHS Business Manager)
Rosemary Cameron (Clerk)

Apologies

Izzy Whyte
Nicola Carmichael

Minutes

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The meeting was held via Zoom with George Cobb as chair and Rosemary Cameron as host. Apologies were received as above.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions arising

The minutes for December were approved by Gemma Toon and seconded by George Cobb. Actions arising:

No	Action	Actionee	Status
1	Send a representative from the PC to school assemblies.	George Cobb/Christina Smith	On hold - assemblies are not currently taking place in person
2	Transfer bank signatories to new office bearers	Gemma Toon	Complete
3	Write a short blurb about the PC to be circulated to parents.	George Cobb	Ongoing
4	Circulate blurb with the calling notice for the next meeting.	Rosemary Cameron	Ongoing
5	Look into the possibility of doing something with S1 parents in January	George Cobb	Ongoing - George has started talking to P7 parents.
6	Publicise the PC facebook group	Rosemary Cameron	Complete
7	Do a review of social media for the PC	Rosemary Cameron	Complete - see item 5

8	Invite a teacher to a future meeting to discuss mobile phones in class	George Cobb	Complete - see item 7
9	Share the KHS policy on mobile phone use in class	Sarah Brown	Complete - see item 7
10	Arrange for 6th Year rep to come to a future meeting to discuss the Gender Neutral Toilets survey	George Cobb	Complete - see item 7
11	Send Sarah Brown links which a parent has shared about data sharing and privacy issues surrounding the Health and Wellbeing survey	George Cobb	Complete
12	Add discussion on ParentsPortal to agenda for January meeting	Rosemary Cameron	Complete

3. Finance and Blazer Sales Update

The change of signatories on the accounts is now complete.

General Account - £2178.97. The PKC grant of £737 has been received.

Blazer Account - £5622.52

A blazer order has been placed which will amount to approx £1190. The invoice will be in May. Action Rosemary Cameron to submit any outstanding expenses to Gemma Toon by the end of March.

4. Head Teacher's Report

New Staff

Megan Glad - Pupil Support Assistant

Chelsai Syme - Pupil Care and Welfare Officer

Tanya Lake - Teacher of Maths

Henrietta Ashley - Teacher of Biology

Lucy Murphy - Business Support (Weekends)

There are also 10 student teachers in the school at the moment.

The situation in the Maths department regarding staff has much improved.

Covid Update

There have been 64 cases of Omicron in term 1, 52 in term 2 and 50 in term 3 to date.

The school has strengthened the approach to minimising contacts with the re-introduction of groupings indoors.

Restrictions for school visitors have been tightened.

Ventilation and CO2 monitoring is taking place.

Testing and self-isolation is being employed with removal of exemptions.

Trips and visits will reflect school mitigations.

There is essential in-person support for the vulnerable.

SQA have signalled a clear intention to have exams this year.

Numbers have been dropping at the parent live events and so the school is reviewing them.

The school is looking for volunteers for a consultation on school uniform. If any parent is interested they should contact the school.

A load and capacity review of the school is underway and PKC have reviewed the staffing formula. The outcome will be published in February.

Lynne Prentice gave an update on communications.

The website is the school's main vehicle for communications and the school is looking for feedback on it - there is an icon on every webpage which enables you to do this. Feedback from the meeting was that the website is a great improvement on the previous one. The school's contact details have been updated on the website.

The 2020/21 Communication Strategy has been published - <http://www.kinrosshighschool.org.uk/assets/0-About-Us/Handbook-and-Policies/20210927-Communication-Strategy-.pdf>.
Learning round-up is now in YourKinect.

5. Social Media and the Parent Council

Rosemary Cameron updated the meeting on the current social media presence of the parent council - we have a closed facebook group with 490 members, some of whom may no longer have children at the school. Two of the moderators have not posted anything in the group for over 2 years. People wanting to join the group have to be approved which Rosemary currently does without asking questions, the view being that if anyone misuses the group, they can be removed. Members can currently post in the group however nobody is doing so - it is mainly used by Rosemary to publicise meetings and publish minutes. There is now a link to the group from the school website.

Rosemary asked the meeting if the parent council should also have a twitter account which could be used to publicise meetings, with the school retweeting any tweets to its 1025 twitter followers. Lynn Prentice pointed out that a lot of the school's twitter followers were not parents and so the reach may not be much greater. The conclusion of those present was that the parent council should not set up a twitter account, as this would be extra work for not much benefit, but that we should keep the facebook page.

Post-meeting note: Rosemary Cameron to contact moderators of the facebook group who have not posted for a long time to see if they still wish to be involved with the group.

6. Planning for Future Meetings

It was decided to invite the local councillors to the March meeting - action George Cobb.
Fundraising to be added to the agenda for March so that it is not forgotten about. Action Rosemary Cameron.

It was proposed that we add an agenda item to the April meeting to discuss linking parents who can contribute information regarding jobs and careers with the school. Action Rosemary Cameron.

7. General Discussion on Parent Concerns

ParentsPortal

Lynn Prentice admitted that ParentsPortal (which is a Scotland-wide system) can be clunky to use however the school is unable to change it. A data impact assessment on the system was carried out by PKC which did not find any security issues. 77% of parents have signed up to it. Report cards, timetables and attendance record are all on it, as is the application for the new free bus travel. Fusion will be added and Groupcall is already on it. For more details see [parentsportal.scot](https://www.kinrosshighschool.org.uk/parentsportal) and introductory video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMiwHrHoArQ>. If a parent/carer is unable to or does not want to use ParentsPortal they can contact the school in the usual ways (contact form on the website or email) and paper copies of reports etc. will be sent out. Unfortunately this has to be requested every time and YourKinect has details of the dates reports are issued.

Mobile phone use in class

Use of mobile phones in class is at the direction of the class teacher and misuse is dealt with under the school's disciplinary procedure. (A recent case whereby an inappropriate photo was taken in class and posted on social media outside the school has been dealt with in this manner.) See also school policies <https://www.kinrosshighschool.org.uk/about-us/handbook-and-policies/> and in particular the policy which highlights the use of Mobile phones <https://www.kinrosshighschool.org.uk/assets/Uploads/Downloads/Using-Data-Update-August-2018-Parents.pdf>.

Phones can be a useful learning tool and iPads are available for pupils who do not have a phone. Ideally all pupils would have a one-to-one device in class instead of a phone however PKC has not rolled this out to all schools yet due to cost. The Scottish Government has promised that all pupils will eventually have a one-to-one device but no timescale has been set. It was suggested that the Parent Council consider fundraising for devices - action Rosemary Cameron to include this under fundraising on the March agenda.

Survey on Gender Neutral Toilets

Sarah Brown stated that, having analysed the results of the survey carried out by S6, the status quo would be maintained regarding toilets. The school has been asked to ensure that, if any future surveys are carried out by pupils, they are given more guidance on how to avoid leading questions and bias i.e. nudging pupils towards a particular "right" answer. It was decided that there is no longer any need to invite any S6 pupils to discuss the matter.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 1st March**

No	Action	Actionee	Timescale
1	Send a representative from the PC to school assemblies.	Chair/Vice-Chairs	On hold
2	Write a short blurb about the PC to be circulated to parents.	George Cobb	11/01/22
3	Circulate blurb with the calling notice for the January meeting.	Rosemary Cameron	11/01/22
4	Look into the possibility of doing something with S1 parents in January	George Cobb	18/01/22
5	Submit expenses for current tax year to Gemma Toon before the end of March.	Rosemary Cameron	31/03/22
6	Contact moderators of the facebook group	Rosemary Cameron	01/03/22
7	Invite local councillors to the March meeting	George Cobb	11/02/22
8	Add fundraising to the March agenda	Rosemary Cameron	11/02/22
9	Add linking parents to school re jobs to April agenda	Rosemary Cameron	12/04/22
10	Include fundraising for mobile phones to action 8 above.	Rosemary Cameron	11/02/22