



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

**Kinross High School Parent Council
Tuesday 7th December 2021**

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
Mandy Harris
Sandra Dall
Izzy Whyte
Laura Paterson
Kathryn Neill
Laura Logan
Nicola Carmichael
Heidi Cameron
Catriona Scott
Nicola Hearnden
Rosemary Cameron (Clerk)

Apologies

Karen Dunlop
Stephanie Chadwick
Christina Smith

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 prior to the meeting as above. Sarah Brown introduced Graham Armstrong (Science teacher), Scott Urquhart (PT Technologies) and David Yeaman (Chemistry teacher) as teacher representatives to the Parent Council. Scott also has a child in the school. They will be taking turns in attending the meetings from now on.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions arising

The minutes for September were approved by George Cobb and seconded by Nicola Hearnden. 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	Ongoing
3	Ask the office which sizes of blazers have been sold.	Gemma Toon	Complete
4	Discuss sharing details of school performance at the next meeting with Sarah Brown.		Complete - George Cobb has done this.
5	Invite Mrs Furby to give an update on the Maths Dept at the next meeting.		Complete - it was decided not to do this.

3. Finance and Blazer Sales Update

The change of signatories on the accounts is taking longer than expected due to there being two separate accounts.

General Account - £1607.97

Blazer Account - £5622.52

A blazer order has been placed which will amount to approx £1190. 1 blazer has been sold since the school gave the PC a cheque for £840. It was decided to wait and see if there are any more sales before requesting payment from the school.

4. Head Teacher's Report

Updates

Prelim arrangements are going forward - 4th Year in December and Seniors after Christmas.

HMIe scrutiny had been expected this term however supportive visits will take place after Christmas rather than inspections.

There is a high level of staff absence due to Covid.

Christmas - the school is not able to have the usual festivities like the ball and concert however the seniors have had a Christmas lunch.

Budget

97% of the budget goes on staff costs. The previous underspend has become an overspend due to the necessity of purchasing supply cover for staff absences. Most of this will be written off by the council at the year end.

Uniform

Uniform has been relaxed for Covid - black bottoms, white tops. There will be a staged return to formal uniform by August 2022. Quite a few pupils have liked the relaxed uniform and so there is a proposal to introduce an informal uniform consisting of black shoes, black bottoms and some sort of school top with a badge or some other form of school ID on it. Further consultation will take place on the exact nature of the top and the year groups which will be allowed to wear it. The school is looking for interested parents to get involved in the consultation. There was a mixed response to this proposal from those present at the meeting. The PC will continue to be involved in the consultation. Note: the informal uniform will be in addition to the existing formal uniform.

Other Achievements

The 6th year organised the Broke not Broken foodbank collection - many thanks to all who contributed.

The school has obtained its Eco-Schools Green Flag award - an international accreditation that has recognised and rewarded young people's environmental actions for over 25 years (see www.eco-schools.org.uk). Well done to the Eco Committee.

5. Planning for Future Meetings

How do we get more parents involved in the PC?

Fun events for parents e.g. a golf tournament? a sponsored walk?

Talks for new parents?

Information on what the PC does could go out with the meeting calling notices. We should make it clear that attending a PC meeting does not entail long-term commitment. Action George Cobb to write a short blurb and Rosemary Cameron to ensure it goes out.

We could look at the P7/S1 transfer and try to get parents of children moving up to KHS involved in the PC. There are 6 feeder primary schools. It may be possible to liaise with the Head Teachers before summer. It was pointed out that Primary PCs find it hard to get parents involved. Action George Cobb to look at the possibility of doing something for S1 parents after Christmas.

Could the PC use the Kinross community facebook group? A couple of parents said that they were unaware that KHS PC had a facebook group. Action Rosemary Cameron to publicise this. Whether the PC should have a twitter account was briefly discussed. Action Rosemary Cameron to look at social media in general for the PC and report back at the next meeting.

If we had working groups involving more parents, such as an eco group or events group, that may be a way of getting more parents involved in the PC.

6. General Discussion on Parent Concerns

The question was asked whether conditions in schools due to Covid are being fed back to SQA? This is done on a Local Authority level and the national education recovery group meets weekly. It is still hoped that exams will take place this year but there are a range of contingencies. Teachers are keeping as much as they can in case it is needed for assessments.

The issue of a lack of teacher time in the Maths Dept was raised. There is only 50% teacher time at the moment due to staff shortages, including a long-term absence. It is difficult to get specialist supply. A post has now been advertised which, when filled, will help ease the problem. In the meantime the dept has been re-timetabled and lessons are set by a Maths teacher even if one is not present when generalist cover is in place. PKC are going to provide a Maths teacher via google classrooms who will also do marking so that will help.

Are children getting enough teaching time in class with the 2-week timetable? It was stated that the 2-week timetable, which will continue to the end of the academic year, does not reduce teaching time.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones in class and posting of photos taken in class on social media has been raised as an issue. George Cobb has discussed this with Sarah Brown and a teacher will come to a future meeting to discuss the use of phones in class as they can be of real benefit.

Action George Cobb to arrange a date for this. Action Sarah Brown to share the KHS policy on mobile phone use.

Concerns were raised over the consultation on gender neutral toilets. This consultation has been done by the 6th years and it at an early stage however there are concerns that it asks leading questions and that more guidance should have been given to the 6th years on how to do a neutral survey. Representatives of the 6th form should be invited to a future meeting to discuss the survey.

Action George Cobb to arrange a date for this.

Pupils are now completing the Scottish Government Health and Wellbeing census and concerns have been raised by parents (and in the Scottish press) over confidentiality and how the information will be used. Sarah Brown stated that the Local Authority will use the information to set policy and that both parents and pupils can opt out. Action George Cobb to send Sarah Brown links which a parent has shared with him about data sharing and privacy issues.

Litter in the playing fields seems to be an ongoing issue. Sarah Brown stated that 6th years have been doing a litter pick as part of the Eco-committee and Mitie also do this. If it continues to be a problem it can be discussed further.

There are ongoing concerns about a lack of an alternative to Parentsportal for those who do not wish to use it. To be discussed at the next meeting. Action Rosemary Cameron to add this to the agenda.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 18th January**

No	Action	Actionee	Timescale
1	Send a representative from the PC to school assemblies.	Chair/Vice-Chairs	On hold
2	Transfer bank signatories to new office bearers	Gemma Toon	End of 2021
3	Write a short blurb about the PC to be circulated to parents.	George Cobb	11/01/22
4	Circulate blurb with the calling notice for the January meeting.	Rosemary Cameron	11/01/22
5	Look into the possibility of doing something with S1 parents in January	George Cobb	18/01/22
6	Publicise the PC facebook group	Rosemary Cameron	31/12/21
7	Do a review of social media for the PC	Rosemary Cameron	18/01/22
8	Invite a teacher to a future meeting to discuss mobile phones in class	George Cobb	18/01/22
9	Share the KHS policy on mobile phone use in class	Sarah Brown	18/01/22

10	Arrange for 6th Year rep to come to a future meeting to discuss the Gender Neutral Toilets survey	George Cobb	18/01/22
11	Send Sarah Brown links which a parent has shared about data sharing and privacy issues surrounding the Health and Wellbeing survey	George Cobb	18/01/22
12	Add discussion on ParentsPortal to agenda for January meeting	Rosemary Cameron	11/01/22