

Knox Academy

Parent School Partnership



MINUTES

DATE: WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2008 (6PM)

PRESENT: J Ramakers (Chair)
C Hall
T Holden
F McKenzie
K Robertson
I Smith
M Wyllie
J Craig (Head Teacher)
K Anderson
L McInnes
S Ingham
N Davidson (Clerk)
L Ramakers

IN ATTENDANCE: L Black (PT Curriculum: Expressive Arts) (Point 1)
Provost Richardson

APOLOGIES: R Cleat
A McDougal

1. Ethos Group Presentation

L Black gave a short presentation on the work of the Ethos Group, including an overview of the impact the Pupil Points System has had in Term 1, and the review, which will be taking place shortly. A copy of the powerpoint presentation is available on the Parent Forum website. Any parent who wishes to join the Ethos Group should contact L Black at the school in the first instance.

General discussion re; curriculum booklets; L Black advised that the Ethos Group is hoping to put together booklets which parents can access if they would like information on how best to support their child in school for each subject.

J Ramakers thanked L Black for her presentation. L Black left the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Drop In Clinic

C Hall advised he has reservations about the clinic being located within the school. J Craig advised this was unlikely, the Bridge Centre is the preferred location, however, should this change the concern raised will be noted.

Tour of the School

General discussion re; arrangements for the tour. N Davidson to email a date asap.

Action: N Davidson

Action Plan

S Ingham has contacted staff re; what they would like to see the Partnership tackling, and will collate feedback. This will be included on the agenda for the March meeting.

Action: S Ingham

4. Mail Received

Letter from A Blackie (Roll Capping)

J Ramakers advised he had received a letter from A Blackie in response to his letter re; roll capping. A copy of this letter will be emailed to all Partnership members. J Ramakers to meet with Provost Richardson outwith the meeting to discuss this matter further.

Action: J Ramakers

The members present expressed their frustration that despite Knox being an excellent school it is being hit with a falling roll and a falling budget, which is resulting in surplus staffing and the potential loss of subjects from the curriculum. Whilst the additional housing may see an increase to the roll in future years, it will take some time to 'undo' the damage being done at present.

Training Requests

Any suggestions for training or requests for places on courses should be forwarded to Val McIntyre via N Davidson.

Annual Conference

20th February 2008 at Victoria Quay. F McKenzie will hopefully attend given proximity to work.

Action: F McKenzie

Data Protection

If the Partnership holds details of it's own members only, it does not require to register however, this is not the case if details of the wider parent body are held. J Ramakers to confirm if the Pamela Email system requires to be registered.

Action: J Ramakers

Cluster Meeting

13th February at 19.00hrs. I Smith and C Hall to attend. Agenda items should be submitted in advance.

Action: I Smith / C Hall

5. Chairperson's Report

No issues raised.

6. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

Continuing long-term absence in the Office (A Woodward).

Three members of staff are on Maternity Leave at present in RME, CDT & Guidance.

Three new members of staff took up post at the start of term; Mr Jappy (Chemistry) who is permanent, Dr McKendrick (Biology) and Mrs Archibald (Biology), both on temporary contracts.

There is currently a high level of staff absence, including instances stomach complaints.

Budget

J Craig outlined the projected budget position for 2008/2009, and explained the impact the falling roll and 3% efficiency savings will have at Knox. A more detailed projection will be available later in the year, at this time staff have not been informed of the situation and should hear the details first.

General discussion re; 3% efficiency savings and the potential impact this will have on Knox.

Provost Richardson outlined the reasons for the savings and advised that whilst the pot of savings will be retained by ELC, there is no guarantee that these will be used within education. Provost Richardson further advised that as ELC is an atypical authority re; demographics, this has an impact on funding and there are no concessions provided by the Scottish Government for this.

Events

J Craig advised that, as ever, there have been a huge number of events taking place at Knox, a few of which are listed below:

- Christmas Concert
- S6 Pantomime
- S6 Play
- Trip to Sweden
- Christmas Boxes

J Craig advised that two new residential trips have been added to the school calendar for 2007/2008 and 2008/2009. In March 2008 a group will head to Austria for a skiing trip, organized by Mr. Lambert (PE); in February 2009 there will be a trip to New York organized by Mr. Campbell (Drama). Both trips have proved to be extremely popular.

Reminder that the Cadets are celebrating their centenary year, anyone wishing to contribute to the planning of the celebrations should contact J Craig in the first instance.

7. Teacher Members' Report

Knox News Deadline

Any articles for the Knox News should be submitted to S Ingham by 22nd February. The Knox News will continue to be produced 'in-house'.

Extra-Curricular Timetable

The timetable has now resumed following the holidays.

Scottish Mathematical Council

L McInnes advised she will be speaking at this event regarding preparation for HMIE Inspection. F Henry (Maths NQT) will also be speaking on a different topic.

8. Support Staff Member's Report

No Support Staff member has been identified as yet.

9. Parents' Matters

Events

Congratulations on another fantastic Christmas Concert; great to see inclusion of new items e.g. the Pipe Band, which was wonderful.

General discussion re; S6 Pantomime; parents welcomed the opportunity for parents/wider audience to come and see this at an evening performance.

Opportunities Page

C Hall advised that an opportunities page has been added to the Parent Forum website; this will list ways that parents can get involved to support the school. Any items for inclusion should be passed to C Hall.

10. Pupils' Matters

Communication

General discussion re; effectiveness of Daily Bulletin and lack of consistency regarding having it read to pupils.

11. Any Other Business

Website

N Davidson advised that work on the new website is nearing completion and data will start being loaded onto it shortly. The website will be launched when sufficient pages have been uploaded to make this worthwhile, new pages will then continue to be added when ready.

M Wyllie advised that the Royal Bank of Scotland is looking at supporting a computer club to encourage female pupils into the industry. They are also considering a scheme where they will provide website development/maintenance for schools. M Wyllie will gather further information.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th March 2008 @ 6pm (Library)

Signed: _____ (Chairperson) Date: 05/03/2008

Signed: _____ (Clerk) Date: 05/03/2008