



MINUTES

DATE: WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2011

PRESENT:	Tim Holden (Chair)	Parent
	Kim White	Parent
	Vicky Cole	Parent
	Derek Simpson	Parent
	Kath Anderson	Staff
	Linda McInnes	Staff
	Sarah Ingham	Staff

IN ATTENDANCE:	Mrs J Craig	Head Teacher
	Cllr Tom Trotter	
	Ms A Cosgrove	Clerk

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year. Apologies were received from Mark Wyllie and Andy Greathead.

2. Minutes of November Meeting:

Amendments: Noted that Sarah Ingham was working on the Anti Bullying Policy, not Linda McInnes.

3. Matters arising

Christmas Concert – an audio version was already on the website and a visual version would be added shortly.

Course Material on Website – Linda McInnes has raised this at the Heads of Departments meeting and it would be pursued.

Anti Bullying Policy – Sarah Ingham was waiting for a response from Anti Bullying East Lothian which was expected the next day.

Website – Kim White was arranging to meet Colin Dempster on this.

Budget – Parents asked if a special edition of Knox News could be produced with a two page spread on the Partnership to promote its activities. Costs could be met from the PSP budget.

Mrs Craig would clear this with Richard Parker.

Action – Mrs Craig

4. Curriculum for Excellence Presentation

Mrs Craig explained that a great deal of information was on the Learning and Teaching Scotland website and she recommended this to parents. She advised that the programme

was a broad based general education to S3 level with the chance to specialise from S4 onwards. There was likely to be more of a mixture of courses for pupils and a lot of flexibility would be required. The School had introduced Faculties as an initial step and this would be followed by the development of courses were being developed based on experiences and outcomes. The blocking of course material into an entire Friday morning session for S1 was also explained to parents, and this was being delivered by the Health and Wellbeing Faculty. Work was being carried out around a review of assemblies and new activities were planned. On the next steps, Mrs Craig advised that the S1 curriculum would be reviewed and the format of S2 would be discussed, including timetabling, the introduction of qualifications, transition and choice points, and choices and subjects progression. She noted that some subjects up to Level 4 would be internally assessed.

Mrs Craig issued an invitation to parents to come into the School on Friday morning to find out more, and also advised that Head Teachers and Depute Heads were meeting to create an East Lothian approach to obtain consistency.

Parents had questions on the choice of subjects at an early stage; standardisation across schools; the budget allocation; and internal assessments. Noted that there was a lot of collaborative work ongoing.

Parents thanked Mrs Craig for the presentation which they had found useful.

5. Chairperson's Report and Action Points

Action Points – Dealt with on the agenda.

6. Pupils' Matters

There were no current issues. The Head Teacher had attended the Student Council.

7. Head Teacher's Report

Mrs Craig reported on the following matters:

Staffing - A staffing report was made to members.

Home Economics- Questions had been raised by parents and Mrs Craig would reply to them once she had spoken to the teacher concerned.

Change in timetable – It had been decided to change over to the new timetable in August rather than June. Mrs Craig explained the reasons for this change.

Creche – A crèche for 2-3 year olds would be based in the School and would contribute to ongoing work in different departments.

Exam Results - Mrs Craig described the recent article in the East Lothian Courier as "unfortunate". Cllr Trotter agreed, emphasising his support for the School.

Activities – Prelims had taken place; the drama "Sweeney Todd" was happening that evening; the New York trip would leave the following Saturday and the Samye Ling visit was about to take place; two revision dates were planned for 16 and 17 February and information on this was on the school website. Cllr MacLennan was visiting on 23rd February; the Business Education department was running a Question Time and would like some input from parents and the Big Read was taking place and was using "Kidnapped".

Noted that the Council had agreed that 29 April would be a holiday for the Royal Wedding.

8. Staff Members Report

Six 1st year pupils had taken part in a Science and Technology competition and were the youngest group participating.

1st March was World Maths Day and all of First Year would be doing this.

9. Parents Matters

Vicky Cole advised that information from the Biodiversity Group would be shared with the Gardening Group.

10. Correspondence

This had been circulated by e-mail, but noted was:

- Website training on 3 March (Noted that Knox did not use edubuzz and Kim would raise this with Colin Dempster
- Information on Multifaiths
- School Handbook Consultation on 23 February.

11. AOCB

Vicky Cole raised concerns about sleep deprivation of teenagers. Mrs Craig advised that the Sleep Council had provided information to schools recently.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 9 March 2011.

Signed:

(Chairperson)

Date: 9 March 2011

Signed

(Clerk)

Date 9 March 2011

	Who	When
Home Economics questions from parents	JC	When information available from teacher concerned
Special edition of Knox News	All/JC	For next meeting
Clearance to meet costs of Knox News from PSP Budget	JC	For next meeting
“Question Time” input from parents to Business Ed Dept	Chair/All	
Questions on edubuzz to Colin Dempster	KW	For next meeting