

## **Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting**

**Monday 31 August 2020, 7pm via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Wendy Russell (Chair), Colin Bates, Marie Cox, Moira Fell, Karen Hynd, Lorna Laird (minutes), Angela Norris, Vicki O'Rourke, Hazel Leggate, Richard McGowan (Headteacher), Elspeth Martin, Jennifer Cairney, Michelle Wailes, Heather Sinclair, Karen McKay, Lynne Thow, Sandra Gardiner, Alastair Gray (Depute HT)

**Apologies:** Councillor Mark Horsham, Donna Kelly, Gillian Brown

1. WR welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting including new members joining us for the first time.

### **2. Election of Office Bearers**

**Chair** – Wendy Russell (approved by Elspeth Martin and seconded by Karen Hynd)

**Vice Chair** – Vicki O'Rourke (approved by Elspeth Martin and seconded by Moira Fell)

**Joint Secretary** – Lorna Laird & Angela Norris (approved by Wendy Russell and seconded by Elspeth Martin)

**Treasurer** – Karen Hynd (approved by Angela Norris and seconded by Lorna Laird)

### **3. Adoption of Parent Council Constitution**

WR advised that the constitution state the aims and objectives of the parent council. There were no amendments and constitution was approved.

There was discussion around the suggestion of hearing pupils concerns and suggestions. It was decided that the Captains would be invited for an allocated slot as and when appropriate for the discussion.

**Action: WR to circulate constitution to new members who have joined**

### **4. Approval of minutes**

Approval by VOR and seconded by MF.

### **5. Treasurer Update**

Over the year, £1201.61 was raised. Following donations to the various school departments at the end of the 19-20 school year of £1,010, there is a remaining balance of £191.61 in the bank. It was agreed that Michelle Wailes will audit the accounts for last year.

**Action: MW to audit**

## 6. Fundraising Plans

The feasibility of fundraising events was discussed, it was agreed limited options and to be discussed at next meeting. VO'R advised that there are 24 people signed up for Easy Fundraising and we should continue to promote this among parents, acknowledging that it is already on the PC Facebook page.

**Action: HT to share email with link to all school parents**

**Action: HT to speak with teachers to understand what they might use new funds for & feedback to PC**

## 7. Review of COVID-19 measures in place and feedback

A general discussion took place on feedback. This included further detail on approach to inclusion to support pupils on discrete exemption list for wearing masks. Majority of pupils been complying with facemasks and there is encouragement and offer for those not wearing. Moving into winter, a review will be carried regarding eating in the school currently staffing is a challenge with number of tables and sanitising requirements. The school are looking at how engagement is sustained through virtual assemblies etc, HT also advised that school gates will be closed at 3.15pm to make it safer for pupils exiting the school grounds.

## 8. Headteacher Update

HT advised that vacancy for Digital literacy/Technology principal went live closing 14<sup>th</sup> September. Fran McMenemy is currently acting.

Inclusion Base is now fully staffed. There is a request for Board games / puzzle, members were encouraged to hand in and this is promoted on Facebook.

The school is following current guidelines in regard to curriculum. Outdoor PE only with an anticipated move to include indoor over coming weeks. HT advised that own woodwind instruments can be brought in.

It is unclear what format Parents Night will take - this will be determined in due course.

## 9. AOB

EM raised a question on the policy for *Promoting Positive relationships and Understanding Distressed Behaviour* that was circulated to PC members as to whether it was implemented? HT advised it was a Corporate Policy for the local authority. Members expressed concern that about whether this new way of dealing with this type of behaviour would have a detrimental impact on other children within classes, who may lose time on their learning because of disruption. HT advised that his team of teachers would work to ensure that any disruption is minimised. As always, if there are specific

instances that are of concern to individual PC members involving their children, they should feel free to raise with their designated Pupil Support teacher.

**Next PC meeting**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020