

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Monday 14th Jan 2019, 7pm

Attendees: Wendy Russell (Chair), Lorna Laird (minutes), Tia Gallacher, Dave Legg, Donna Kelly, Marie Cox, Barbara Lee, Richard McGowan, Elspeth Martin.

Apologies: Karen Hynd, Hazel Leggate, Moira Fell, Mark Horsham (Local Councillor)

WR welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting

1. Approval of minutes

Approval by DK and seconded by DL

2. Head teacher Update

Due to a secondment opportunity within the staff (detail will be communicated in due course) there is an opportunity to restructure faculties. This will result in the creation of "Expressive Arts" faculty which includes Music, Art and Drama and "Technology" which includes Technical, Business and ICT. This provides a great opportunity for music and drama to work together and is consistent with other school structures.

There has been positive feedback on the move of having the Preliminary exams prior to Christmas, provides family with break and allows an uninterrupted run for May examinations. Feedback was provided that having results available before Christmas, (where possible), would be a benefit to pupils.

3. TIE Campaign Update

HT has still to make contact with TIE Campaign to arrange a date for the assemblies. Parent Council will be advised of dates and to note it is only applicable to senior assembly. Parent Council attendance is welcomed and it will be a Monday 10.30-1pm (periods 3,4,5). Once dates are available, the Chair of PC will liaise with Members to agree who can attend to represent the PC.

Action

HT to advise of confirmed dates and then Parent Council attendees will be confirmed

4. SQA Results 2018

HT provided a summary of attainment for 2018 examinations;

- S4 National 4 – pupils who achieved three or more – 88.18% (88.0%)
- S4 National 4 – pupils who achieved five or more – 72.73% (77.36%)
- S4 National 5 – pupils who achieved three or more – 52.73% (63.55%)
- S4 National 5 – pupils who achieved five or more – 36.36% (45.0%)
- S5 National 5 – pupils who achieved three or more – 77.17% (not including previous attainment in S4) (84.13%)
- S5 National 5 – pupils who achieved five or more – 59.78% (not including previous attainment in S4) (69.89%)
- S5 Higher – pupils who achieved three or more – 38.04% (46.96%)
- S5 Higher – pupils who achieved five or more – 16.3% (22.07%)
- S6 Higher – pupils who achieved one or more – 92.11% (88.43%)
- S6 High – pupils who achieved three or more – 77.63% (71.71%)
- Advanced Higher – pupils who achieved one or more – 30.26% (37.5%)
- School achievements
 - S4 4 pupils achieved 6A's National 5
 - S5 6 pupils achieved 5 A grades at Higher
 - 2 pupils achieved 6 highers (one achieving 6 A's)

Leaver data was discussed with good results. In 2016/2017, 92.5% of leavers left for a positive destination. In 2017/2018, 94.1% of leavers left for a positive destination.

Action

HT to provide further detail on performance with reference to Virtual Comparator.

5. Parent Evening Involvement

HT advised that the school is looking for suggestions to increase Parent attendance at these evenings. He highlighted that it is concerning, although understanding, in some cases that attendance in parent evening attendance is low, providing an example of 67% attendance in recent S3 evening. He advised the senior phase Parents meeting were over 2 evenings, one late and one early to allow maximum attendance. Discussion suggested possibility of crèche and getting feedback from parents through a survey. It was also suggested that to target upcoming S1 parents on expectations and consider transition events for all years.

Actions

- Review P7/S1 presentation and communications. Consider testimonials from Parents already with children in school about the benefit of attending these evenings. (HT)

6. School Improvement Priorities

HT provided an update on school priorities and looking for parent involvement to progress. DL volunteered for Health and Wellbeing. HT advised of upcoming Consultation 2020 which will consider education and qualifications for 21st century that looks at all learners and post education

destination and widen options through Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework. Draft consultation paper to be circulated and feedback to be BY 18th January then full parent consultation

Actions

- WR to circulate paper for feedback
- HT to provide update at next meeting

7. AOB

BL advised that Christmas Fayre raised £2350 for school funds and thanked PC for help and contribution to success.

BL advised that the school is pursuing Rights Respecting School Award Silver attainment in 2019 with aspirations for Gold in 2020. To support this an improvement group has been set up. WR expressed an interest in further information and potential PC involvement.

BL also advised Parent Council that the school are considering Spring Break Study School which is supervised study on 1st, 2nd, 3rd April 8.45am to 3.30pm which PC Members thought would be a good idea.

1. Points for discussion at next meeting.

Due to time constraints, points for discussion at next meeting.

- Partnership Working
- Cost of a school day toolkit & fundraising opportunities for PC
- Curriculum 2020 – School Improvement Priorities

Remaining PC meetings this session:

Tuesday 19/2/19 Wednesday 27/3/19 Monday 13/5/19