

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 27th March 2019, 7pm

Attendees: Wendy Russell (chair), Elspeth Martin (minutes), Lorna Laird, Donna Kelly, Marie Cox, Richard McGowan, Alistair Gray, Angela Norris, Moira Fell, Karen Hynd, Hazel Leggate, Mark Horsham (Local Councillor),

Apologies: Alan Crooks, Tia Gallacher, Dave Legg, Sarah Smith

WR welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting

1. Approval of minutes

Minutes of 19th Feb 19 approved by EM and seconded by RMcG.

2. Partnership Working

RMcG confirmed the purpose of the exercise is to look at gaining ideas from the Parent Council on how the Parent Council can work in partnership with the school in the future. Group broke into small groups and brainstormed 4 different questions.

Action

- RMcG to type up outputs for circulation with minutes
- Review at next PC meeting (All)

3. Fundraising Opportunities

KH advised provisional date for Tesco bag pack was 25th May, the Saturday of the bank holiday weekend. Although not ideal this was the only option this side of the summer. Agreed volunteers could come for 1 hour slots and could start with 10am – 2pm and push out to 4pm if volunteer numbers allowed.

There was some debate around also running a raffle / tombola/ guess the teddy's birthday etc with limited enthusiasm. Would need to proceed with caution and investigate if a gambling licence would be required.

Will discuss fundraising options for Young Musician of the Year on 6th June at PC meeting on 13th May.

Action

- WR to canvas PC to ascertain availability on 25th May.
- RMcG to canvas senior pupils / staff to ascertain availability on 25th May.
- RMcG to check with Teachers re previous fundraising for the Young Musician event.

MH advised there were no veteran grants available to the school.

MH advised there may be grants available to support music tuition or instrument purchase. MH will investigate further. MH suggested asking the local community to hand in any unused instruments.

MH advised that there may be grants available for CPR Training and/or Mental Health Training. MHH will investigate further.

4. Litter Picking

MH advised he had sourced 20 sets of high vis vests, gloves, pickers, bin hoops and bin bags for the school to use indefinitely.

RMcG advised there was a group within the school called Humanity Heros who would be the first to do the litter picking.

Action – before and after pictures to be taken so we can promote the work on Facebook, twitter etc and particularly with the wider Lesmahagow community.

There was debate around whether there were enough bins located around the school and local area to cope with lunchtime litter. MH can ask for more bins if we let him know where these should be placed.

5. Head Teacher Update

- Group from LHS to receive Bronze DoE at presentation on 16th April
- Two Drama teachers and a Modern Studies teacher have been appointed, with maths teacher to follow to replace N Rae who is moving on.
- Good response to Curriculum Consultation and outcomes now communicated via app & web site.
- The Drama Dept are keen to have an evening to showcase their work.
- TIE assemblies will be 2019 - 2020 session and RMcG will advise dates in due course when arranged.

6. AOB

6.1. Promoting the PC

MF agreed to create a Facebook page for LHS PC to allow us to promote the work of the PC.

Agreed WR would give a short talk at P7 parents' night on 6th June on the role of the Parent Council and that flyers would be available with PC meeting dates for session 2019 – 2020

Action – RMcG to book lets for 2019 – 2020 session on the Mon, Tue, Wed rotation

Post meeting note: Lets can't be booked until June 2019.

Action – TG to update flyer with new dates

Action – EM to advise Milton PC Chair of LHS PC dates for 2019 – 2020 session to avoid clashes.

6.2. Bus pollution

RMcG has taken registration plates of idling buses and has raised with SLC and SPT.

Action - MH to write to bus companies regarding this (Hobsons and JJB)

6.3. Smoking

HL raised the fact that pupils were being allowed to smoke in the school grounds during break time. PC felt that there should be a stronger stance taken with these pupils.

RMcG and AG advised that they were tackling this from the stance of dealing with addiction, with education being the focus rather than punishment.

PC felt strongly that it was sending the wrong message to other pupils in the school that these pupils were “getting away with” breaking the rules on smoking.

RMcG advised the school was starting to work on the Tobacco Free School Charter.

Action - MH will investigate getting No Smoking signs

7. Points for discussion at next meeting.

- Review output from partnership working brainstorm
- Fundraising – Tesco bag pack & YMotY
- Community instrument donation.

Remaining PC meetings this session:

Monday 13/5/19

Remaining Open Actions from previous meetings:

1. RMcG / WR draft joint letter to Primary Schools outlining the role of Parent Council and how parents can contribute.