

Lesmahagow High School

Parent Council AGM

4th Sept 2017



Attendees

Richard McGowan (Head teacher), Barbara Lee (Depute head),

Parents - Elspeth Martin, Ruth McArthur, Hazel Leggate, Wendy Russell, Marie Fox, Moira, Tia Gallagher, Dave Gallagher, Theresa McCallum, Sarah Smith.

HT welcomed all to meeting and thanked all for attending then started off the proceedings by asking for nominations for office bearers. The positions have been taken up as follows.

Chair – Ruth McArthur

Vice Chair – Wendy Russell

Secretary (Joint) – Sarah Smith and Elspeth Martin

Treasurer – Theresa McCallum

Points discussed

- **SQA** – HT highlighted the achievements of S4, 5 and 6 in their recent exam results. The analysis of the results have still to be carried out.
- **Pupil Equity Fund (PEF)** – Group discussed how best to use the £50k fund aimed at ‘closing the attainment gap’. Regarding Health and wellbeing, opening up access to the Duke of Edinburgh award was suggested. The group in general felt that by improving a young persons’ health and wellbeing would impact on literacy and numeracy. Richard felt there was a priority for improving literacy.
- **School uniform** – Overall, the group were very positive about the recent launch of the revised uniform and this led to further discussion regarding standardising the P.E. uniform. HT reflected on the positive comments from the community and the young people. It was asked how the uniform policy was policed. HT replied that this is maintained by keeping the communication channel open between young person and teacher.

- **AOB**

- The point was raised about young people using mobile phones in the classroom. It was highlighted by Richard that young people should not be using these devices in the classroom unless instructed to do so.
- It was asked why the 'healthy option' has been removed from the school canteen. This is a result of the young people being attracted to outside providers of food.
- Smoking was raised as an issue. Young people in their uniform are seen smoking outside the school premises. It was asked what the school could do to discourage this. It is difficult when outside of school to address other than again keeping the communication open and highlighting the ill effects of smoking.
- It was asked how the consistency of teaching methods are monitored throughout the school. DH walked the group through the stringent layers of monitoring that is in place.

Actions

- HT will discuss with colleagues, the use of mobile phones in the classroom.
- HT will consider the suggestions from the parent council, young people, parents and staff regarding how best to use the £50k PEF money and report back to group.
- DH has asked the group to consider what fund raising activities could take place on the planned Christmas fayre on Saturday 25th November.

Date of next meeting – 7pm 10th October

Please send suggestions for agenda to Sarah Smith.