

## **Lesmahagow High School**

### **Parent Council Meeting**

**20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018**



#### **Attendees**

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

Parents - Elspeth Martin, Ruth McArthur, Hazel Leggate, Tia Gallagher, Theresa McCallum, Sarah Smith, Karen Bell, Nathan Purton.

#### **Apologies**

Wendy Russell, Moira Fell, Dave Legg, Linsey Crooks.

#### **Points discussed**

- Approval of minutes of last meeting held 15/11/17 by Ruth McArthur.
- Merit system – Mr Parry made the group aware of on what basis merits are awarded. Based on effort, behaviour, good citizenship, producing good pieces of work and being as accessible to pupils as it can be. Merits and demerits are logged on the Seemis system which gives visibility to all teachers. The parent council offered a range of views relating to the initiative. Concerns were highlighted about how consistently merits/demerits are being awarded and neither pupil or parent aware of the reason.
- Update on PEF – the literacy, numeracy, health and well-being as well as attendance and engagement support will continue at present. Baseline assessments have taken place with further assessments still to be carried out which will determine the impact. To date there has been positive feedback from pupils. The allowance will drop in 2018/19 school year as the school role is anticipated to drop.
- School uniform – A text was sent to all parents/carers this week to reinforce school uniform policy. Staff continue to positively re-inforce the wearing of school uniform. Overall, there seems to be positive feedback from pupils, staff, parents/carers and the community regarding the school uniform. The Parent Council will continue to support the school uniform policy and will periodically review at Parent Council meetings.
- New app – a new app will be launched this April and will allow parents/carers to have access to information regarding the school. This will be free which the text messages are not. They will be run alongside each other.
- Money raised by the Christmas Fayre – Miss Lee made all aware that a total of £3,696.20 was raised and less expenses, the final amount was £3,319.69.

- Wearing of protective equipment during rugby – the group were made aware of the pros and cons of wearing protective headgear whilst playing rugby. It was agreed that it will be a pupil/parent/carer decision whether head protection is worn.

## **Actions**

- Mr Parry has taken on board parental comments regarding the merit system and will feedback to the merit committee as well as visiting each department to ensure standardisation of awards. There is potential for a workshop at a future in service day to give clarity to teachers when awarding merits.
- The senior management team will assess the impact of the PEF funding when further assessments have been carried out. This will determine where the PEF money will be spent albeit options are restricted from the Government.
- The school will make parents/carers aware of the app when it has been launched.
- Sarah Smith will approach Tesco to ask about the token system as a means of raising money for the school. Possible investment could be supporting pupils in achieving Duke of Edinburgh award. Staff, parents/carers and pupils can approach Miss Lee if they wish to apply to have access to the funds raised from the Christmas fayre if it is to benefit the pupils.
- HT will speak to PE department about the wearing of protective headgear. The PE staff can discuss with the players the pros and cons of such. If pupils wish to wear head protection, PE staff could approach Miss Lee regarding funding.

Date of next meeting – 7pm 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Please send suggestions for agenda to Sarah Smith.