

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Monday 14th May 2018, 7pm

Attendees: Wendy Russell (vice-chair), Elspeth Martin (minutes), Hazel Leggate, Moira Fell, Linsey Crooks, Marie Cox, Richard McGowan, Barbara Lee.

Apologies: Ruth McArthur (chair), Sarah Smith, Theresa McCallum, Karen Bell, Nathan Purton, David Legg, Tia Gallacher

1. School Vision & Values

RM gave an overview of existing vision & values which have been in place for some time and the current pupils have no recollection of it being introduced.

RM has engaged P6 & P7 pupils and parents as well as LHS parents and pupils to gain feedback and ideas for the Vision and Values. All feedback will be collated to come up with the new Vision and Values for the School. It is hoped to have this launched for the start of the August term.

2. TIE

Parents raised concerns about the prospect of TIE Campaign materials being delivered in LHS.

RM advised he used the 'Framework for Inclusion and Equality' in school and that LGBT is not promoted above anything else.

RM advised that in preparation for this PC meeting he had discovered that SLC have endorsed the TIE campaign (as seen on the TIE website).

RM advised that other schools in SLC have already had the TIE Campaign in for school assemblies and that LHS could invite TIE to year group assemblies in 2018 - 2019 session.

RM stressed that currently parents are able to withdraw their children from any assemblies or lessons which they feel are contrary to their own religious or moral beliefs.

Parents gathered agreed that LGBT priorities were being over promoted in LHS and that some children felt uncomfortable in the school, therefore creating a non-inclusive environment. Parents felt that there should be a single cohesive school community, welcoming to all, with no individual groups being held up for inclusion over any other. Children from faith groups, or of no faith, should not be made to feel that they cannot express their own feelings on these issues.

Again, RM stressed that LGBT is not being promoted over and above anything else.

RM agreed to approach SLC to gain more information on their endorsement of TIE and feedback to the PC.

RM committed to bring any plans for TIE assemblies back to PC before these were booked, including details of content to be covered.

RM stressed that bullying and mental health statistics for the LGBT community were worrying and that it was important these were addressed through education.

Parents agreed that no child should be bullied for any reason and that there should be one single anti-bullying strategy in school rather than one specifically for LGBT group.

3. Loss of first year class

RM confirmed that 4 first year classes would collapse into 3 second year classes which was unavoidable due to the dropping role. RM confirmed timetables are ready for new session.

4. Seniors Second Last Day.

Seniors second last day did not go to plan. Valuable teaching time was lost due to fire alarms.

However, Graduation Day went well and was appreciated by pupils & parents.

SMT will take learnings for next year. S6 pupils will continue to be involved early in the planning for their second last day.

5. Wider Achievement within the school

RM keen to encourage pupils to be proud of extracurricular attainment to show that it's possible to excel outside the academic sphere.

Parents were all in support of this and felt that most likely the information would be forthcoming from parents rather than the pupils themselves.

6. Health & Wellbeing

RM advised that this was still on table for all pupils.

RM keen to promote health and wellbeing and include a mental health focus.

WR advised of the Healthy Working Lives approach run by NHS Scotland. BL took details to consider the ideas in that campaign for healthy lifestyle that could be helpful.

Other organisations that could possibly contribute would be SAMH, 21st Century Families, and CEOP.

7. School Improvement Priorities

RM circulated a document outlining national and local priorities and proposed LHS priority themes and asked for Parent Council feedback by Thursday 24th May. Document will be circulated to all parents to invite feedback. The school is ready to start a new 3 year Improvement Plan.

Parents present asked for a focus on monitoring quality and consistency of standards across classes in the same department and across departments.

RM openly invited parents to approach him on a one to one basis with any specific concerns on teaching standards.

8. Learning & Teaching Statement

RM will email parents about this late May or early June and share outcome in due course.

9. Pop up Uniform Swap Shop.

Full uniform will be compulsory for all year groups from August.

BL proposed setting up a pop up swap shop for uniform. Parents can donate unwanted blazers and other uniform items and would receive a token when they made a donation. Parents may then buy from the pop up shop using cash or a token. Families in hardship would also be able to use the pop up shop at no cost.

The Parent Council agreed that this was a good idea and BL will progress.

RM advised that he will devolve decision on PE uniform to PE staff and some pupils.

Outstanding Actions

1. RM to share literacy PEF group presentation (c/fwd)
2. BL & RM to pick up with SS to finalise application to Tesco for funding to support DoE, SS to then submit application.
3. Parents to feedback by 24 May on school improvement priorities.
4. RM to approach SLC re TIE endorsement and feedback to parents

Closed Actions

1. PC minutes and contact details are now available on school website (RM)

Next Parent Council Meeting will be in August 2018, dates tbc.

Agenda items to include:

1. Review of school app
2. Merit system improvements
3. SLC endorsement of TIE – RM feedback

(Post meeting note: Milton PC have asked that we don't schedule LHS PC meetings on 10/9/18, 12/11/18, 18/2/19 and 13/5/18 to avoid clashing with their PC meetings)