

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 6 October 2020, 7pm (Online Via Zoom)

Attendees: Wendy Russell (Chair), Gillian Brown, Jennifer Cairney, Marie Cox, Alan Crooks, Moira Fell, Donna Kelly, Lorna Laird, Barbara Lee (Depute HT), Hazel Leggate, Elspeth Martin, Richard McGowan (HT), Angela Norris (minutes), Vicki O'Rourke, Louise Spiers, Lynne Thow, Michelle Wailes

Apologies: Sandra Gardiner, Councillor Mark Horsham, Karen Hynd

1. WR welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting.

2. Approval of minutes

Approval by V O'R and seconded by AN.

3. Treasurer Update

In KH absence, WR advised that the current balance is £351.61. WR advised that the accounts would be passed to MW to audit and to tie in with the school audited accounts.

Action: MW to audit the accounts

4. Fundraising Plans

The Virtual Christmas Fayre had generated approximately £230. V O'R provided an update on this which had been set up and everyone was happy with the amount of interest shown already from a wide range of local businesses. It was £10 to advertise on the page from now till Christmas and it was a great way to raise money for the school and help promote local businesses. Miss Lee agreed that she would contact Principal teachers to ask them to provide MF with any twitter posts to allow her to share on the parent council Facebook page. Discussion took place about posting musical Christmas videos which had been recorded in school and share on the virtual Christmas Facebook page to allow the school and wider community to enjoy. The easy funding app had generated £75 income this quarter.

5. School Transport and Face-coverings on Buses

LT raised a question about what the school's expectation was of the school buses regarding drivers and young people wearing face coverings. Mr McGowan advised that the school transport was a private contract and the school had no involvement with enforcing the use of face coverings. Discussion took place and it was agreed that the Parent Council would write to SPT to seek clarification on the criteria for enforcement of face coverings on the bus to help ensure everyone's safety and seek clarification on bus drivers smoking on school buses prior to picking up the young people from school.

Action: WR to contact SPT and copy in Mr McGowan

Update: It was agreed we would monitor the situation and only make further representation to SPT if we had specific evidence of the driver smoking.

6. Litter

DK raised an issue regarding the increase in litter surrounding the school. Discussion took place on various options to try and improve the situation. Mr McGowan advised that he would take on board all suggestions and would continue to try and re-educate the young people. WR to contact Councillor Horsham regarding provision of bins along the main street to the school. Any school communication regarding litter to be posted on the parent council Facebook page.

Action: WR to contact Councillor Horsham regarding bin provision.

Update – WR has contacted Mark Horsham and he is going to speak to SLC re the bin provision in the area.

7. Continuity of Learning – Modified Timetabling

Mr McGowan provided an update on the modification of timetables which would start on Monday 19 October 2020. The reason for the change to the timetable was to reduce movement and contact within the school to keep staff and young people safe in school. The new timetable would have 14 double periods and 4 single periods each week. The timetable will be spread out over 2 weeks and pupils will have the same amount of time per subject as they had previously. Start and finish times remain the same as does intervals and lunchtime. Discussion took place and Mr McGowan and Miss Lee clarified any issues raised.

7. Head Teacher Update

Mr McGowan advised that a new Principal Teacher in Technology and Digital Literacy had been appointed. Mr Campbell would commence his new post on Monday 2 November 2020.

8. AOB

Discussion took place regarding the enforcement of school uniform including blazers. Mr McGowan confirmed that the school continued to enforce the full school uniform and challenged any young person wearing any inappropriate items as part of their school uniform.

Next PC meeting

Wednesday 11 November 2020