

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Monday 10 May 2021, 7pm, Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Wendy Russell (Chair), Gillian Brown, Jennifer Cairney, Marie Cox, Moira Fell, Sandra Gardiner, Alastair Gray, Councillor Mark Horsham, Barbara Lee (Acting Head Teacher), Hazel Leggate, Elspeth Martin, Angela Norris (minutes), Vicki O'Rourke, David Robertson, Lynne Throw, Michelle Wailes

Apologies: Colin Bates, Karen Hynd, Donna Kelly, Lorna Laird; Heather Sinclair

1. Welcome

WR welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting.

2. Approval of minutes

Approval by MC and seconded by EM.

3. Treasurer Update

WR advised in KH's absence that the current balance in bank was £259.49. WR advised that the JustGiving page had generated £375, which would result in the current balance in the bank of £634.49. JustGiving charge a fee of £20, which had still to be deducted.

4. Department Bids for Money

WR provided an update on the Community Council Grant applications and that she had informed that they have now closed for this financial year and that an application could be submitted in August 2021.

£225 had previously been allocated to Art, Drama and Science at the last Parent Council meeting.

Discussion took place on the remaining bids and the following actions were agreed:-

- Cake Craft Bid - WR provided an update – she had emailed Cake Stuff Head Office regarding supplying backing equipment. WR had received a response from Cake Stuff Head office to give her permission to contact the local shop and ask if they may be able to assist. She has contacted them and is awaiting a response. - **Action –** WR to follow up with Cake Stuff
- Explore Drama wood boxes fabrication options with Community Payback team – EM provided an update - she had completed the online form and had not received any response. MH agreed to contact direct and feedback at the next meeting. Further discussion took place and it was agreed that BL would contact P McGuigan who was currently working in the school to ask if the Men's Shed could assist – **Action -** BL.& MH to follow up
- Drum Kit Bid – Discussion took place and it was agreed that the Parent Council would part fund the cost of the drum kit (£260) and AG agreed to ask the School Fund Committee to fund the remaining amount. **Action –** AG to progress and feedback at the next meeting.

Action – Revisit next term – ask for new bids from departments for 2021-2022 session.

5. Facebook Page

VO'R was interested to hear any suggestions on how the facebook page could be promoted to reach a wider audience? Discussion took place regarding promoting the Facebook page. BL agreed that any posts that the school share on twitter have undergone the necessary checks and could be shared on the Facebook page. Agreed to promote the blazer exchange programme on the page and to promote any information on P7 transitions to encourage engagement of new parents to the Facebook page.

WR suggested posting on the Facebook page to advertise if anyone local may be able to provide materials at cost for building the drama boxes.

Action - VO'R agreed to update the Facebook page with any relevant school twitter posts.

6. Wi-Fi Improvement

Discussion took place regarding the upgraded Wi-Fi system. BL provided an update on the survey which had taken place and no issues had been raised. BL asked if any pupil was struggling with the Wi-Fi if they could note the type of device, time, date and location of the issue and content of search e.g. Google Classroom, school emails. This would then be collated and reported back to RM. A significant number of equipment had been installed in the best locations throughout the school which BL had hoped would have solved the wi-fi difficulties. BL asked if pupils could be reminded that they require to connect to the manage network and log in as if they were logging into a school computer and also to highlight that they can only access websites that they could access on a school computer i.e. no social media sites.

Action – Any feedback from pupils to be passed to the SMT

7. Meeting Schedule 2021-2022

The meeting dates were agreed for 2021-2022: -

- Monday 23 August 2021 – 7pm
- Tuesday 5 October 2021- 7pm
- Wednesday 10 November 2021 - 7pm
- Monday 17 January 2022- 7pm
- Tuesday 15 February 2022 - 7pm – Updated to Tuesday 22nd February 2022
- Wednesday 23 March 2022 - 7pm
- Monday 9 May 2022 - 7pm

Discussion took place on potentially moving back to face-to-face meetings. It was agreed that the meetings could potentially take place blended using Microsoft Teams which would allow the parents who could not manage to the meeting to join on-line.

Action – BL to book the school lets and VO'R to make arrangements for future meetings to be set up on Microsoft Teams.

8. Head Teacher update

BL gave an update on the Covid arrangements, which are now well established within the school. SMT continued to be present at the school entrance to check that children are wearing masks and distribute to those who are not. Large numbers of disposable masks being distributed each day. Each child has now been issued with a re-usable mask and an order had been placed to allow each child to be issued with 5 re-usable masks.

Lateral flow test programme was still being encouraged and had seen an increase in S1-S3 children participation. BL encouraged children to upload results to the government website to allow them to monitor any patterns or trends in the area.

BL gave an update on the SQA exams procedures. The SQA cancelled exams and an alternative model was devised for internal assessments for National 5, Highers and Advanced Highers. Senior phase assessments for SQA are underway. The school had developed robust, reliable, and valid assessments to be used to determine the children's grade based on demonstrated attainment. Assessments are currently being completed and the responses will be marked within the school and subject to South Lanarkshire moderation based on the results, provisional awards will be determined. The information will be shared with SQA. 2 additional in-service days (1 & 2 June 2021) have been granted by the Scottish Government to allow the teachers to look at the moderation of the assessments. Certificates will be issued by the SQA on 10 August 2021. Consultation on the appeals process is currently ongoing and await outcome.

2 additional Classroom Assistants have joined the school and have been able to assist with additional assessment arrangements. In addition, a second Teacher has been appointed within the Inclusion Support Team

Transition programme for the current P7 is underway digitally this has allowed all primary schools to participate virtually. DR has organised a virtual parent meeting to allow presentations and questions to be shared.

It was scheduled to move to the new timetable on 14 June and it was proposed that the two-week timetable would continue and also the staggered start and finish times and staggered intervals and lunchtime for health reasons. Further consultation would take place prior to any long-term decision being made regarding changing the timetables.

BL thanked WR for her hard work and commitment shown to the pupils and school community as a parent, Parent Council member and as Chair of the Parent Council to the school over the last few years and wished her well for the future.

9. AOB

No additional items were raised.

10. Vote of Thanks to the Chair

WR was presented with a bouquet of flowers and EM thanked WR on behalf of the Parent Council for the last 4 years for her hard work and leadership skills and wished her well for the future.

Next Parent Council meeting

Monday 23 August 2021