

# Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Monday 17 January 2022, 7:15 pm, Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:** Colin Bates, Jennifer Cairney, Marie Cox, Alan Crooks, Donna Kelly (Minutes), Lorna Laird, Barbara Lee, Elspeth Martin, Aileen Naismith, Angela Norris, Vicki O'Rourke (Chair), Jill Pate, Alex Rae, Stuart Rivans, Michelle Wailes, Linda Wright

**Apologies:** Gillian Brown, Moira Fell, Sandra Gardiner, Mark Horsham, Karen Hynd, Hazel Leggate, Lynne Thow

1.	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> Minutes of meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 approved by L Laird and A Norris.
2.	<b>Recovery Supported Study Budget</b> Supported Study Recovery funding – money has been allocated within the school budget to support pupils whose learning has been impacted by Covid this year (one-off sum of money). Staff consultation is currently in progress, consultation will then go out to pupils and parents, to ascertain how LHS can best assist those pupils who would benefit most. Consultation so far has identified the following areas for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Learning and teaching</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Revision packs for pupils including items such as flash cards, highlighters etc.</li><li>- Study Skills books e.g. “How to pass” for subjects.</li><li>- Teams tutoring for pupils who have been impacted by isolation etc.</li><li>- Homework club for pupils.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Health and wellbeing</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Help to fund a Mental Health drop-in café.</li><li>- Further funding for the ‘Blues’ Programme.</li><li>- Training for S3 pupils to provide peer support for Mental Health.</li><li>- Stress toys available during periods of assessment.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Increasing Ambition</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- STEM fair for pupils to showcase projects. Would help pupils to achieve a Young STEM Leader Award.</li><li>- VR headsets to allow pupils to experience things they cannot usually or are not able to currently due to COVID restrictions. E.g. visiting labs/visiting other countries.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Teacher leadership</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Duke of Edinburgh excursion training for staff to provide in school support for pupils completing their awards. Reducing cost for pupils going forward. Also links with outdoor learning/wellbeing.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Literacy and numeracy</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Extending current provision for SfL pupils or PEF pupils to other pupils who have been affected by COVID-19 but do not fall under either of these categories.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Partnership with Families</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Study skills nights for parents. Teaching them how to support their pupils with studying.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Pupils’ priorities have been included in the above list of categories. If Parent Council parents have anything else to add, they are advised to email Alex Rae. The decision on how best to allocate funds will be based on feedback from all groups, rather than a simple vote.</p>

	<p>L Laird asked how support is prioritised – B Lee advised that this would be through pupil support and teaching staff who can identify individuals and groups who would benefit most from assistance with, for example, study skills, stationery, etc.</p> <p>Additional staffing provided by SLC has enabled us to staff our Inclusion Support Hub, with additional support two days per week to provide more targeted support.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>School Travel Plan</b></p> <p>LHS has been working with SLC for past two weeks to update the School Travel Plan. The school plans to consult with pupils, staff and parents (including Parent Council) with a view to making travel to/from school safer and more sustainable.</p> <p>PC members are invited to respond to B Lee on this now or before next meeting.</p> <p>J Pate mentioned that buses coming up the hill on Strathaven Road often drive too fast and very close to the pavement, which can be very dangerous.</p> <p>Another issue raised was that of parents dropping their children off at the pedestrian crossing; could SLC be asked to monitor this area?</p> <p>C Bates suggested the option of a “safe route” to/from school.</p> <p>B Lee noted these issues and suggestions, for inclusion in the Travel Plan and for feeding back to SLC.</p> <p>SLC traffic assessment should be available at the end of January, B Lee will bring this to the next meeting of the Parent Council.</p> <p>M Wailes asked if there will be any follow up from the survey that asked which pupils who are driven to school could easily walk, and what the school could do to encourage more pupils to walk.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>School absence procedure/school buses</b></p> <p>E Martin mentioned recent issues with school transport, which meant that pupils were marked as late when it was the bus company which caused the delay, and not the pupils’ fault.</p> <p>A Gray would be asked to contact SPT to ask that if a bus is running late, the school should be made aware of this asap.</p> <p>Any pupils on a late bus should go to the school office on arrival to be coded properly.</p> <p>L Laird advised that there had been problems with bus routes in the past, particularly when there have been road closures and pupils were not told about this in advance.</p> <p>L Laird also asked about text messaging regarding absences. Could a physical check be carried out before any parent receives such a text message, to save any unnecessary worry and concern?</p> <p>B Lee advised that a first message is sent out based on tutor time attendance, after the office have checked phone messages for any child absence notifications, pupils arriving late and registering at the school office and parent phone calls received that morning.</p> <p>In addition, between tutor time and period one, period one and period two, etc, a class-to-class check is carried out.</p> <p>B Lee advised that the office will be asked to continue to check discrepancies carefully, in particular between tutor time and periods one and two, and so on, to minimise the number of text messages which go out to parents unnecessarily.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Cost of the School Day Policy</b></p> <p>B Lee asked if there was anything the Parent Council would like to add to the document. Updates have been made to the previous document, but if any member of the Parent Council would like to add anything, these can be passed to B Lee or V O’Rourke, or discussed further at the next meeting.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Head Teacher Report</b></p> <p>Refer to Appendix 1 for Head Teacher Report.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Homework</b></p> <p>C Bates asked about homework currently being issued. B Lee advised that homework should be available on Show My Homework App or via Google Classroom, but that she will look into this further in discussion with Mrs Wright.</p>

<b>8.</b>	<b>Outdoor Learning and Forest Schools</b> Stuart Rivans, Inclusion Support Team Teacher, shared an updated document with the Parent Council showcasing what outdoor learning and forest schools can offer. The school is currently in the middle of tendering process for the community garden, and would like to have Parent Council on board and involved in the process. Outdoor learning has proven to be very good for the emotional wellbeing of pupils involved thus far, and it is hoped to increase the number of pupils who could benefit from the scheme in future. Outdoor learning could be of benefit to all pupils, and is providing targeted support to those pupils who need it most, such as those struggling with anxiety, emotional issues, and other support needs.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Fundraising</b> V O'Rourke advised that there is currently £1,174.03 in the Parent Council bank account. Christmas event held at Abbeygreen Café on 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2021 raised a further £200. Discuss at next meeting what Parent Council funds could best be spent on, depending on current needs within the school.

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## **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Appendix 1**

### **Head Teacher Report**

#### **Staffing**

Mrs Robertson Cheyne's maternity leave commenced after the Christmas holidays. Mrs Ritchie has assumed the role of Acting Faculty Head of Expressive Arts (1.0FTE). SLC has advertised for an Area Cover Teacher of Music; the advert closes tomorrow. S1/2 pupils will study an extra period of PE or Art meantime.

Mr Malcolm Hobday and Mrs Elaine Gill, Class Support Assistants, have joined our Inclusion Support and Support for Learning Teams.

Mr Jack Hickson, Teacher of PE, has been appointed as Teacher of Inclusion (0.4FTE), supporting pupils in the wider school. Mrs Catherine Travis, Area Cover Teacher of Inclusion, English and Support for Learning (0.4FTE) has also joined us.

Mrs Smith and Miss Fletcher, Principal Teachers of Equity and Inclusion, will support pupils in Logan House until Mr Hill returns.

The position of Depute Head Teacher will be advertised this term; Teachers of French/Spanish and Maths will be advertised for August 2022.

#### **Traffic Management Plan and School Travel Plan**

We are currently working with SLC to update our Traffic Management Plan and School Travel Plan. Our Travel Plan will promote safe and sustainable journeys and promote opportunities for cycling. We are keen to include the views of pupils, parents/carers and staff in our plan and will circulate a questionnaire to decide on our updated priorities. Any feedback on our current Travel Plan are welcome.

We have also encouraged pupils to apply for a new national entitlement card to allow them to access free travel on buses. Details on how to apply have been emailed to parents/carers.

#### **Senior Phase Parents' Evenings**

In line with the latest Government guidance, Parents' Evenings will continue take place using School Cloud meantime. The dates of the Senior Phase Parents' Evenings are: Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 7-9 pm and Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 4.30 – 6.30 pm.

#### **Course Choice**

Course Choice information has been shared with pupils, parents and carers for Senior Phase options. S3 to S4 options forms should be returned by Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> January. S4 to S5 and S5 to S6 options forms should be returned by Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> February. S2 to S3 forms will be issued after the February break and should be returned by 4<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **Cost of the School Day**

Feedback on our current Cost of the School Day position statement is welcome. We have included information on uniform, winter clothing, travel, learning, friendships, school trips, eating, fun, clubs and home learning, as previously discussed with our school community.