

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 10th November 2021, 7 pm, School Library

Attendees: Colin Bates, Pamela Docherty, Moira Fell, Donna Kelly (Minutes), Barbara Lee, Hazel Leggate, Angela Norris, Jill Pate, Vicki O'Rourke (Chair),

Apologies: Marie Cox, Mark Horsham, Karen Hynd, Lorna Laird, Elspeth Martin,

1.	Minutes of previous meeting Minutes of meeting held on 5 th October 2021 approved by VO and seconded by JP.
2.	Fundraising plans and ideas BL advised that there will be no audience at the Christmas Show on 21 st December due to current restrictions, meaning there will be no opportunity for fundraising at this event. The show will be recorded and shown online, possibly live-streamed. Suggestions for Christmas fundraising were made, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christmas event at Harris & Ollie's – hot chocolate and mince pies, stall, school pupils singing? Discussions took place on how this could be done in a Covid safe manner.• Abbeygreen Café event on Wednesday 1st December – tombola stall suggested by VO, perhaps involving school captains along with 2-3 members of the Parent Council taking half hour slots? It was also suggested that some pupils who play an instrument could play Christmas songs? It was agreed that the Abbeygreen Café event on 1 st December was the best option; VO offered to get this organised. It was also suggested that it might be an option to do some form of fundraising at Easter time, to make up for the lack of fundraising opportunities over the Christmas period.
3.	Grant Applications <i>JP advised that application for £500 micro grant has been submitted to community council, response awaited. The total amount requested within the grant application is £1300, with the remaining £800 being requested from the Lesmahagow High School Fund.</i> Funding requests are for: Two radio microphones (Drama) Two sewing machines (Home Economics) Cake tins and other cake craft items (Home Economics) One ukulele (Music) VO has contacted Tesco requesting any help with our wellies and outdoor clothing supplies (for Forest Schools and Outdoor Learning activities) and school uniform supplies to add to supplies of "pre-loved" items available for pupils, <i>definitive answer awaited.</i> Bent Primary have been given assistance with reading material from Dunduff Quarry. MF will check with HT at Bent Primary as to whether LHS could benefit from a similar scheme?
4.	Head Teacher Report Refer to Appendix 1 for Head Teacher's Report.
5.	Insight BL delivered a presentation at the meeting to demonstrate the different types of information available from Insight, such as virtual comparators in the form of graphs and percentages, which is used to analyse attainment data. BL also advised that LHS colleagues are meeting with an adviser from Insight on 8 th December to support the school's improvement planning.

<p>6.</p>	<p>School Uniform</p> <p>BL advised that LHS are trying to ensure that pupils wear school uniform wherever possible. Staff are taking note of pupils who are not wearing school uniform and trying to identify why this is the case and to provide support.</p> <p>AN asked for clarification on what is classed as school uniform – BL confirmed that this is shirt, tie, black trousers and blazer. BL advised that a blazer is preferred.</p> <p>An additional uniform supplier – ALJ in Lanark - has been added following a parental request. ALJ can also supply additional items, such as: PE T-shirt (for pupils who forget their PE kit) and winter jacket with school badge. Scotcrest in Hamilton have been informed that LHS is adding an additional uniform supplier.</p> <p>Samples were available for PC to peruse, and members who were present had a look at these after the meeting – we were all very impressed with the quality and range of items available!</p> <p>BL advised that there had been a suggestion for a winter uniform from pupils and that a Consultation will be taking place on uniform issues generally in the near future.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>PE Kit/School Uniform</p> <p>HL asked for clarification on the requirement to change from PE Kit into school uniform and vice versa during the school day. HL feels that some pupils don't have enough time to change, which means that they have to rush to get to their next class.</p> <p>BL advised that the school will look into this, so that pupils do not have to constantly change to/from PE kit throughout the school day, which will in turn maximise learning time.</p> <p>AN enquired about pupils being allowed to wear PE kit instead of school uniform on the way home, particularly if they have PE later in the school day.</p> <p>This issue could be included in the Consultation on uniform issues, in particular, the requirement to change to/from school uniform during the school day.</p>

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Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

Mrs. Pamela Docherty was appointed permanent Depute Head Teacher with responsibility for our Inclusion Support provision last week. Congratulations, Pamela! Mr. Jack Hickson has been appointed Teacher of Inclusion (0.4FTE) and will assume his new role as soon as possible. Congratulations, Jack! Interviews for our Teacher of English post take place later this week.

Mrs. Victoria Abercrombie, Class Support Assistant, has joined the Support for Learning Team. Mr. Malcolm Hobday, Class Support Assistant, will join our Inclusion Support Team and Mrs. Elaine Gill, Class Support Assistant, will join our Support for Learning Team, when employment checks are completed.

On Friday 12th November, we will say farewell to Mr. David Burns, Teacher of Maths, who moves to Larkhall Academy and Mrs. Mechelle Gillespie, Class Support Assistant, who moves to Biggar High School. On Monday, 15th November, we will welcome Mr. Craig Maxwell, Teacher of Maths to our school.

Chaplaincy Team

Mr. Callum Keys, Clydesdale Christian Youth Trust has joined our Chaplaincy Team following the departure of Mr. Alex Kelly. Mr. Keys and Rev. Andrew Rooney, Minister at Kirkmuirhill Parish Church, have prepared a short video message for pupils as part of our Remembrance Day events. Rev. Morag Garrett, Minister at Coalburn and Lesmahagow Parish Church, has also joined our Chaplaincy Team. Arrangements for our Christmas Service will be shared with parents and carers when confirmed.

Climate Emergency Newsroom

Four of our S6 students have had the opportunity to join with other S6 students from across South Lanarkshire to report from the COP26 Climate Change Conference. Our pupils have interviewed Mr. Alan Parkinson, President of the Geographical Association and Mrs. Lorna Slater, Co-Leader of the Scottish Greens about their thoughts on Climate Change and have prepared news reports for primary pupils to share their findings.

Scottish Youth Parliament Elections

All pupils have had the opportunity to vote in the Scottish Youth Parliament Elections this week. Well done and good luck to the pupils who stood as candidates.

Book Week Scotland (15th – 19th November)

As part of our Book Week Scotland events, all S1 pupils will be given a copy of 'You are a Champion – how to be the best you can be' by Marcus Rashford. Other activities designed to encourage reading for pleasure and creative writing are planned.

December Assessments

The timetable for our Senior Phase Assessments has been shared, and will follow a column approach. Study rooms will be provided for pupils when they don't have exams during the exam period rather than study leave.

Participatory Budgeting

It was decided by our school community that Health and Wellbeing would be the focus for our Participatory Budgeting project. Further information will be shared by the group in December.