

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd February 2022

Attendees: Sandra Gardiner, Alastair Gray, Mark Horsham, Karen Hynd, Donna Kelly, Barbara Lee, Colin McGavigan, Aileen Naismith, Angela Norris, Vicki O'Rourke, Jill Pate, Lynne Thow, Michelle Wailes

Apologies: Gillian Brown, Jennifer Cairney, Moira Fell, Lorna Laird, Hazel Leggate, Elspeth Martin

1.	Minutes of previous meeting Minutes of meeting held on 17 January 2022 approved by Jill Pate and seconded by Angela Norris.
2.	Head Teacher Report Head Teacher Report attached as Appendix 1.
3.	School Travel Plan Update All pupils, staff and parents have been asked to complete a questionnaire. Thereafter, consultation will go to outside partners. Anyone who wishes to contribute is very welcome to do so. M Wailes asked what kind of information would be helpful as there are lots of issues which could be highlighted. B Lee advised that all responses will be collated after 28 February. B Lee suggested one possible outcome could be a leaflet with information on safe routes to school and other safety advice. M Horsham advised there have been reports of speeding around the school. Police Scotland and local community police are involved and there is a meeting on 28 February involving Police Scotland and other interested parties (eg, Roads Department) to discuss the way forward. M Horsham advised that SLC could help with some issues, such as safe routes to school for pupils who wish to cycle, lighting on cycle paths, and other similar safety measures.
4.	Homework Policy B Lee advised that our <i>Show My Homework</i> contract is coming to an end and that this will be replaced with Guardian Email which can be linked to Google Classroom. This will also help any pupils who are self-isolating as they can be linked to schoolwork on Google Classroom. In response to queries about the lack of homework given to S1 and S2 pupils, B Lee advised that feedback from staff is that homework is being set, however recovery from Covid and the resulting disruption to learning has not helped. LHS is planning to produce an updated Homework Policy, and it is hoped that a draft Policy will be brought to the next meeting of the Parent Council on 23 March 2022. Suggestion was also made that a leaflet could be produced to show what is expected of pupils and parents to encourage pupils to complete homework.
5.	Examinations A Gray handed out copies of Additional Learning Opportunities Timetable 2021-22 with details of supported study sessions and links to Google Meet and Google Classroom. Study leave commences 26 th April, first exam takes place on 27 th April and final exam on 3 rd June 2022. All pupils will move to their new timetable from Monday 6 th June. SQA will advise examinations procedures from w/c 7 March, these can be found on SQA home page / Examinations 2022. For exceptional circumstances, such as pupil illness due to Covid, request would go to SQA along with evidence of work completed by pupil throughout the year for SQA to consider and make an assessment.

	<p>For appeals – if a pupil feels they have not been awarded the grade they deserve, they can appeal direct to SQA. Priority appeals can be requested by any pupils awaiting results for University or College places.</p> <p>Further information can be found under “Frequently Asked Questions” on SQA website.</p>
6.	<p>Virtual Parents’ Evenings</p> <p>Discussion took place on how parents found the recent virtual parents’ evenings. The general feeling was that these were very successful and that many parents preferred to meet online. The online booking system was also considered to be very straightforward. It was noted that uptake for virtual parents’ evenings was no better than face-to-face evenings.</p> <p>The possibility of a hybrid model combining face-to-face and virtual meetings in future was suggested, giving parents the option of either method.</p> <p>It was suggested that a notification be added to the Parent Council Facebook page in future to remind parents to book.</p> <p>First year parents’ evening is on 25th May, consider holding another evening in school for first year parents in August/September in future?</p>
7.	<p>Fundraising</p> <p>£1,231.02 currently in bank account.</p> <p>£500 grant has been spent and remaining £500 can be offered to subject areas to bid for funds for their specific needs.</p> <p>Outdoor learning are looking for funds for a “hobbit hut” which costs approx. £10,000. M Horsham and C McGavigan advised that SLC would be willing to look at grants to fund this particular project which they will take forward with Stuart Rivans.</p> <p>Banks Renewables/Kypemuir Windfarm Grants – J Pate to look into these and any other available funding sources?</p> <p>Tesco – V O’Rourke will contact Nora about making use of the tokens scheme within the store.</p>
8.	<p>Masterclasses (under AOB)</p> <p>Information on how to select Masterclass options will be coming out to parents shortly which will explain what these are and how to select options.</p>
9.	<p>SLC Councillors (under AOB)</p> <p>M Horsham and C McGavigan advised that they can still act as Councillors and attend PC meetings from 14th March – 4th May (period leading up to local Council elections).</p>
10.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>Wednesday 23rd March 2022</p> <p>Monday 9th May 2022</p>

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Appendix 1 – Head Teacher Report

Staffing

Ms. Catherine Blair, Teacher of Music, has joined the Expressive Arts Faculty to cover Mrs. Robertson Cheyne's maternity leave. Mr. Neil Campbell, Technical Technician, has joined us three days per week in the Technologies Faculty, following the departure of Mr. Wilf Yule, Technical Technician in December.

Colleagues from other SLC schools are assisting in our school office this week.

Covid Update

Based on the latest Government advice, all pupils should now move towards Tutor time at 8.38 am, with Tutor time starting at 8.40 am. The school day now ends at 3.35 pm Monday to Thursday and 12.30 pm on Fridays for all pupils.

From 28th February, pupils won't need to wear face coverings in classes. Face coverings will still be required in corridors and communal areas. It will also be possible to have assemblies.

Lateral Flow Test kits continue to be available in the foyer at the start and end of the day, from the health and wellbeing trolley at intervals and lunchtimes and the school office/medical room throughout the day.

Cost of the School Day

Thank you for the feedback received on our CoSD position statement. An update regarding the availability of period products has been added. Our pupils have been invited to provide feedback on the availability of period products within the school through both a questionnaire and focus group discussion, led by Jenny Dunn, Development Officer at South Lanarkshire Council.

Mrs Smith and Miss Fletcher were invited to speak at the South Lanarkshire Council Cost of the School Day Sharing Practice event yesterday and received excellent feedback.

Pupils will also be able to collect any stationery items needed from our new stationery trolley.

School Travel Plan

Stuart Rivans and I met with Marion Shearer and Colin Smith, School Travel Plan Coordinators, earlier this month to review our current School Travel Plan and agree on next steps. All pupils, parents and staff have been asked to complete a survey to help identify our priorities for safe and sustainable journeys.

Parents: <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=153362743001>

Pupils: <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=153362744363>

After the survey responses have been collated, our next steps can be planned. We will send invitations to local transport organisations with an offer to be part of our planned improvements.

Traffic Management Plan

School action points from our recent traffic assessment include:

- Involve school employees and pupils in safety campaigns.
- Consider an identified crossing point within the school grounds to Strathaven Road.
- Additional signage within the school car park (speed, visitor/staff parking, deliveries).
- Encourage car sharing and park and stride.