



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parent Council held on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7.15pm

Present

M Wailes (in the Chair)

G Brown	A Norris
M Fell	J Pate
S Gardiner	H Sinclair
K Hynd	T Summerville (MS Teams)
M Jeffrey	S Way
A Naismith	

In attendance

Ms Lee	
Ms Cimmino	

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> It was agreed that Ms Wailes would Chair the meeting. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Apologies were noted for V O'Rourke, L Laird and M Jeffrey. The Chair noted that the agenda would be amended to consider the parent queries after the Head Teacher update to improve the flow of discussion, this was agreed.	
2.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 19 th of September. A minor amendment was required regarding the dates of the previous minutes, with this agreed the Council were content to approve the minute as a complete and accurate record.	

	The minutes were adopted by K Hynd and seconded by M Fell.	
3.	<p><u>Rolling Action List</u></p> <p>The action list was noted and the closure of items 12 and 13 were approved.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></p> <p>Ms Lee provided a full update on school matters since the September meeting.</p> <p>There was a detailed update and discussion on the attainment insight analysis.</p> <p>Requests for support from the Parent Council were noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance with tea and coffee at the Winter Showcase on the 19th of December; and • Donations of items to run a fundraising tombola at the Winter Showcase. <p>There was a discussion around the provision of catch-up flu vaccinations for the pupils who did not receive one at the initial visit.</p> <p>Ms Lee answered questions around the practical aspects of the prelim timetable, mock exam timings and the supported study offered by the school.</p> <p>Ms Lee noted that the staffing update provided information on the new Faculty Head of Science and assured the Parent Council that the dual qualified Maths and Physics teacher had been supporting the Physics curriculum to ensure continuity for learners.</p> <p>The Head Teachers report for November is attached at appendix 1.</p>	MW
5.	<p><u>Parent Queries</u></p> <p>Parent queries had been submitted in advance of the meeting in regards to supported study, mock exam timings, the Physics department staffing and flu vaccinations. These were discussed during the Head Teacher's Report at item 4.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Library Update</u></p>	

	<p>Ms Thomson, the school librarian, attended the meeting and provided a detailed update on the current initiatives being taken forwards. There is an ambition to establish partnerships with local organisations, such as Auchlochan, to undertake befriending, paired reading, card games, book clubs etc.</p> <p>Ms Thomson outlined the recent updates made to the fiction collection and noted she hopes to improve reading materials for those with additional needs. Ms Thomson is specifically keen to establish a range of 'Barrington Stoke' texts.</p> <p>Ms Thomson informed the meeting that the library would like to work towards the reading schools accreditation from the Scottish Book Trust, noting that the first stage would be to recruit reading ambassadors.</p> <p>There was also a discussion around using funding to provide a set text to Primary 7 pupils as part of the transitions to High School work.</p> <p>The Parent Council were supportive of the work being taken forward by the School Library and undertook to re-issue a request via the Parents and Carers facebook page for donations of books.</p>	MW
7.	<p><u>Funding Requests</u></p> <p>K Hynd noted that the current balance of the Parent Council account was £646.36, however, £300 was due to be transferred to the school.</p> <p>With the remaining balance the funding requests were discussed.</p> <p>It was agreed that a request would be issued via the Parents and Carers facebook page for donations of outdoor clothing.</p> <p>J Pate undertook to seek funding for the Concert Band request.</p> <p>Funding for a bass guitar was approved and the Parent Council confirmed that they did not have any current bids via the 'Tesco Stronger Starts' application and therefore the school should progress with this.</p>	MW JP

8.	<p><u>South Lanarkshire Budget</u></p> <p>Ms Lee noted that South Lanarkshire Council had requested that the budget consultation be highlighted at the Parent Council meeting.</p> <p>The posters provided and the QR code were shared.</p>	
9.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>There was a discussion around the provision of work experience with clarification provided that this is generally pursued in the year that a learner plans to leave school.</p> <p>No further business was raised.</p>	
	<p><u>Close</u></p> <p>The Chair thanked those present for attending the meeting and advised that the next meeting would be held in the school on Wednesday 31st January at 7.15pm.</p>	

Appendix 1

Head Teacher's Report to Parent Council, Tuesday, 7th November 2023

Staffing update:

- Mrs Mairi Mitchell has been appointed Team Leader of our School Support Assistants.
- Mrs. Lynn Forrest has joined our office team to provide support whilst the recruitment process is completed for a permanent School Support Assistant (office, full-time).
- Ms. Ellie Douglas has joined our School Support Assistant Team.
- Mrs. Naomi McCormack has been appointed as Teacher of Maths.
- Ms. Ciara Wheeler has been appointed as Faculty Head of Science and joins us in the new year.
- Mr. Alex Rae has been appointed as Acting Lead Teacher of Developing the Young Workforce.

SLC Budget:

South Lanarkshire Council is in the process of setting its budget for 2024-25. In line with local authorities across Scotland, we are facing unprecedented financial challenges, with a £70.6 million budget gap in the next two years.

It is necessary to decide what services can be adapted or cut so they cost less. It may also mean deciding what services we must stop providing at all.

The Scottish Government's revenue budget has gone up by 8.3% since 2013-14, but local government revenue (when 'ringfenced funding to carry out specific tasks is removed) has fallen by 9.6%.

In the next two financial years, the council needs to find ways to overcome the budget gap. The views of local resident are being sought to share them with councillors who will then make final decisions. Please have your say at:

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation

Insight Analysis, September 2023:

S4 attainment

S4 on S4, SQA **A-C only**

Year	# 5+ Awards @ Level 3	% 5+ Awards @ Level 3	# 5+ Awards @ Level 4	% 5+ Awards @ Level 4	#1+ Awards @ Level 5 (Grade C)	%1+ Awards @ Level 5 (Grade C)	# 5+ Awards @ Level 5 (Grade C)	% 5+ Awards @ Level 5 (Grade c)
2023	92	92%	81	81%	80	80.00	36	36%
VC		83%		79.40%		82.10		43.50%
2022	95	88.79%	93	86.92%	94	87.85	60	56.07%
VC		86.92%		83.64%		85.42		48.88%
2021	87	92.55%	87	92.55%	84	89.36	49	52.13%
VC		86.91%		82.98%		87.55		46.81%

S4 on S4, SQA **A-D**

Year	# 5+ Awards @ Level 3	% 5+ Awards @ Level 3	# 5+ Awards @ Level 4	% 5+ Awards @ Level 4	#1+ Awards @ Level 5 (Grade D)	%1+ Awards @ Level 5 (Grade D)	# 5+ Awards @ Level 5 (Grade D)	% 5+ Awards @ Level 5 (Grade D)
2023	92	92	81	81	81	81	52	52
VC		83		79.4		84.8		52.9
2022	95	88.79%	93	86.92%	95	88.79	70	65.42%
VC		86.92%		83.64%		87.48		58.50%
2021	87	92.55%	87	92.55%	87	92.55	61	64.89%
VC		86.91%		82.98%		89.68		54.36%

S4 on S4, SCQF

Year	# 5+ Awards @ Level 3	% 5+ Awards @ Level 3	# 5+ Awards @ Level 4	% 5+ Awards @ Level 4	#1+ Awards @ Level 5	%1+ Awards @ Level 5	# 5+ Awards @ Level 5	% 5+ Awards @ Level 5
2023	92	92	82	82	85	85.00	54	54
VC		85.6		82.2		86.80		55.2
2022	95	88.79%	93	86.92%	95	88.79	70	65.42%
VC		89.25%		86.17%		88.41		60.93%
2021	88	93.62%	88	93.62%	87	92.55	63	67.02%
VC		88.40%		84.26%		90.32		56.17%

S5 attainment:

Based on S5 Roll SQA **A-C**

Year	# 1+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	% 1+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	# 3+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	% 3+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	# 5+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	% 5+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)
2023	68	75.56	42	46.67	22	24.44
VC		71.67		48.11		23.78
2022	53	65.43%	32	39.51%	13	16.05%
VC		70.00%		44.07%		19.88%
2021	60	68.18%	35	39.77%	16	18.18%
VC		69.43%		46.82%		21.14%

Based on S5 Roll SQA **A-D**

Year	# 1+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)	% 1+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)	# 3+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)	% 3+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)	# 5+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)	% 5+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)
2023	71	78.89	53	58.89	27	30
VC		78.22		57.44		29.89
2022	56	69.14%	46	56.79%	23	28.40%

VC		73.70%		52.72%		23.95%
2021	63	71.59%	42	47.73%	18	20.45%
VC		72.39%		51.93%		23.64%

Based on S5 Roll,
SCQF

Year	# 1+ Award @ Level 6	% 1+ Award @ Level 6	# 3+ Award @ Level 6	% 3+ Award @ Level 6	# 5+ Award @ Level 6	% 5+ Award @ Level 6
2023	71	78.89	54	60	28	31.11
VC		81.11		61.22		34.22
2022	62	76.54%	46	56.79%	25	30.86%
VC		75.06%		54.44%		27.78%
2021	65	73.86%	44	50.00%	22	25.00%
VC		74.20%		53.86%		27.39%

S6 attainment:

Based on S6 Roll, **A-C**

Year	# 1+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	% 1+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	# 3+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	% 3+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	# 5+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	% 5+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	# 1+ Award @ Level 7 (Grade C)	% 1+ Award @ Level 7 (Grade C)
2023	36	87.8	29	70.73	18	43.9	17	41.46
VC		86.59		68.29		47.07		30.49
2022	43	87.76%	34	69.39%	19	38.78%	15	30.61%
VC		91.62%		71.63%		49.80%		34.69%
2021	61	94.34%	51	79.25%	33	50.25%	28	50.94%
VC		88.87%		75.28%		55.09%		39.81%

Based on S6
Roll

A-D

Year	# 1+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)	% 1+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)	# 3+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)	% 3+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)	# 5+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)	% 5+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade D)	# 1+ Award @ Level 7 (Grade D)	% 1+ Award @ Level 7 (Grade D)
2023	38	92.68	33	80.49	24	58.54	20	48.78
VC		90.49		75.85		56.1		38.05
2022	47	95.92%	39	79.59%	26	53.06%	27	55.10%
VC		92.86%		78.78%		57.14%		40.00%
2021	62	96.23%	54	83.02%	36	56.60%	32	58.49%
VC		92.64%		78.68%		60.19%		42.26%

Based on S6 Roll, **SCQF**

Year	# 1+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	% 1+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	# 3+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	% 3+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	# 5+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	% 5+ Award @ Level 6 (Grade C)	# 1+ Award @ Level 7 (Grade C)	% 1+ Award @ Level 7 (Grade C)
2023	39	95.12	34	82.93	27	65.85	21	51.22
VC		92.44		79.02		61.71		42.93
2022	48	97.96%	41	83.67%	31	63.27%	29	59.18%
VC		94.08%		82.86%		64.69%		42.45%
2021	51	96.23%	47	88.68%	31	58.49%	31	58.49%
VC		94.15%		82.83%		67.36%		45.28%

December assessments

The Senior Phase December assessments begin on Monday, 4th December and finish on Friday, 15th December. Paper and electronic copies have been shared with pupils.

Opportunities for young people

Staff continue to offer a wide range of extra-curricular and additional learning opportunities to young people. Information on these is shared by class teachers, in Google Classrooms and on posters around the school. Online learning opportunities have been offered by e-Sgoil, and we have purchased a licence for 'Achieve' to provide access to additional revision materials for a range of National and Higher courses.

Olympian Visit – we were delighted to welcome Hammy McMillan Junior, current World Champion and Silver Olympic Medallist in Curling to our school. Hammy shared his journey to success with our young people, recognised their sporting successes and demonstrated some curling techniques before inviting our pupils to try curling.

Young people have had the opportunity to participate in a range of trips and activities including a visit to Cumbernauld Theatre to see Tally's Blood, one of the N5 English Set Texts, a Precision Medicine Workshop at Glasgow Science Centre, the first round of the Clydesdale Cup, which involved rugby and netball matches at Biggar HS, and a Music Rehearsal Weekend at the Fountain, Lesmahagow. We have also hosted the South Lanarkshire Youth Forum Meeting here in our school library.

Our 'Journey to Lesmahagow' transition programme underway. Cross Country and Science workshops have taken place so far.

We are delighted that our Enterprising Maths team have been invited to the national finals at Glasgow Science Centre later this month. Well done to Mr Prentice and his team!

Winter Showcase

Our Winter Showcase will take place on Tuesday, 19th December, in the Street area. The evening will showcase the talents of our young people in the Expressive Arts and across the school. There will also be some sales tables. Any help with teas/coffees would be appreciated.