



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parent Council held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7.15pm

### Present

V O'Rourke (in the Chair)

G Brown	J Pate
M Fell	T Summerville
A Naismith	M Wailes
A Norris	S Wayt

### In attendance

Ms Lee	Cllr Gowland (MS Teams)
Ms Cimmino	Cllr Lambie

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b>  The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.  Apologies were noted for S Gardiner, M Horsham, K Hynd, L Laird, M Jeffrey and H Sinclair.	
2.	<b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b>  The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 7 <sup>th</sup> of November. Minor amendment were required regarding the title of the document, dates of the Head Teachers report and to note that the Chair was not present. With this agreed the Council were content to approve the minute as a complete and accurate record.  The minutes were adopted by J Pate and seconded by A Norris.	
3.	<b><u>Rolling Action List</u></b>  The action list was noted and the closure of items 11 and 15 approved. Item 16 was replaced with a new request	

	<p>with a specific focus on larger sizes of clothing for older teenagers.</p> <p>With regards to action 17, J Pate noted that she had secured a £250 workplace grant to support the schools Concert Band. Ms Lee thanked J Pate for this assistance and the action was noted as closed.</p> <p>The Parent Council discussed item 14 and it was agreed that support would continue to be provided at school events to co-ordinate tombola and raffle donations and operate tea and coffee stalls to generate extra school funds. Work would also continue to seek other available grants. The action was closed.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></b></p> <p>Ms Lee provided a full update on school matters since the November meeting.</p> <p>Requests for support from the Parent Council were noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook posts to be raised to request donations of outdoor clothing, specifically for late teen/young adult sizing, and to request any donations of kindling.</li> </ul> <p>Ms Lee answered questions around work experience provision, the Duke of Edinburgh award and the Applications of Maths qualification.</p> <p>It was noted that due to Christmas activities and prelims there has not yet been any further progress on the potential activities with Auchlochan as discussed at the previous meeting.</p> <p>There was a detailed discussion around the staffing update with Ms Lee acknowledging the recent challenges that had arisen due to unplanned staff absence.</p> <p>Ms Lee assured the Parent Council that senior staff were providing cover for impacted subjects along with cover staff being sought from South Lanarkshire Council to minimise the impacts of absence wherever possible.</p> <p>It was noted that supported study continues to be available to learners and Ms Lee agreed that this would again be communicated to parents and carers.</p>	<p>MF</p> <p>BL</p>

	The Head Teachers report for January is attached at appendix 1.	
5.	<p><b><u>Parent Queries</u></b></p> <p>Parent queries had been submitted in advance of the meeting in regards to staffing levels in various departments. These were discussed during the Head Teacher's Report at item 4.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Finance Update</u></b></p> <p>K Hynd had provided an update to be communicated at the meeting as follows:</p> <p>Payments totalling £615.83 were paid out to the school as agreed at the November meeting. This left the balance in the Bank as £105.53.</p> <p>J Pate noted that the decision from the Community Council grant applied for had not yet been received.</p> <p>There were no funding requests.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>School Transport Consultation</u></b></p> <p>There was an in-depth discussion on the current School Transport Consultation from South Lanarkshire Council.</p> <p>This Consultation proposes changing the distance for the provision of School Transport from 2 miles to 3 miles.</p> <p>All members present agreed that the identified walking route from Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill to Lesmahagow High School was not suitable. The following reasons were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The route is unlit;</li> <li>• The road speed is 60mph;</li> <li>• There have been numerous road accidents along the route;</li> <li>• This is a diversion route when the M74 is closed and it can be incredibly busy; and</li> <li>• The route requires the crossing of two motorway slip roads.</li> </ul> <p>Concerns were raised on the impact that the change could have on pupil attendance and timekeeping, and the follow on impact this would have on school resources with</p>	

	<p>contact requiring to be made to ensure pupil safety.</p> <p>Concerns were also raised that the public transport provided by Whitelaws would not be sufficient for the number of pupils seeking to travel and also that the school did not have sufficient bike facilities if large numbers chose to cycle.</p> <p>It was noted that there was likely to be a large increase in private cars being used to transport pupils to school and this also raised safety concerns for those using Strathaven Road as a walking route.</p> <p>Cllr Lambie noted his concerns over the proposal and asked that the Parent Council seek to gather views from the wider Parent and Carer body. Cllr Lambie noted that he had asked that a Consultation be held in Lesmahagow but this had not happened and informed those present that he was organising a walk along the proposed route to highlight the issues raised.</p> <p>Cllr Lambie agreed to raise the concerns with the local bus company to gain their opinion on the potential impact of large numbers of pupils seeking to utilise the service.</p> <p>Cllr Gowland noted the wider financial landscape that the Council were facing in considering this consultation.</p> <p>Ms O'Rourke agreed to meet with the Pupil Council to seek their views.</p> <p>Ms Brown agreed to submit a Freedom of Information Request around the safety of the B7078.</p> <p>It was agreed that a written response would be provided from the Parent Council to cover these concerns. M Wailes to action.</p>	<p>Cllr L</p> <p>V O'R</p> <p>GB</p> <p>MW</p>
9.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>No further business was raised.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Close</u></b></p> <p>The Chair thanked those present for attending the meeting and advised that the next meeting would be held in the school on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15pm.</p>	



## **Appendix 1**

### **Parent Council – Head Teacher’s Update 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

#### **Staffing**

In January, we welcomed Miss Ciara Wheeler, Faculty Head of Science, and Ms Paula Arnold, Teacher of Art, who is covering a long-term absence, to our school.

We also said farewell to Ms Jennifer Scott, Teacher of PE, who moved to another South Lanarkshire School and will say farewell to Ms Emma Alexander, Teacher of Modern Languages, who moves to a North Lanarkshire School after the February break.

Long term absences in PE, Geography, Technical and English/Pupil Support have resulted in a number of Area Cover and Supply teachers joining us in December and January to support cover arrangements.

Ms Iqbal has been appointed Acting Principal Teacher of Pupil Support for Logan House.

The position of Principal Teacher of Pupil Support for Milton House has been advertised on MyJobScotland and closes tomorrow, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

We also intend to appoint a Care Experienced Champion to further support our young people.

#### **CLPL**

ASIST training was completed by five colleagues last term and further training opportunities will be offered this term. Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training is a two-day course, which provides opportunities to discuss how to support those who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts.

We are currently planning ‘Leadership of Learning and Teaching’ training for the summer term and 2024/25, in partnership with colleagues from across the Clydesdale Secondary Schools, to build on the collaborative work undertaken in this and previous sessions. This programme has received excellent feedback from teachers in other schools and will enable the continued development of excellent learning and teaching within our school.

#### **Senior Phase Assessments**

Senior Phase students completed their December assessments and feedback has been provided to pupils. Reports will be issued next week and there will be an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with teachers at Parents’ Evening after the February break.

#### **Course Choice**

S2 to S3 pupils have completed their ‘personalisation and choices’ within the Broad General Education and S3 to S4 course choice is now underway. S4 and S5 students will make their course choices in February.

As part of the Senior Phase course choice, young people can study Higher Politics, Higher Psychology and Advanced Highers in Biology, Computing Science, English, French, Geography, Graphic Communication, History, PE, RMPS and Spanish through the Virtual Academy offered by South Lanarkshire Council. This year, Lesmahagow High School offered young people from across SLC the opportunity to learn AH RMPS through the Virtual Academy, and young people have joined the AH Geography and AH Physics classes in other schools.

### **Opportunities for Young People**

In December, young people in S1-S3 again had the opportunity to participate in Merit events at M&Ds, where they enjoyed bowling and ice-skating. This was generously supported by funding from the Loaningdale's Trust.

Young people also enjoyed the S5/6 Snow Ball, Winter Showcase and a theatre trip to see 'Wicked' at Edinburgh Playhouse. The Music Department have organised a trip to see 'Hamilton' at Edinburgh Playhouse just before Easter.

Two groups of Senior pupils completed the Level 6 Emergency First Aid qualification in November, delivered by NextGen Training in Hamilton. Our third group completed the qualification today, and a further two groups are arranged.

'Young Leaders of Learning' training has been completed by S2 and S3 young people, who will now work in partnership with pupils from Biggar High School to review health and wellbeing within our school and learn from each other.

We were honoured to be invited to participate in this year's SLC Holocaust Memorial Event, which was hosted this year by Strathaven Academy. Sophie Ward, S6, played 'War Song' on the piano – it was an excellent performance.

Next week, we welcome Humanutopia, an organisation that deliver motivational workshops for S1 and S2 students. The workshops will encourage young people to consider their future, develop confidence, identify and overcome barriers and think more positively about the future.

### **Fundraising**

Thank you to the Parent Council for their help with the Winter Showcase. A total of £874.13 was raised for School Funds - £400 from the raffle, £91.08 from teas/coffees, £340 from ticket sales and £53.05 from the tombola.

Lorna Gall, Director of Patersons Quarries, has offered to support an application to the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

An application has been made to the Community Stars Fund. Thank you to Jill Pate for nominating our school.

### **Charities**

Samaritans - £430.85 was raised for the Samaritans at the recent 'dress down' day. Funds raised from craft items made by Mrs Miller, Mrs Forbes and students, and a raffle, will be added to this total for the Samaritans.

S6 pupils are organising a Charity Week, with activities taking place on 7-9<sup>th</sup> February to raise funds for Calum's Cabin and Blameless (a charity supporting

children and families affected by alcohol and drugs use). Activities on Wednesday include Beat the Goalie, Netball Shootout and an Obstacle Course. On Thursday, there will be a quiz and pyjama day. The final event is 'Pie the Teacher' on Friday.

### **Engine Idling Campaign**

We have been advised that posters will be displayed near to the school from week beginning 22nd February to highlight concerns regarding engine idling near to schools. It is hoped that this will lower exhaust emissions, and in turn will support healthier lives and lower costs to individuals and the environment. Promotional materials have been provided, which we are happy to share with our school community.

### **Events to look forward to:**

S6 Graduation – Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April (TBC)

Prize Giving – Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June (TBC) – **final date confirmed as 20<sup>th</sup> June**

Prom – Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June at Cornhill.