



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parent Council held on
Monday the 16th of January 2023 at 7.15pm**

Present

V O'Rourke (in the Chair)

J Cairney (MS Teams)	A Naismith
M Cox (MS Teams)	A Norris
M Fell	J Pate
S Gardiner	H Sinclair
K Hynd	M Wailes
L Laird (MS Teams)	

In attendance

Ms Lee	Cllr R Gowland
Ms Docherty	

Item	Topic	Action
	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.</p> <p>Apologies were noted for Cllr M Horsham.</p>	
1.	<p><u>Approval of Minutes 12 September 2022</u></p> <p>The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th of November and were content to approve the minute as a complete and accurate record subject to the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• November minutes were adopted by AN and seconded by VO'R; and• The section on the amendments to the constitution to be updated to reflect the	

	<p>removal of the paragraph relating to minimum numbers and adding a section on the requirement to attend the AGM to be a voting member.</p> <p>The minutes were adopted by KH and seconded by JP.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Rolling Action List</u></p> <p>The action list was discussed and verbal updates were provided.</p> <p>Members were content to approve the closure of actions 2 and 4.</p> <p>It was noted that no items had been donated in response to the request as recorded at item 3. This request will be posted a second time before the item is marked as closed.</p> <p>Item 6 was covered within the Head Teachers report and subsequently closed.</p> <p>SG requested further information on item 7, querying whether use of Google Classroom parent summary was still sporadic based on the information being received by parents. BL responded to confirm that on-going monitoring was taking place within the school and improvements to the way in which the system could be used were still being resolved.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></p> <p>The Head Teachers report is attached at appendix 1.</p> <p>BL highlighted the South Lanarkshire Council Holocaust event to be held at Lesmahagow High School on Thursday 26th January. BL noted that the school were honoured to be hosting the event and asked if any members of the Parent Council would be available on the evening to assist with teas and coffees. KH offered to help.</p> <p>The request will be circulated to members nearer to the event.</p>	VO'R

5.	<p><u>Finance Report</u></p> <p>The update on finance was noted and no queries were raised.</p> <p>It was agreed that school-funding requests would be considered at a future meeting.</p>	BL/MW
6.	<p><u>Mental Wellbeing</u></p> <p>This item was covered in the Head Teacher's Report. See appendix 1.</p> <p>Following a recent bereavement, an update on mental health and wellbeing supports for pupils was discussed. The Parent Council were thanked for their support.</p>	
7.	<p><u>School Trips - Planning Approach</u></p> <p>This item was covered in the Head Teacher's Report. See appendix 1.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the potential for co-ordinating trips with other schools, the reasons why trips may be under subscribed and the reliance on staff volunteering to organise and run trips, generally outwith school hours.</p> <p>BL noted that feedback and suggestions are always welcome and the school continue to consider trip offerings.</p>	
8.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Cllr R Gowland raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any feedback on the Wellburn Housing development can be passed directly to Cllr R Gowland; • Reports are still being made by constituents on the level of litter being dropped, specifically by school pupils during breaks; and • Cllr R Gowland highlighted the funding grants available to further education and higher education students via the local wind farm initiatives. 	

	<p>VO'R thanked Cllr R Gowland for the information provided and BL noted that information on the wind farms could be added to the school newsletter.</p> <p>Bl noted that in response to litter this continued to be highlighted with pupils and noted that the outdoor learners and the Eco Group regularly undertake litter picks around the village.</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 22nd February at 7.15pm.</p>	
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Signed

Date

Vicki O'Rourke, Chair, Lesmahagow High School Parent Council

Appendix 1

Head Teacher's Update, 16th January 2023

Staffing

Ms Fletcher is currently Acting Principal Teacher of Pupil Support for Milton House. Ms Montague has joined us as Teacher of History and Modern Studies. Mrs Robertson Cheyne has returned as Faculty Head of Expressive Arts (Monday to Wednesday). Mrs Ritchie continues as Faculty Head of Expressive Arts on Thursdays and Fridays. Today, we have welcomed Mrs Joanne Thomson, Librarian, to our school. Mrs Thomson joins us from Calderside Academy.

Careers Event

Ms Iqbal has rearranged our S3-S6 Careers event for the afternoon of Thursday, 19th January. A variety of universities, colleges, training providers and employers will be present to provide information and advice to pupils.

Holocaust Memorial Event

We are proud to have been asked to host the 2023 SLC Holocaust Memorial Event, which will take place in the evening of Thursday, 26th January. There will be artwork and photographs around the theme 'Ordinary People' in the Dance Studio and we would be grateful if the Parent Council could help provide teas/coffees for guests. Invited guests will view the displays and then meet in the library, where refreshments will also be available. The performance will start at 7 pm, with pupils from a range of SLC schools (including our associated primary schools) taking part.

School Trips/ Excursions

Merit trips were organised for S1-S3 pupils in the last week of term. The trips were fully funded for all pupils.

A variety of other trips have been organised by departments, all of which have been fully funded so far.

All trips are organised following the guidance of Operating Procedure A20.

If a residential trip is proposed, SLC procedures are followed.

A pre-planning meeting takes place with the HT to discuss the purpose of the trip, including: reasons for the trip, where and when, viability, educational outcomes, overall costs and equity, time for payment.

Paperwork is submitted to SLC for approval, noting all key information about the trip (location, dates, educational outcomes, cost, travel and accommodation arrangements, proposed participant groups, proposed staffing arrangements) a risk assessments.

Pupils and parents are provided with the details on the trip and insurance cover, and are made aware that: There is no insurance cover in place for cancellation; alteration to itinerary; curtailment; rearrangement; or travel delay as a result of covid19 or any variant.

Clear lines of communication are required throughout the planning phase. Roles and responsibilities of staff needs to be defined clearly. Arrangements for the trip are decided, with careful consideration of meeting points, toilet/shop breaks, etc, Parent Pay arrangements, Health and Safety arrangements.

All SLC paperwork and risk assessments are completed, and appropriate Learn on line courses completed.

Senior Phase Assessments

Prelim results have been corrected and papers moderated, with results being shared with pupils. Departments are collating results this week and next, which we will analyse carefully. Senior Phase Parents' evenings take place after the February break, which will provide an opportunity for parents/carers to discuss how best to support pupils as they prepare for the final exam diet. SQA exams take commence on 24th April and run until Wednesday, 31st May. Some amendments have been made to the original timetable to accommodate the additional Public Holiday for the King's Coronation on Monday, 8th May.

PSE programme

As part of the PSE programme, year groups will have input from PSE teachers in regard to the dangers of alcohol and drugs. This is age and stage appropriate and will cover the legal stance around both. This is also supported by class visits from a variety of agencies.

S3 and S4 receive input from Hamilton Academicals Outreach team where a member of staff discusses addiction and the impact of drug taking and addiction on individual's lives. S4 have completed their input and S3 will now commence. Feedback from this has been extremely positive and the presentation is delivered by an ex-professional footballer with first-hand knowledge and experience.

S5 receive input from Alcoholics Anonymous. This is still to be arranged for this year.

S1-4 will receive input from Police Scotland. PSE input from the police changes based on need and so drugs and alcohol has been covered to a large extent over the past few years. This year's input will have a specific focus on vaping and smoking.

On an alternative note, the school are working in partnership with Police Scotland and Trading Standards in regard to the selling and supply of vapes and smoking paraphernalia, particularly as it pertains to individuals under the age of 18.

Supports for pupils

On Tuesday of last week, all year groups attended a presentation on Kooth Online Counselling and Mental Health Services for 10-18 year olds. Special assemblies on Friday morning also highlighted services available to young people within the school: PTs Pupil Support, SMT, all colleagues, Nurture, Educational Psychologists, Counsellors, Chaplains.

Cards with helpful contact information are available from Pupil Support – Childline, Samaritans, NHS 24, CAMHS, School Health and Wellbeing form, Additional HWB supports on school website, in an emergency – Attend A&E.

Leaflets have also been provided by Psychological Services to provide information on bereavement.