



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parent Council held on Wednesday
the 22nd of February 2023 at 7.15pm**

Present

V O'Rourke (in the Chair)

M Cox (MS Teams)	A Naismith
M Fell	A Norris (MS Teams)
M Jeffrey	M Wailes
L Laird	

In attendance

Ms Lee	Cllr M Horsham (MS Teams)
Mr Robertson	

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 G Brown, J Cairney. S Gardiner, K Hynd, D Kelly and J Pate.</p>	
1.	<p><u>Approval of Minutes 13th January 2023</u></p> <p>The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th of January and were content to approve the minute as a complete and accurate record.</p> <p>The minutes were adopted by L Laird and seconded by A Naismith.</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 8 and 9.</p> <p>V O'Rourke provided an update on action 3, noting that the request had been re-posted to Facebook. There was a suggestion that the post could be shared with the wider Lesmahagow Facebook group; it was agreed this would be considered and the item would be marked as closed.</p> <p>M Horsham commented that he could potentially donate a PS4 for the schools use and provided a brief history of his career in programming. It was agreed that M Horsham would liaise directly with the school to discuss the potential for speaking with pupils and staff involved in the new Computer Game Development course.</p> <p>V O'Rourke confirmed that funds were still to be received in relation to item 5 and noted that item 7 had been undertaken and could be closed.</p> <p>In response to action 10 it was noted that a request had been received from the Expressive Arts Faculty, see appendix 2.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the number of pupils who would benefit from this funding; what prizes had been offered at past events; the potential for external sponsorship and the widening of the event to include art alongside music.</p> <p>It was noted that the prizes could raise the profile of the event within the school and hopefully increase participation, as the event has not been held since 2019. It was suggested that consideration is given to whether trophies could be secured for future years, potentially sponsored by local businesses.</p> <p>A vote was held with all present supporting that the Parent Council would fund the prizes for 2023.</p> <p>M Fell, L Laird and V O'Rourke offered to assist with teas and coffees at the event.</p> <p>Ms Lee noted that a future bid for funds is expected from the new Librarian who is working on a project to enhance the current facility.</p> <p>The Parent Council will circulate a request for good quality books to be donated to the school in the following categories:</p>	<p>MW/ VO'R</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiction, reading age 8 years to 12 years; • Young adult fiction; and • Adult fiction and non-fiction. • <p>A future Parent Council will be held in the library to allow the librarian to present the project and any funds request.</p>	BL
4.	<p><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></p> <p>B Lee provided a full update on school matters since the January meeting.</p> <p>The Head Teachers report is attached at appendix 1.</p> <p>It was agreed that the May meeting would be re-scheduled to Tuesday 9th of May to accommodate the additional Bank Holiday.</p> <p>In response to the Parent's Portal information provided M Horsham offered to supply leaflets to the school noting the support available from South Lanarkshire Council for adult IT literacy.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Finance Report</u></p> <p>The update on finance was noted with VO'R highlighting that £250 is still to be received from the Lesmahagow Community Council grant and that £250 grant money secured by J Pate via a work scheme has been paid directly to the school.</p> <p>No queries were raised.</p>	
6.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>L Laird asked if the recent senior stage parent evening had been well attended. B Lee noted that attendance was approximately 60% and that it was hoped this would increase in future. There was a discussion around the merits of in-person and on-line parents evening with various thoughts and opinions offered for consideration.</p> <p>A Naismith queried the use of the pre-loved uniform facility. It was noted that this is well used and work is underway to provide a digital request form to further improve accessibility. The benefits of this facility in relation to sustainability were noted.</p> <p>A Naismith asked for an update on uniform adherence. Mr Robertson noted that while most pupils adhere to school</p>	

	<p>colours further improvement could be made.</p> <p>M Horsham noted his congratulations to the teams who participated in the Industrial Cadets Bronze Project (see HT update) and noted that consideration should be given to progressing the presentation on website development.</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 22nd March at 7.15pm.</p>	

Signed

Date

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

Appendix 1

Head Teacher's Update, 22nd February 2023

Staffing Update

Since our last meeting, Mrs Jill Murray, Catering Assistant, has retired from our School Canteen and Mrs Marianne Jack, Teacher of Art and Design (0.4FTE), has moved to a full-time position in Bellshill Academy. Mr Ross Johnston has joined us in the PE department.

Mrs Miller, Teacher of Home Economics, has been appointed as Lead Teacher of Equity and Inclusion, supporting pupils' engagement with learning, activities at Friday club and targeted literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing inputs.

Our Staffing meeting takes place with South Lanarkshire Council on Monday, 27th February to discuss staffing requirements for 2023/24. Adverts for confirmed vacancies will go live on 'MyJobScotland' in the near future.

Library Update

Our new librarian, Joanne Thomson, has completed an audit of our current stock and our Annual School Library 2023 return. Priorities for enhancing resources to encourage reading for pleasure have been identified. Mrs Thomson would welcome any donations of children's (8-12 years), teen or adult fiction/non-fiction to supplement resources and any additional funding to enhance current resources. We are also planning to seek accreditation as a 'Reading School' through the Scottish Book Trust. Mrs Thomson is keen to attend a future Parent Council meeting and would be happy to invite the Parent Council to meet in the library at their March meeting.

Parents Portal

Information has been shared with parents and carers regarding Parents Portal, a new digital service, which allows parents/carers to view school and local authority information, school holidays, links to the local authority website, view class timetables, view attendance, update personal details (e.g. change of address), update Annual Data Check, give permission for school trips – replacing EV5s, give permission for other documents – e.g. internet user form, photography, issue notices to parents, direct link to Parent Pay. In the future, it is also hoped to add the facility to report absences and view report cards. Whilst this system is introduced, we will continue to share information using existing methods of communication.

Additional Learning Opportunities

Our young people continue to excel at a wide range of additional learning opportunities.

- This evening, Elise, Aneesa, Caitlyn, Caitlin, Jake and Daniel are performing in 'Detriot Daisy' at 'Battle of the Bands' in Hamilton Townhouse.
- Earlier today, our Modern Studies pupils enjoyed a visit to the Scottish Parliament, where they met with our local MSP.
- Two groups of S2 pupils participated in the Industrial Cadets Bronze Project on Monday, delivering a presentation about their twelve week STEM projects to invited guests and panel members.
- Our Pupil Council also met with the Development Officer from Lesmahagow Development Trust on Monday to discuss potential community projects.
- Pupils enjoyed a coaching session at the Beacon of Light Training Academy, Sunderland and the Newcastle v Liverpool Premier League match on Sunday.
- Advanced Higher French pupils had the opportunity to attend the Modern Languages immersion day at the Banqueting Hall, SLC.
- SLC Dance Leaders are preparing for the Secondary Dance Competition (7th March).
- The Senior Netball team participated in the latest Clydesdale Schools Netball Tournament.
- S3 pupils enjoyed a day at Glasgow Science Centre, working with BAE Systems.
- Our Health and Wellbeing and Equity and Inclusion Captains represented our school at the 'Let's Connect' – Health and Wellbeing Conference.

The weekly programme of additional learning opportunities in school has also been updated and shared.

May Parent Council Meeting

It is necessary to reschedule our planned meeting on Monday, 8th May, due to the King's Coronation Holiday. Would Tuesday, 9th May suit?

Parental Engagement

Thank you to all parents and carers for all the support they continue to give to our school. We would welcome any suggestions on how to improve parental engagement in this and future sessions.

Appendix 2

Funding request from the Expressive Arts Faculty

The Expressive Arts Faculty would like to request support from the Parent Council for our Young Musician/Vocalist of the year competition and Young Artist competition.

We are hoping to be able to offer prizes (possibly Amazon vouchers) for the following:

	1st	2nd	
Senior Young Musician	£20	£10	
Senior Young Vocalist	£20	£10	
Junior Young Musician	£20	£10	
Junior Young Vocalist	£20	£10	
Young Artist S1	£20	£10	
Young Artist S2	£20	£10	
Young Artist S3	£20	£10	
Total	£ 140	£70	£210

This may be too much to ask, we could possibly look into sponsors for the event. We could project adverts at the beginning and during the break perhaps and would welcome any suggestions of businesses who may be able to help.

Cairn Robertson Cheyne Faculty Head Expressive Arts