



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parent Council held on Monday 16th September 2024 at 7.15pm

Present

M Wailes/J Pate (in the Chair)

G Brown (MS Teams)	A Norris
M Fell	J Pate
S Gardiner	M Wailes
K Hynd	S Wayt
A Naismith	

In attendance

Ms Lee	
Mr Gray	

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> V O'Rourke was unable to attend the meeting and the Chair was delegated to M Wailes. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Apologies were noted for V O'Rourke, T Summerville, L Laird and H Sinclair. Cllr Lambie had also indicated that he was unfortunately unable to attend.	
2.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 8 th of May. Minor amendments were required to note that H Sinclair was an apology and the numbering for AOB to be corrected. With these 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	

	Naismith.	
3.	<p><u>Chairperson's Report 2023/24</u></p> <p>M Wailes provided a brief overview of the work of the Parent Council in 2023/24. It was noted that the achievement of various funding was considered a particular success with thanks again extended to those Parent Council members who had undertaken the necessary applications.</p> <p>There was a query around the Parent Council Facebook page and it was agreed that this was an area that would merit further consideration during the 24/25 session.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and Approval of the Accounts 2023/24</u></p> <p>K Hynd provided a brief overview of the accounts for 2023/24. The accounts were approved.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to issue reminders to the Parent and Carer forum of the benefits to the school of using Easyfundraising.</p> <p>There was also a discussion around potential areas where the school may benefit from financial support in the coming year and Ms Lee noted that departments were preparing submissions for the Parent Council to consider.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Appointment of Committee Members</u></p> <p>The members of the Council for 2024/25 were noted as those present and those who had submitted apologies in advance of the meeting. It was noted that there was a least one member representing each year group.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Selection of Office Bearers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – J Pate, proposed by K Hynd, seconded by S Wayt • Secretary – M Wailes, proposed by S Gardiner, seconded by M Fell • Treasurer – K Hynd, proposed by M Wailes, seconded by A Norris. <p>It was agreed that A Naismith would undertake the role of Deputy Treasurer noting that this would be K Hynd's final year on the Parent Council.</p>	

	J Pate took the Chair	
7.	<p><u>Approval of the Parent Council Constitution</u></p> <p>No changes were proposed to the constitution and it was approved.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></p> <p>Ms Lee provided a full update on school matters since the February meeting.</p> <p>The Head Teachers report for September is attached at appendix 1.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the positive outcome of the recent school transport changes with buses being retained for all pupils.</p> <p>It was noted that a detailed update on the schools exam results would be provided at the November meeting. In response to a question Ms Lee confirmed that results had been broadly in-line with the predictions made with the school mirroring national trends.</p>	
9.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Various items were discussed by the Parent Council:</p> <p>There was a detailed discussion around the recent Open Evening with positive feedback provided by those who had attended. Ms Lee and Mr Gray noted that they were always keen to see larger numbers of Parents and Carers attending school events and would welcome any feedback.</p> <p>In response to a question it was noted that the school improvement plan is held on the school website.</p> <p>Issues with digital communications in respect of the weekly bulletin and permission slips were raised and Ms Lee undertook to review these.</p> <p>The Parent Council agreed to highlight Parent Portal on the Facebook group and encourage use.</p> <p>Feedback was requested on implementation of the mobile policy, Ms Lee noted that it has been rolled out and so far the response had been positive.</p>	

	<p>There was a detailed discussion around prelims, supported study, study spaces within the school, the S3 exam timetable and Advanced Higher and the use of virtual classrooms with Ms Lee and Mr Gray providing information and assurance in response to questions.</p> <p>It was noted that there have been some issues with school transport in relation to timing and space. Ms Lee agreed to raise this with those responsible for the transport contracts.</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 Tuesday 12th November at 7.15pm.</p>	

Signed

Date

J Pate, Chair, Lesmahagow High School Parent Council

Appendix 1

Head Teacher's Update – September 2024

Parent Council Update, 16th September 2024

School Transport

We were delighted to receive confirmation that school transport will continue to be provided for young people from Auchenheath, Kirkmuirhill and Blackwood. Thank you to everyone who highlighted concerns for students walking this route to school. Special thanks to Mrs O'Rourke, Parent Council Chair for leading discussions with our Pupil Council, and to all members of our Parent Council and school community for their support.

Staffing

The following colleagues joined us at the start of term:

- Mrs Catherine Anne McGuire, Faculty Head of Science
- Ms Elaine Smith – Teacher of Inclusion
- Ms Carolanne Scott – School Support Assistant
- Ms Charley Thomson – School Support Assistant
- Ms Nicole McGuire – Teacher of PE
- Ms Rachel Wardrope – Teacher of PE
- Ms Emily Ferguson – Teacher of HE
- Ms Jemma Carnie – Teacher of Geography
- Ms Paula Dunn – Teacher of Art and Design

Ms Iasha Iqbal has joined our Pupil Support Team as Acting Principal Teacher of Pupil Support (Employability) for this session, supporting students and promoting employability skills.

Ms Kilday is covering a long-term planned absence in Music. Mr Neil Andrew, Teacher of Maths, is covering a planned absence in Maths. A long-term absence in Art has been closed. We also have a long-term absence in Maths.

Mrs Jennifer Will, Teacher of Chemistry and Biology has been appointed Acting Lead Teacher of Developing the Young Workforce.

Mr Ewan Gardiner, Teacher of RMPS will lead our Participatory Budgeting consultation this year.

SQA Exam Results

We were very proud of all young people who received their SQA certificates in August following this year's exams. Attainment for S4 at National 5 level slightly improved from last year, and S6 attainment was strong. S5 attainment was lower than the previous year, but in line with tracking. Our comparator data isn't yet available, but we will provide an update on this at our next meeting.

Pupil Leadership

We were delighted to appoint our Captaincy Team before the summer holidays. Leela Munogee and Beau Christie are our School Captains; Abigail Winning and Lily Scott are Vice Captains; Callum Faulds is Health and Wellbeing Captain;

Olivia Hepworth is Attainment and Achievement Captain; Kayla Anderson Maxwell and Kiera Barber are Inclusion and Equity Captains. Our House Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects have also been appointed. Our Leadership Team will have the opportunity to complete the Level 6 Leadership Award as part of their role, which will recognise their hard work and effort as well as providing them with a valuable qualification.

School Improvement Priorities

We are always keen to hear your feedback on how we can improve our school. Our three year improvement planning priorities were agreed last session, but we continue to review and amend these based on feedback.

Ensuring consistently high-quality learning and teaching for all young people through our five strategic priorities:

Health and Wellbeing:

- Continued focus on promoting excellent attendance and partnership working. (Aim: over 90% by 2025.)
- Effective supports for health and wellbeing, with a key focus on mental health and wellbeing. Referral process reviewed.
- Evaluate and further extend extra-curricular and wider achievement opportunities for young people across all curricular areas.
- Further consultation with parents, leading to additional bespoke opportunities for Faculty and whole school parental engagement to support improvement.

Inclusion, Equity and Equality:

- Continued development of Inclusion Support provision (Year 6) and wider supports.
- Review Equalities provision and evaluate approaches to anti-racist education and protected characteristics.
- Continue to implement and evaluate Equity interventions to close the poverty related attainment gap, focussing on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.
- Continued staff development opportunities to ensure inclusive practice and seek accreditation as an Attachment Informed School.

Raising Attainment and Leadership of Change:

- Continue to support consistent high-quality learning and teaching, with a key focus on BGE moderation and sharing practice.
- Effective analysis of data to inform improvement and attainment with a particular focus on Key Performance Indicators and Stretch Aims.

- Continued development of curriculum and learner pathways to support attainment and achievement.
- Effective partnership working with parents and carers to support pupils' progress in learning.
- Further development of leadership opportunities for students and staff.

Skills for Learning, Life and Work:

- Effective 'Developing the Young Workforce' Plan for 2024-25.
- Further develop opportunities for work placements through long-term planning.
- Explore alternative routes to increasing or improving pupil participation and engagement in wider achievement courses within BGE and Senior Phase curriculum.
- Extend partnership working with Skills Development Scotland and South Lanarkshire Council Support Mentor to support positive destinations and engagement with My World of Work resources.

Sustainability:

- Enhance opportunities for participation in outdoor learning to support wellbeing and attainment, linked to sustainability.
- Extend opportunities for promoting sustainability and raising awareness of climate change at local authority level.

Our Standards and Quality Report can be found at:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/E7RJSbTWv6W3Wj5U?ref=Link>

Open Evening and Open Afternoon

We were delighted to welcome all members of our school community to our Open Evening and P7/S1 parents to our Open Afternoon earlier this month. Feedback was very positive and we hope all guests enjoyed touring our school, visiting classes and speaking to pupils and teachers.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Additional Learning Opportunities

Our Extra Curricular and Additional Learning Opportunities have commenced. Our Sports Development class, supported by Mr Neil Ross, organised a sign up fair earlier this month and Mrs Pamela Docherty has asked all pupils to complete a questionnaire about additional opportunities that pupils would like us to offer.

Achievements

Congratulations to Abigail Winning, who, as part of Giffnock Football Team has won the Cross League Cup, following a 4-3 victory against Queen of the South. Abigail will play in the final of the Scottish Youth Final Cup in November after a semi-final win against Ross County.