



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parent Council held on Wednesday 8th May at 7.15pm

Present

V O'Rourke (in the Chair)

G Brown	H Sinclair
A Naismith	T Summerville
A Norris (MS Teams)	M Wailes
J Pate	

In attendance

Ms Lee	Cllr Gowland
Ms Docherty	

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Apologies were noted for M Fell, S Gardiner, K Hynd, L Laird and H Sinclair. It was noted that E Martin had stepped down from the parent council due to her youngest child completing secondary education. Thanks were noted for E Martin's time on the parent council.	
2.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 19 th of March, minor amendments were noted and subject to these the Council were content to approve the minute as a complete and accurate record. The minutes were adopted by J Pate and seconded by T Summerville.	
3.	<u>Rolling Action List</u>	

	<p>The action list for the current academic year, 23/24, was reviewed, with the Council noting that all actions raised throughout the year had been completed.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></p> <p>Ms Lee provided a full update on school matters since the January meeting.</p> <p>Ms Lee provided a staffing update and highlighted that senior management team staff continue to provide class cover where required.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the on-going exam diet and information provided on the induction days for S5 and S6 pupils with Ms Lee noting that letters would be issued to parents and carers in due course.</p> <p>Ms Lee then delivered a presentation on 'vision, values, standards and expectations' for Lesmahagow High School. Feedback from the Parent Council on the proposed approach.</p> <p>The Parent Council congratulated the school on their participation and performance in a number of sporting events, noting the opportunities for pupils.</p> <p>There was a detailed discussion around the mobile phone policy at Lesmahagow High School with the Parent Council indicating support for a refresh of this policy to ensure appropriate use of devices in the school environment.</p> <p>Ms Lee noted that Police Scotland were enhancing their partnership working with more frequent visits planned to the school. Parent Council members noted that they would communicate that these visits were for a positive reason amongst the wider community with a post on the Parent Council Facebook page if necessary.</p> <p>The Head Teachers report for May is attached at appendix 1.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Parent Queries</u></p> <p>Parent queries had been submitted with regards to the Senior Phase induction. These were covered in section 4 above.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Finance Update</u></p>	

	<p>The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting and had submitted a finance update in advance. This noted that the current funds were £2,105.53. The £2,000 Virgin Money Fund grant was due to be paid to the school to cover costs of maths resources such as a subscription to Sumdog.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the Lesmahagow Development Trust were inviting applications.</p>	
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Dates for the 204/25 academic year were agreed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGM – Monday 16th September • Tuesday 12th November • Wednesday 29th January (a request has subsequently been made to change this date to 22nd January to avoid a clash with S3 Parents' Evening) • Monday 17th March • Tuesday 6th May <p>No further business was raised.</p>	
	<p><u>Close</u></p> <p>The Chair thanked those present for attending the meeting and thanked everyone for their contributions throughout the year.</p> <p>The Parent Council will reconvene in the new academic year.</p>	

Appendix 1

HT's report to Parent Council, 8th May 2024

Staffing Update

Following the Spring Break, we welcomed Miss Clark back to the Drama Department on Wednesdays – Fridays.

Our Staffing for 2024-25 has also been confirmed as 56.9FTE, an increase of 2.4FTE from last session. This includes 1.0FTE for IST, with Elaine Smith joining us as Teacher of Inclusion from Lanark Grammar School.

The following appointments have been made:

- Miss Amy Gordon - Teacher of History and Modern Studies
- Mr Ewan Gardiner - Teacher of RMPS
- Mrs Jennifer Will - Teacher of Chemistry and Biology

Congratulations to Ciara Wheeler on her promotion to DHT. Ciara will leave us at the end of term. Our request to recruit a new Faculty Head of Science has been submitted and the position should be advertised later this week. With our increased school roll for next session, an additional PT Pupil Support (acting) for 2024-25 will be appointed. Interviews for this post will take place this week.

Updates regarding Newly Qualified Teachers are expected later this month from the local authority.

SQA exams

We are now half way through the SQA exam diet, with 21 half days of exams completed and 19 half days of exams remaining. Our Invigilation Team have been very impressed by the conduct of our students, and it has been encouraging to see lots of young people making use of the in school supervised study room, B107.

New Timetable

Our new timetable will commence on Monday, 3rd June. In preparation for the new school year, the S5 Induction Day will take place on Thursday, 30th May and S6 Induction Day will take place on Friday, 31st May.

School Improvement Planning

We are currently reviewing our School Improvement Planning targets for Session 2023-24 along with our planned targets for years 2 and 3 of our three-year plan. Feedback from pupils, parents and staff will be invited, with the finalised plan being shared by the end of August.

Vision, Values, Standards and Expectations

Thank you to all members of our school community who participated in our consultation regarding our vision, values, standards and expectations. All feedback has been considered and reviewed, with further consultation involving pupils and staff groups. It is proposed that our vision, to be formally launched with the new timetable will be, “Together we learn; Together we Achieve; Together we Succeed”. Our updated values will be:

- C- Commitment
- A – Ambition
- R – Resilience
- E – Equity

Our previously agreed standards and expectations are: Be Prepared, Be Engaged, Be Respectful.

We are keen to hear feedback from our Parent Council on these updated Vision, Values, Standards and Expectations before sharing these more widely with our school community.

We also plan to raise awareness of the school badge and motto with our young people, and have been asking members of our school community for their recollections of the initial development of the badge in the late 1960s, when Lesmahagow High School replaced Lesmahagow Higher Grade.

Sporting Events

A range of sporting events are scheduled to take place over the next few weeks, including the final round of the Clydesdale Cup (S1 and S2 Athletics at the John Cumming Stadium, Carlisle), our School Sports Day (23rd May), Scottish Schools Swimming Association Team Championships at Dumfries on 5th June, and County Sports (heats on the 12th June and finals on 17th June in East Kilbride).

Mobile Phones

We are keen to review and refresh our policy on mobile phone use during class times and are keen to seek the views of pupils, parents/carers, staff and partners to ensure that we are working in partnership to address concerns and issues.

School Transport Consultation

Thank you to all Parent Council members who met with Robert Hynd and Robyn McIlroy, Education Scotland, to share their views regarding the proposed changes to the qualifying distances for secondary school transport. The report from Education Scotland is now with South Lanarkshire Council. A report will be published in early June and a decision made by the end of term regarding transport for 2025 onwards.

Partnership Working – South Lanarkshire Council and Police Scotland

Partnership working between South Lanarkshire Schools and Police Scotland will be further developed in the coming months to address potential issues

impacting on young people. This will involve fortnightly visits to schools to build trust and positive relationships between the local police officers and young people, foster safer schools and communities through early intervention and support, share information relating to local issues and areas of concern, provide expert information and advice on relevant issues and promote community cohesion and wellbeing.

Parent Council Meetings for Next Session

The proposed Parent Council Meetings for next session are:

Monday, 16th September 2024 (September weekend is 27th and 30th September)

Tuesday, 12th November 2024

Wednesday, 29th January 2025 (a request has subsequently been made to change this date to 22nd January to avoid a clash with S3 Parents' Evening)

Monday, 17th March 2025

Tuesday, 6th May 2025 (Monday, 5th May will have been a holiday)