



Minutes of the Parent Council held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.15pm

Present

J Pate (in the Chair)

S Gardiner	A Norris
K Hynd	T Summerville
C Inch	M Wailes
A Naismith	S Wayt

In attendance

Ms Lee	
Mr Robertson	

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present. A welcome was extended to C Inch who was joining the meeting for the first time. All present introduced themselves and noted the year groups that their children were in. Apologies were noted for G Brown, M Fell, V O'Rourke, L Laird and H Sinclair.	
2.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> The Council considered the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 16 th of September. The Council were content to approve the minutes as a complete and accurate record. The minutes were adopted by S Gardiner and seconded by A Naismith.	

3.	<p><u>Rolling Action List</u></p> <p>M Wailes noted that there were currently no open actions. It was agreed that further consideration could be given to the use and maintenance of the Facebook page.</p>	MW
4.	<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 November is attached at appendix 1.</p> <p>The Parent Council welcomed the news that the school had been successful in the recent 'Tesco Blue Tokens' campaign and Ms Lee highlighted that Tesco had also donated uniform items to the school.</p> <p>There was a detailed discussion around school trips and the need to work within the local council guidelines for cost of trips. Ms Lee noted the on-going discussions to use participatory budgeting for excursions and the difficulty in ensuring all pupils have the opportunity over their school career to attend these events.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K Hynd noted that the current bank balance is £127.45 • K Hynd informed the Parent Council that correspondence had been received noting the intention of the Bank of Scotland to begin charging for the bank account. Given the low level of funds held it was agreed that the account would be moved to an account that did not incur a fee. A Naismith agreed to take this work forwards with K Hynd. • Ms Lee noted that departments had submitted requests for funding and that these would be shared in due course. • Various options for fundraising were discussed, including grants and events. It was agreed that J Pate would contact Tesco to request a slot for the Parent Council to undertake a 'bag packing' fundraiser. • Participatory budget was noted as having been discussed during the Head Teacher's report and Ms Lee noted that correspondence had gone out to parents and carers to seek feedback and views. 	AN/KH JP

6.	<p><u>School Improvement Plan</u></p> <p>The School Improvement Plan was circulated and discussed. The Parent Council provided positive feedback and support for the document.</p> <p>Ms Lee noted that wider views had been sought via school events and through digital communications but that engagement had been low.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Attainment Overview</u></p> <p>There was not sufficient time to discuss the attainment overview in detail. Ms Lee provided a high level summary of attainment and noted that this could be discussed further at a future meeting if required.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Parent Queries</u></p> <p>No specific queries had been raised for the agenda.</p>	
9.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Various items were discussed by the Parent Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a discussion around potential school trips. It was noted that the History Department are considering a trip to London in 2026. • There was a discussion around the impact of inflation on basic school supplies such as jotters. • It was noted that the school were proposing a change to S3 choices to include Physical Education and Religious Moral and Philosophical Studies as full subjects. The Parent Council noted support for this proposal. • A Naismith asked if it would be possible for the full list of extra curricular clubs to be shared with parents. Ms Lee noted that this could be done. • S Gardiner queried the current school roll and attendance. Mr Robertson noted that the roll was currently 632 and attendance was just below 90%. J Pate highlighted that attendance was included in the school priorities. <p>No further business was raised.</p>	BL

	<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 January at 7.15pm.</p>	
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Signed

Date

J Pate, Chair, Lesmahagow High School Parent Council

Appendix 1

Head Teacher's Update 12th November 2024

Staffing Update

Long term absences in Maths have closed. We have a long-term absence in Chemistry. Interviews for supply cover in Science are scheduled for Wednesday. Long-term absences in our Library staffing and in our School Support Assistant team (classroom, IST) continue. Cover has been requested. A vacancy in our office team has still to be filled.

Following the early retiral of Jim Shields, Dalkia, Billy Cunningham, Facilities Technician, has joined our team. Rory Currie and Lewis Wilson continue to provide cover for a long-term absence.

Attainment Overview

2024 ACEL data shows that 93% of young people achieved Level 3 or better in Literacy (2%-point increase) and 72% achieved Level 4 Literacy (7%-point increase).

93% achieved Level 3 Reading (2%-point increase) in 2024 and 83% achieving Level 4 in 2024 (12%-point increase). In Writing, 93% of young people achieved Level 3 or better (1% point increase) and 70% achieved Level 4 by the end of S3 in 2024 (2%-points lower than in previous year). In Listening and Talking 93% of young people achieved Level 3 or better (1% point increase) and 83% achieved Level 4 by the end of S3 in 2024 (10% point increase).

91% of young people achieved Level 3 or better in Numeracy (3%-points lower than in previous year) and 71% achieved Level 4 Numeracy by the end of S3 in 2024 (3% points lower than in previous year).

Senior Phase Insight data shows consistently high levels of performance in supporting S4 students to achieve 5@3 (80.87%, VC = 78.43). In four of the past five years, our students have outperformed those in the VC at Level 4, with 80-92% of students achieving 5@4, other than in 2024 (60.87%, VC = 73.67%). In 1@5, students have been in line with or above the VC in four of the past five years, with the exception of 2024, when 70% of students achieved 1@5 (VC = 78.17%). In four of the past five years, students have achieved within 3% or have attained above the VC (37.39% in 2024, VC= 40.9%).

In S5 Highers, 50.6% of students achieved 1 or more Higher A-C (VC = 60.96); 27.71% achieved three or more Highers A-C (VC= 38.13%); 12.05% achieved five or more Highers A-C (VC= 16.39%), which was lower than in the previous five years, when students have either performed higher or within four percent of the VC. When all Level 6 qualifications are considered, the data shows that 74.7% of students achieved one or more Level 6 qualification (VC = 73.37%); 43.37% achieved three or more Level 6 qualifications (VC = 53.33%; 15.66% achieved five or more Level 6 qualifications (VC = 28.43%).

For S6, 27.18% achieved one or more Advanced Higher, (VC = 22.23%) and 44.44% achieved one or more Level 7 qualification (VC = 35.71%). Performance in Advanced Highers has been above the VC in three of the past five years and at Level 7, above the VC in all of the past five years.

Requests for Funding from Departments

Requests were received from Modern Languages, Art, Drama, Music, DofE, PE and Bike Maintenance. Grant requests have been submitted to Tesco and the Community Council for the extra-curricular resources within the requests.

Participatory Budgeting

School Trips, e.g. Alton Towers/Blackpool was the most popular choice in this year's Participatory Budgeting consultation. Further consultation will be required as £4,500 is available. This would fully support a trip for 45 students to Alton Towers, based on pricing for 2024.

School Improvement

Our School Improvement Priorities for 2023-26 (summarised below and available at [School Improvement Priorities 2023-26](#)) were agreed last session following consultation with pupils, parents, staff and partners, taking into account the National Improvement Framework and the improvement priorities of South Lanarkshire Council's Education Resources. We continue to review and amend these priorities to meet the needs of our pupils and school community and are always keen to hear your feedback.

Lesmahagow High School's Improvement Priorities for 2023-26:

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

1. Health and Wellbeing - continue to improve the health and wellbeing of our school community through universal, targeted and intensive support.
2. Inclusion, Equity and Equality - continue to ensure inclusion, equity and equality are at the heart of what we do, through supports for young people and families, and professional learning for colleagues.
3. Raising Attainment and Leadership of Change - Continue to provide a learner-centred curriculum and high-quality learning and teaching that raises attainment for all young people.
4. Skills for Learning, Life and Work - Continue to support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work and secure a positive and sustained post-school destination.
5. Sustainability - Provide opportunities to influence action on sustainability and climate change.

Your feedback on School Improvement is always welcomed.

Curriculum

We are currently reviewing our BGE curriculum. Current feedback indicates interest in adding PE and RE as subject options to the choice column for S3 and in reviewing Masterclasses to include further opportunities for gaining awards.

Full consultation on our BGE curriculum will take place, but to allow these changes to take effect in S3 from 2025, decisions require to be made pre-Christmas. Feedback from our discussion, along with feedback from pupils and staff will inform our next steps in planning.

Extra-Curricular Activities

This information is currently being updated, but includes:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCHTIME					
Dance Club- Dance Studio- Miss McGuire/ Miss Ferguson ACTIVE/HEALTHY	Football (Muga)- S1/2 Ethan Burt S6 ACTIVE/HEALTHY	Dodgeball Club S1-S2 (Games hall) Chris (Games hall) - Ruth Hynd S6 ACTIVE/HEALTHY	Badminton S1-S6 (Games hall) Chris Millar S6 ACTIVE/HEALTHY		
Gym Club - Fitness Suite - Boys - Miss Geurtzen ACTIVE/HEALTHY	National/Higher Practical Performance Development - Basketball/Badminton/Volleyball Miss Wardrope/McGuire Starts after Christmas ACHIEVING/ACTIVE	Scripture Union - Mrs Baillie, Jean Lennox, Mr Anderson Scripture Union, S1-S6, B101 Included, Nurtured	B102 - Gow Grandmasters' Chess club S Rivans -S1-S6 ACTIVE/ACHIEVING INCLUDED		
Warhammer - S1 - S6 Mr Milne Achieving , nurtured, included, pupils attending 2-4	Debate Club Miss McMillan Active / Achieving / Responsible	Film Club - Mr. McMillan, S1-S3, B208			
Eco Club S1 - S6 Miss Carnie Miss Leckenby A205 Achieving , Respected, Responsible		Gym Club - Fitness Suite - IST Girls Miss Geurtzen ACTIVE/HEALTHY	A109 - Sewing Club - Ms Beveridge - S1-6		
Basketball Club - Rory Leggate Active/Healthy	S1 Gaming Club Mr. Gardiner Contemplation Room - Included, Nurtured	Board Game Club Miss Carnie Contemplation room,	B204 - Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze award S3-S5 ACTIVE/ RESPONSIBLE/ACHIEVING/HEALTHY		

			- Included, Respected , Nurtured		
	S1 Keyboard Club - Music Leaders and Miss Kilday Included, Nurtured, Respected, Safe, Achieving		ASN MULTI SPORTS CLUBS - GAMES HALL - CLARE MURPHY ACTIVE/IN CLUDED		
	Included, Nurtured, Respected, Safe, Achieving				
AFTERS CHOOL					A003 - Mtn Bike Club Mr Rivans ACTIVE/HEALTH Y/INCLUDED
	S2/3 Football Team - Mr Ross PE/senior pupils Glebe/Mu ga ACTIVE/H EALTHY		Netball Club – Games hall Miss Wardrobe S1-S2 ACTIVE/H EALTHY		Cheerleading Club - Miss McGuire ACTIVE/HEALTH Y
			Concert Band - Music Dept - Mr Pollock & Mr Bryans Included, Nurtured, Respected , Safe, Achieving	Netball Club – Games hall Miss Wardrobe S3-S6 ACTIVE/HEALTHY	Friday Club (PEF) S. Leckenby SHANARRI

Celebrating Success

We continue to celebrate success through our bulletin, newsletter and newly introduced House Points system. This week, we have congratulated Eilidh McArthur for success in Swimming and Abigail Winning for success in Football.