



## Minutes of the Parent Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15pm

### Present

J Pate (in the Chair)

M Fell	V O'Rourke
C Inch	T Summerville
A Naismith	M Wailes

### In attendance

Ms Lee	R Gowland
Mr Robertson	

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b>  The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.  Apologies were noted for G Brown, S Gardiner, K Hynd, A Norris, H Sinclair and S Wayt.	
2.	<b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b>  The Parent Council (PC) considered the minutes of the Meeting held on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> of January.  The PC were content to approve the minutes as a complete and accurate record.  The minutes were adopted by V O'Rourke and seconded by C Inch.	
3.	<b><u>Rolling Action List</u></b>  M Wailes noted that there is one on-going action to explore wind farm funding opportunities.	

4.	<p><b><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></b></p> <p>Ms Lee provided a full update on school matters since the January meeting.</p> <p>There was a general discussion on the ICT Cloud migration scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> of June.</p> <p>With no further questions on the report the PC noted the update.</p> <p>The Head Teachers report for March is attached at appendix 1.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p>A Naismith provided the update noting that there was currently £986.25 of available funds in the Bank Account.</p> <p>The recent Bag Pack had raised £848 and funding had also been received and paid over to the school from Virgin Money (£1,000) and the Renewables Fund (£500).</p> <p>A Naismith informed the PC that the new Bank Account had now been set-up. Proposed signatories noted that correspondence was not being delivered to home addresses and therefore there was a delay in ensuring all had access to the account.</p> <p>With no further questions on the report the PC noted the update.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Promoting Positive Relationships</u></b></p> <p>Mr Robertson provided a presentation on 'Promoting Positive Relationships' noting that South Lanarkshire Council require this to be reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>Mr Robertson highlighted that the recent inspection had recorded strong relationships as a strength at Lesmahagow High School and noted that various policies were in place within the school to support this work, including the recently implemented Mobile Phone Policy.</p> <p>There were no questions on the presentation and the PC noted the update.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>Attainment Overview</u></b></p> <p>Following on from the overview provided at the January</p>	

	<p>meeting Ms Lee provided a detailed presentation on the attainment overview.</p> <p>The PC noted the positive position of Lesmahagow High School with a number of strong indicators.</p> <p>Ms Lee highlighted that the data supported the conclusion that work in equity was achieving success and that almost all LHS school leavers moved to positive destinations.</p> <p>There were varied discussions on the presentation with the PC noting the good performance.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>Parent Queries</u></b></p> <p>There was one query submitted with regards to visibility of dates for school events to allow parents sufficient time to plan attendance. Ms Lee noted that this would be worked on for future events but noted the difficulties in planning recent graduation events to accommodate the exam timetable.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>Various items were discussed by the Parent Council:</p> <p>No further business was raised.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Close</u></b></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 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.15pm.</p>	

Signed

Date

J Pate, Chair, Lesmahagow High School Parent Council

# Appendix 1

## Head Teacher Update to Parent Council, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Staffing

Mrs Kirsty Dickson, Teacher of Inclusion and Mrs Debbie Murray, School Support Assistant, have joined our school since our last meeting; we are currently fully staffed.

Our school roll is projected to require four PTs Pupil Support for the next few years, therefore we can move to a permanent appointment following an 'Acting' arrangement. An advert for the position of PT Pupil Support should go live within the next few weeks.

Staffing requirements for Session 2025/26 will be confirmed in the next few weeks.

Carole McKenzie, Executive Director of Education and former Head of Education for Clydesdale, retires, early, from her post at Easter. Anne Donaldson, Head of Education, Inclusion, is currently Interim Executive Director of Education.

### Insight Update

The February Insight update was based on the attainment of 121 students who left school from October 2023-September 2024. From this data, we can see that:

96.69% of young people secured a positive post school destination. This is above the VC (94.38%). More young people entered Higher education courses, employment or training when compared to the VC. Within year groups, positive destinations data for students in S4 and S6 is above the VC; positive destinations for S5 leavers is our area for improvement.

The lowest attaining 20% (LHS leavers achieved: 108 tariff points, VC leavers achieved: 103 tariff points) and middle attaining 60% (LHS 573; VC 569) of students out performed those in the Virtual Comparator. The highest attaining 20% of students is our area for improvement (LHS: 1203; VC: 1247). This pattern is also shown when comparing the level of courses studied by students. The attainment of the middle 60% of S4/5 leavers is also an area for improvement.

***For information:** The figures above relate to the 'complementary tariff points' awarded for the students' highest attaining five courses when they leave school. N3 courses = 12 tariff points; N4 courses = 33 tariff points; N5 A -84 B-74 C-64 D-59; Higher A - 204 B-182 C - 160 D -149, Advanced Higher A - 480 B - 440 C - 400 D - 380. National Progression Awards and other SCQF courses have tariff points assigned based on the level of study and length of the courses.*

When comparing attainment v deprivation, students in SIMDs 1, 2,3,4,6,8 9 and 10 out performed or were in line with those in the VC.

Attainment of Level 4, 5 and 6 Literacy and Numeracy for S4 and S5 remains an area for improvement; attainment in Level 4 and 5 literacy for S6 leavers outperforms those in the VC.

### HMIe Report

Our HMIe report was published on 11<sup>th</sup> February, and provides detailed feedback from HMIe on Learning, Teaching and Assessment and Raising Attainment. We were delighted that our self-evaluation was confirmed by HMIe and that our areas for improvement were already noted within our improvement priorities.

Thank you to everyone for their support throughout the inspection process.

### **Celebrating Success**

In recent weeks, we have celebrated the success of students both in and out of school for a range of sporting and other extra-curricular achievements. In particular, we were delighted to hear of the success of:

Glenbuck 2008 Football Team, who won the League Cup!

Milton House swimming team, who achieved first place in our first inter-house swimming competition.

LHS U15s football team – recent 3-1 win against Our Lady’s HS at the Glebe. The team have two matches this week – a home game tomorrow against Clyde Valley HS and then an away match at Taylor HS on Friday.

LHS Senior Phase football Team – Winners of the North Lanarkshire Suicide Prevention Cup for Football.

Freyah Black, who has been selected to represent Scotland in the U15 and U16 squads. Freyah’s next match is at St. George’s Park, Derby, where England U16s will compete against Scotland’s U16s.

Emma Clark, who achieved a Silver medal in the 60 m and Gold in the 200m at the recent athletics championships event. Emma achieved a championship best and was awarded best female.

Emma Gardiner, who as part of Team Ward, finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall in their league and were runners up in the U17 Scottish Curling Competition. Emma will be awarded an International Tie for her success.

Elsa Graham and Eilidh Campbell won their heat in the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Public Speaking Competition and will take part in the second round of the event next week.

### **SQA Exams**

Practical/performing exams continue this week and N5 Assignments/folios are collected on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March to go to SQA.

The final teaching day before the SQA exam diet for Senior Phase classes will be Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Study leave begins on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, and SQA exams commence on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> April. Study leave extends until Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> May (inclusive). Currently, Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June is listed as a ‘Contingency Day’ for SQA exams. This will be our Senior Phase Induction Day, unless any changes are made. Our new timetable will begin for all pupils on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

### **Spring and Summer Term events**

Young people have enjoyed visits to the Science Centre, a beach study with the University of the West of Scotland at West Kilbride beach, trips to various careers events, a Brass performance at the Royal Conservatoire and participation in the latest round of the Clydesdale Cup, Battle of the Bands, Big Band Concert, our first Cheerleading Competition at the Playsport Arena at East Kilbride, home of the Caledonian Gladiators, and the South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Dance Competition at the Town House. We look forward to the forthcoming South Lanarkshire Schools’ Orchestral Society Concert.

The Music Department has announced the cast of ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat’, with performances scheduled for the week before the October break. They will provide an update regarding the Young Musician and Young Vocalist of the Year as soon as possible, and hope that this will take place in May/June.

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April – S6 Graduation

Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Graeme Armstrong (Author) visit to S3

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> May - S3 Blackpool Trip, supported by Participatory Budgeting

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June – New Timetable Begins; S5 and S6 Induction Day

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June – ICT Cloud Migration

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June – Prize Giving

Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June –S6 Prom