



## Minutes of the Parent Council held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.15pm

### Present

J Pate (in the Chair)

G Brown	V O'Rourke
K Hynd	T Summerville
A Naismith	S Wayt
A Norris	

### In attendance

Ms Lee	R Gowland
Mrs Cimmino	

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b>  The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.  Apologies were noted for M Fell, S Gardiner, C Inch, H Sinclair, M Wailes and L Laird.	
2.	<b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b>  The Parent Council (PC) considered the minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th of March and were content to approve the minutes as a complete and accurate record.  The minutes were adopted by A Naismith and seconded by V O'Rourke.	
3.	<b><u>Rolling Action List</u></b>  The PC noted that there is one on-going action to explore wind farm funding opportunities to enable us to work with the school to utilise these 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 March meeting.</p> <p>The PC discussed the recent letter regarding attendance (sent in an effort to increase attendance).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trialling change from current 1 text per day to a maximum of 3 texts per day, to be sent to parent/carer if student is absent.</li> <li>• The impact of this will be reviewed as there are costs associated with each text.</li> <li>• Discussion around absence texts being sent when the student is actually in school, particularly when student is in assembly, music lessons, organised trips etc - school will take this on board.</li> </ul> <p>There will be 5 classes in new S1 (current estimated intake 118).</p> <p>See agenda item 6 for notes on discussion regarding the school's use of Social Media.</p> <p>The Head Teacher's report for March is attached at Appendix 1.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p>Total balance in the new bank account is £987 (primarily funds raised by the bag-pack in March) + £40 cash float for events.</p> <p>K Hynd will complete accounts for 2024/25.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>School's Use of Social Media</u></b></p> <p>SLC are now only using X (formally Twitter) for urgent messages, otherwise they are stepping back from using this platform as one of their main means of communication (and replacing with Bluesky). This is not prescriptive for other departments and it was agreed that school should use what works best for them.</p> <p>LHS currently uses email, website, parent portal and X (where they have 2100+ followers). LHS have created a Bluesky account and it was agreed that, given few present at the meeting had heard of Bluesky, it would not yet be appropriate to substitute Bluesky for X. Instead, the school will use Bluesky alongside X in the meantime to offer an alternative to parents.</p>	

7.	<p><b><u>Parent Council Meeting Dates for 2025/2026</u></b></p> <p>Proposed PC meeting dates for 2025/26 were shared with the group as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September (AGM)</li> <li>• Tuesday 11th November</li> <li>• Wednesday 21st January</li> <li>• Monday 16th March</li> <li>• Tuesday 6th May</li> </ul> <p>Ms Lee agreed to share this information with the new S1 parent/carer group.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>Parent Queries</u></b></p> <p>None noted.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>None noted.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Close</u></b></p> <p>The Chair thanked those present for attending the meeting and extended thanks on behalf of the parent council to the outgoing parent council members: K Hynd in her role as Treasurer and G Brown, member.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the next meeting (AGM) would be held in the school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15pm.</p>	

Signed

Date

J Pate, Chair, Lesmahagow High School Parent Council

## **Appendix 1**

### **Staffing**

Our Staffing for Session 2025-26 has been confirmed as 59.6FTE, which is an increase of 1.7FTE, due to our increased school and the final stage of development of our Inclusion Support Team (IST), with our first cohort moving into S6. 1FTE will therefore support the growth of IST; the remaining 0.7FTE will be used to support staffing across our school.

Interviews will take place for our PT Pupil Support post mid-May. This is a fourth permanent member of our team, due to our increased school roll.

Mrs Melissa Hunter is now on maternity leave, and we were delighted that she visited with her new baby last week. Temporary cover in Maths for June is being arranged by the Local Authority and an additional team member is expected to join the Maths department in August.

We will welcome Mrs Lauren Simpson (Teacher of Art) and Mrs Cairn Robertson Cheyne (Faculty Head of Expressive Arts) back to school in the next few weeks.

Ms Emily Ferguson, Teacher of Home Economics, has been appointed to our permanent staffing.

Ms Elaine Tully, Teacher of Modern Languages, has decided to take early retirement at the end of session after thirty-six years of excellent service to our school community. Ms Tully will be a huge loss to our school. We wish her all the very best in her retirement.

Other staffing changes have still to be confirmed, and we will provide an update in due course.

### **SQA Exam Diet**

Feedback from those who attended Easter Study School was very positive. This provided an ideal opportunity for catch up work and focussed study in a range of subjects during the Spring Break for Senior Phase students.

After the Spring Break there were two school days before exam leave commenced for Senior Phase students. Exam leave extends until Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> May. Teachers are available throughout the exam period to support revision, coursework and the completion of folios.

The SQA Exam Diet is already in Week 3, with most students now having completed their first exam. Today was the N5 English Exam and tomorrow we have the Higher English Exam, which involve our highest numbers of students. Our invigilation team, led by Mr Robert Boag, have complimented our students on their manners and conduct so far, and we hope this continues.

The Senior Induction Day will take place on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, which is the first day of our new timetable. Please note: Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June is also a contingency day for the SQA exam diet, should this be required.

### **Additional Opportunities for young people**

Author Graeme Armstrong addressed S3 students last week and delivered an excellent presentation about gang culture, addiction and the importance of education. Feedback from students was very positive and we hope this talk motivated our students to do well and engage with their subjects as they move into the Senior Phase.

A variety of extra-curricular activities continue, including Athletics, Film Club, Netball, Football, Musical theatre as we prepare for our School Show – Joseph – in October, Science Centre visits, Family Cooking events, Clyde River Foundation trip, DofE skills days and Expeditions.

Additional support is also being offered to S2 students through the 'Blues' programme and S1-S3 through arts and crafts workshops to support and promote positive mental health.

### **Celebrating Success**

Our first 'Powering Futures' class delivered an excellent presentation to industry experts at Balfour Beatty, Eurocentral, in March. This Level 6 qualification helps students to learn about sustainability and to develop communication, team-work and problem-solving skills. Well done to our S5 students involved!

S3 students participated in the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Public Speaking Competition and gained a place in the final at Hamilton Sheriff Court last week. They delivered an excellent speech and answered questions about supporting mental health in rural areas. The students received certificates of participation and were a credit to our school and themselves. Well done to all involved.

Some of our Musicians participated in the South Lanarkshire Orchestral Society concert at Hamilton Townhouse at the end of March, delivering an excellent performance. Saira Mohammed also represented our school in the Young Musician of the Year Competition at Low Parks Museum in April. Her performance was excellent and she was presented with a certificate in recognition of her participation.

The latest round of the Clydesdale Cup saw our S1 and S2 students welcoming their peers to the Glebe for boys and girls football matches. The boys won all three of their matches, and the girls won two and the final match was a draw. This placed the boys first and girls second in these matches, and takes Lesmahagow to top of the Clydesdale Cup league. The final round of the competition is Athletics at the John Cumming Stadium in Carluke, next Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Our Boys U15 Football Team have reached the semi-final of their league cup. They play against Strathaven Academy at the Glebe on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> May. If they win this match, the final takes place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. We will reschedule the S3 Boys v Staff Football Match planned for Sports Day if required.

Our Prize Giving will take place on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June. The provisional date for Young Musician of the Year is Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Social Media**

As you will be aware, South Lanarkshire Council has stepped back from using Twitter/X to share non-urgent updates. Instead, SLC will use 'Bluesky' for non-urgent information and will gradually move to this system as the number of followers increases.

We currently use emails, our website, X and Parents Portal to share information with our school community. We have 2100 followers on X. Tweets and posts on the website can be read by everyone. Emails and Parent portal updates are shared only with parents/carers. We have provisionally created a Bluesky account for our school, and already have 50 members.

We need to decide as a school community how best to share urgent and non-urgent updates with parents/carers and our wider school community. Throughout this month we will invite feedback from parents/carers about our future use of X/Bluesky/alternative social media platforms to allow us to celebrate success, share updates, etc. Your feedback will shape how we move forward with social media and communication next session.

### **Attendance**

Throughout the month of May, we will be sending text messages to any students with 'to be confirmed' absence codes for Tutor, Period 4 and Period 6. Text messages are normally sent to the families of any students for whom absence codes are 'to be confirmed' in Tutor or should an absence code change to 'to be confirmed' during the day. The purpose is to provide additional updates to parents/carers and to work in partnership to improve the attendance. There is a strong correlation between attendance and attainment; by promoting excellent attendance, students will also benefit from improved attainment and life chances.

### **Uniform**

Again, we continue to encourage students to wear uniform each day and to let us know if we can help by providing uniform items.

### **Cloud Migration**

Our ICT storage will move to the Cloud on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June. A small number of devices will migrate the week before to allow us to continue key administrative tasks for the duration of the move. Students will need to move their documents to the Cloud in the coming weeks, as will staff. We hope the new system will provide greater flexibility for everyone.

### **PVG updates**

Updated guidance on requirements for PVG checks have been shared with parent groups and schools. All volunteers within our school have PVG checks in place.

### **Proposed dates for 2025/26**

Monday 15th September (AGM)

Tuesday 11th November

Wednesday 21st January

Monday 16th March

Tuesday 6th May