



Minutes of the Parent Council AGM held on Monday 15th September at 7.15pm

Present

J Pate (in the Chair)

L Laird	M Stewart
A Naismith	T Summerville
A Norris	S Wayt
J Smith	M Wailes

In attendance

Ms Lee	
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, C Inch, H Sinclair, V Workman.	
2.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> The Parent Council (PC) considered the minutes of the Meeting held on the 6 th of May and were content to approve the minutes as a complete and accurate record. The minutes were adopted by A Naismith and seconded by A Norris.	
3.	<u>Rolling Action List</u> 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><u>Chairperson's Report 2024/25</u></p> <p>J Pate presented the Chairperson's report noting the members of the committee during 24/25 and the meetings held.</p> <p>A summary was provided of the topics covered during the session alongside an overview of the events and fundraising that the Parent Council had participated in.</p> <p>The report is provided at appendix 1.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and approval of the accounts 2024/25</u></p> <p>A Naismith presented the Treasurer's report and annual accounts for 24/25.</p> <p>The committee noted the bequest from Davidson and Shirley which is a regular item of income to cover costs for the dux medal. B Lee to arrange for invoice to be provided to the Treasurer to allow this to be paid to the school.</p> <p>It was noted that funds are available, and funding requests will be gathered from the school for presentation to the Parent Council.</p> <p>J Pate asked if the school required any funding to assist with the upcoming school show. B Lee reflected on the costs to let the school building and there was a discussion around the use of Parent Council lets to coincide with school use to minimise costs in future. M Wailes to seek clarity on number and use of Parent Council lets per year.</p> <p>The accounts, available on the Parent Council section of the school website, were approved by J Pate and seconded by M Wailes.</p>	<p>B Lee</p> <p>M Wailes</p>
6.	<p><u>Appointment of Committee Members</u></p> <p>Per the constitution it was agreed that those present and those who had submitted apologies would form the Parent Council for the 2024/25 session.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Selection of Office Bearers</u></p> <p>There were no new nominations for the office bearer positions J Pate and M Wailes who both held posts in the previous year confirmed that they were content to continue as Chair and Secretary respectively. A Naismith confirmed</p>	

	<p>that she was willing to transition from the role of Deputy Treasurer to the role of Treasurer following the departure of K Hynd.</p> <p>Positions were appointed as follows:</p> <p>Chair – J Pate Secretary – M Wailes Treasurer – A Naismith</p> <p>All present approved the selection of office bearers.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Approval of Parent Council Constitution</u></p> <p>J Pate presented the constitution for discussion and approval.</p> <p>It was noted that the reference to the school app should be removed as this is no longer used.</p> <p>With no further changes the Parent Council were content to approve the constitution.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></p> <p>Ms Lee provided a full update on school matters since the May meeting. The full detail of this report is attached at Appendix 2.</p> <p>L Laird raised a query on supported study within the science faculty with the recent staffing changes and J Pate asked what the timeline would be for re-appointment.</p> <p>B Lee noted that area cover would be provided and that the school would endeavour to continue with supported study but noted that this is at the discretion of individual teachers.</p> <p>There was a discussion on work placements available for pupils with B Lee noting that this is co-ordinated by N Forbes.</p> <p>J Pate asked if there was an annual school calendar that could be shared, noting events such as parents' evenings in advance. B Lee agreed that this could be provided.</p>	B Lee
10.	<p><u>Uniform</u></p> <p>A query had been submitted to the Parent Council in advance of the meeting to request that uniform be</p>	

	<p>discussed. Specifically the practicality of blazers in the winter months and the lack of items such as school sweatshirts and polo shirts.</p> <p>B Lee noted that the current uniform of blazer, shirt and tie was a result of school community consultation in 2017 as pupils wanted to look smart, especially at inter-school events. B Lee also noted that our first priority is for students to wear a white shirt/blouse, school tie and black trousers/skirt. P Docherty noted that there is a stock of blazers in the school if required.</p> <p>J Pate queried whether lockers were still available for pupils to store their blazers to change into during the winter months, B Lee noted that lockers are available for those who want them but it was noted that they are not practical for pupils catching school buses at the end of the day.</p> <p>L Laird asked for information on the PE kit and B Lee noted that PE kit should be school colours.</p> <p>It was noted that the current uniform was felt to be less expensive as it did not require school branded items and plain coloured items and shirts were readily available at various pricing levels.</p>	
11.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>There was a brief conversation on prize giving and the nomination process with B Lee noting that this could be an area for the school to highlight further with pupils throughout the year.</p> <p>The London trip was discussed and it was highlighted that clearer communications are required in relation to the payment schedule.</p> <p>Finally, there was a discussion on the revised dates for the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions (summer term, 2026). It was noted that these be shared as soon as possible, following checks with the SQA Exam and whole school calendars.</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 Wednesday 21st January at 7.15pm.</p>	

Signed

Date

J Pate, Chair, Lesmahagow High School Parent Council

Appendix 1 Chairperson's Report 2024/25

Parent Council Members

Office Bearers: Jill Pate (Chairperson), Michelle Wailes (Secretary), Karen Hynd (Treasurer), Aileen Naismith (Deputy Treasurer)

Council Members: Gillian Brown, Moira Fell, Sandra Gardiner, Lorna Laird, Angela Norris, Vicki O'Rourke, Heather Sinclair, Tori Summerville, Susan Wayt. Catriona Inch joined a number of meetings.

Councillor Ross Gowland joined the March and May meetings.

Meetings held:

Monday 16th September
Monday 12th November
Wednesday 22nd January
Monday 17th March
Tuesday 6th May

(Constitution 6.4 states "the parent Council will meet at least once every school term)

Agenda items: each meeting included approval of the previous meeting minutes, an update on rolling action list, a review of funds held and the Head Teacher's Report (which covered a range of topics including staffing updates, policy changes, details of school events and student achievements). Other items discussed during the year included:

- positive outcome of school transport consultation,
- school improvement plan,
- HMle inspection findings
- attainment,
- school roll and attendance,
- promoting positive relationships,
- S3 subject choices,
- possible funding sources,
- use of funds,
- Duke of Edinburgh update,
- school trips,
- social media (use of Parent Council Facebook and move from Twitter/X to Bluesky).

Events and fundraising

March: Tesco backpack and tombola raised £848.45.

May: Chair participated in interviews for Principal Teacher for Pupil Support.

June: Parent Council members helped with teas/coffees at the Expressive Arts evening.

**Thanks to all Parent Council members for all their efforts in 2024/25,
including outgoing members Karen Hynd and Gillian Brown.**

Appendix 2

Head Teacher's Update to Parent Council, Monday, 15th September 2025

Staffing

At the start of the new term, we welcomed Mrs. Lauren Lockens, Principal Teacher of Pupil Support for our new house group, Mrs Aileen Worrall, Teacher of Inclusion, Mrs. Gemma Singer, Teacher of Biology, Mr Pedro Jimenez Cueto, Teacher of Modern Languages, Ms Ayesha Saleem, Teacher of Mathematics, Ms Abigail Wilson, Teacher of Business, Ms Eva Coyle, Teacher of Chemistry, Mr Lewis Peers, Teacher of Physics and Mr Declan Connelly, Teacher of Modern Studies.

A long-term absence in Modern Studies and Pupil Support is being covered by Mr Connelly and Mr C. Campbell (Maths). A long-term absence has opened in PE, with Area Cover/Supply support requested from SLC.

Ms Nicola Forbes has been appointed Lead Teacher of Developing the Young Workforce and Ms Sophie Leckenby has been appointed Lead Teacher of Equity – Wellbeing and Attendance.

Dr. Elaine Brand, Teacher of Chemistry, has decided to pursue other projects and will leave us on Thursday, 25th September. We will provide an update regarding backfill arrangements as soon as possible.

From our Support Team, Ms E Douglas has secured a full-time post in another school and will leave us later this term.

BGE – S3 Achievement of A Curriculum for Excellence Level

S3 Achievement of a Level data showed an improvement in literacy and numeracy data. 93% of young people achieved Level 3 Talking, Reading and Writing and 91% achieved Level 3 Numeracy. 83% of young people achieved Level 4 Talking and Reading, 70% achieved Level 4 Writing and 71% achieved Level 4 Numeracy.

SQA Attainment (A-C measures)

S4 5@3 - 87.27% of young people achieved 5@3 this year, an increase of 16% from 2024.

S4 5@4 – 74.55% of young people achieved 5@4 this year, an increase of 21% from 2024.

S4 1@5 – 83.64% of young people achieved 1@5 this year, an increase of 14% from 2024.

S4 5@5 – 39.09% of young people achieved 5@5 this year, an increase of 2% from 2024.

S5 1@6 – 43.48% of young people achieved 1@6 this year, an increase of 1.5% from 2024.

S5 3@6

S6 1@7 – 15% of young people achieved 1@7 this year, a decrease of 13% from 2024.

Following the September Insight Update (17.9.25) we will compare our A-C, A-D and SCQF measures for each of these Key Performance Indicators with our Virtual Comparator and will provide an attainment update at our next meeting.

Standards and Quality Report and School Improvement Priorities

Ensuring consistently high-quality learning and teaching through:

Strategic Priority 1: Health and Wellbeing - Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of our school community through universal, targeted and intensive support, with a particular focus on attendance.

- Promoting Excellent Attendance - Continued focus on promoting excellent attendance and partnership working.
- Wellbeing supports - Continue to promote wellbeing supports available and how to access these. All S4 students complete the Level 4 Mental Health and Wellbeing Award in PSE.
- Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) training completed by additional Senior Phase students. MVP programme delivered to S1 and S2 students.
- Extra-curricular opportunities - Programme of extra-curricular and wider achievement opportunities extends. Additional opportunities offered as identified through Participation Toolkit.
- Parental engagement: additional formal and informal opportunities for parental engagement offered.

Strategic Priority 2: Inclusion, Equity and Equality - Continue to ensure inclusion, equity and equality are at the heart of what we do, with a particular

focus on Child Inclusion Research into Curriculum Learning Education training and assistive technology.

- Inclusion Support Provision - Review and refine primary transition programme, Broad General Education and Senior Phase offer, as detailed in Inclusion Support Team Improvement Plan.
- CIRCLE training - All staff complete Child Inclusion: Research into Curriculum Learning and Education training and evaluate the physical environment of classrooms to support learners.
- Assistive Technology - Increase awareness, access and confidence in the use of assistive technology, including Read/Write resources.
- Equity - Equity interventions to support literacy, numeracy, attendance, wellbeing and destinations are in place, as outlined in the Equity Improvement plan.
- Attachment Informed Practice - Further embed attachment informed practice and principles in line with Attachment Informed School guidance. Submit evidence to 'act to make a difference' and 'recognise behaviour as communication' to SLC for verification.

Strategic Priority 3: Raising attainment through ensuring consistently high-quality learning and teaching - Continue to embed our Excellent Lesson Framework with a focus on CLPL.

- Embed Excellent Lesson Framework through 'plus one' improvement focus, supported by 'plus one' focus within departments/faculties and Osiris Collective Leadership of Learning programme.
- Approaches to assessment evaluated to support feedback to students on progress and next steps in learning.
- Literacy and Numeracy data utilised effectively to support early interventions for S1 students.
- All colleagues will have had the opportunity to moderate Level 3 and Level 4 pupil at locality level and share good practice.

- Raise awareness of opportunities and responsibilities of using Artificial Intelligence to support learning.

Strategic Priority 4: Skills for life, learning, and work- Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum to develop skills for learning, life and work and secure positive destinations for all.

- Curriculum - Invite feedback on current curriculum model from all stakeholders, with a particular focus on BGE and wider achievements. Consider curriculum models in other schools with high attainment. Plan to support implementation of changes agreed.
- Effective Developing the Young Workforce Plan 2025-26, including a Careers Fair, plan for increasing work placements and programmes to support post-school career planning.
- Engage in professional learning opportunities relating to Education Reform and develop the timeline for implementation of future curriculum changes.
- IDL working group will develop and coordinate plans with department to support learners in IDL project.

Strategic Priority 5a: Leadership- Provide leadership opportunities at all levels.

- Extend opportunities for young people to engage in leadership opportunities in the BGE and Senior Phase.
- Opportunities for staff at all levels to engage in leadership of learning and leadership of change CLPL.

Strategic Priority 5b: Sustainability - Provide opportunities to influence action on sustainability and climate change.

- Continue to develop partnership working with Blackwood Estate Community Association, On Path Energy, local councillors, MSPs/MPs, Lesmahagow Development Trust and other groups to promote sustainability within the local community and provide additional

opportunities for young people.

- Extend Outdoor Learning and Sustainability education to S1-S6 students within the curriculum, interventions and through extra-curricular activities to support wellbeing and awareness of sustainability.
- Continue to promote our pre-loved Uniform Hub and Under 22 Free bus passes to support young people and families and promote sustainability.
- Explore additional opportunities to share information and updates with our school community through events, bulletins and newsletters.

Extra-curricular Clubs and Additional Learning Opportunities

Students were invited to sign up for this year's extra-curricular programme last Monday. The list of clubs offered has been shared in the bulletin and newsletter. Additional Learning Opportunities will also be shared with parents/carers. We are grateful to all staff who offer these activities for pupils in addition to their teaching responsibilities.

Excursions and Opportunities in September and October

September - OnPath Energy Project – Mrs McGuire

Monday, 22nd September – Mrs McGuire - Climate and Sustainability Interview

Tuesday, 23rd September – Ms Forbes – Biology Pathways Talk

Tuesday, 23rd September – Mrs Cimmino – Young Leaders of Learning Training

Wednesday, 24th September – Mrs Mullen – Netball Tournament

Tuesday, 30th September – Mr Prentice – Enterprising Maths Competition

Tuesday, 30th September – Ms Leckenby – Cost of the School Day Summit

Wednesday, 1st October – Ms Kilday – Music Leaders – Concert Analysis

4th, 5th, 6th October- School Show Rehearsals

5th October – St. Andrew’s Hospice Fun Run, Strathclyde Park

Tuesday, 7th and Wednesday 8th October – Mr Stirling – Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

Wednesday, 22nd October – Acting Workshops – Drama Dept.

Sunday, 26th October – Everton v Spurs Football Match

Monday, 27th October – STEM DYW event

Thursday, 6th November – Ms Kelly - Theatre Trip – To Kill a Mockingbird