



Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th November at 7.15pm

Present

J Pate (in the Chair)

S Gardiner	A Norris
A Naismith	M Wailes

In attendance

Ms Lee	
Mr Robertson	

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.</p> <p>Apologies were noted for M Fell, L Laird, C Inch, H Sinclair, J Smith, M Stewart, T Summerville, S Wayt, and V Workman.</p> <p>The PC agreed a change to the running order of the agenda to discuss Attainment, then the School Improvement Priorities followed by Finance and Funding Requests.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Approval of Minutes</u></p> <p>The Parent Council (PC) considered the minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on the 15th of September and were content to approve the minutes as a complete and accurate record.</p> <p>The minutes were adopted by A Naismith and seconded by A Norris.</p>	

3.	<p><u>Rolling Action List</u></p> <p>The PC noted that the Treasurer had paid the invoice for the Dux medal and this action was agreed as closed.</p> <p>A copy of the School Calendar had been provided by the Head Teacher and circulated with the papers for the meeting and so the action was agreed as closed.</p> <p>The J Pate noted that various wind farm funding had been explored and work was now on-going with the school to identify suitable projects for applications. It was agreed that this action would be closed and work would continue as business as usual.</p> <p>The Parent Council noted that the action regarding use of school lets remained open with the Head Teacher noting that Mr Gray was also seeking clarification from the Council.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></p> <p>Ms Lee provided a full update on school matters since the last meeting. The full detail of this report is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the staffing update with assurances provided on work that the school is undertaking to support learners during the Chemistry vacancy.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Attainment – 24/25</u></p> <p>Ms Lee provided a presentation on the schools' attainment data for 2024/2025.</p> <p>This data provides a summary of the attainment levels of learners in S4, S5 and S6. Analysis is provided of attainment of SQA results and wider SCQF qualifications and benchmarking allows comparison with other schools and national averages.</p> <p>Areas where performance was above or under comparatives were noted and discussed and it was highlighted that the Senior Leadership Team have a particular focus on attendance.</p> <p>The Parent Council noted that overall position was positive and had seen several areas of improvement in recent years.</p>	

6.	<p><u>School Improvement Priorities</u></p> <p>With the Attainment Data now received by the school attention has been given to the School Improvement Priorities.</p> <p>Ms Lee noted that the school priorities are Health and Wellbeing; Inclusion, Equity and Equality; High Quality Learning and Teaching; Skills for Life, Learning and Work; Leadership; and Sustainability.</p> <p>It was noted that consultation was on-going with the Local Authority to consider how AI could be used for pupil feedback and that the Education Reform programme due to run from 2026 to 2028 may impact on school priorities over time.</p> <p>The PC did not raise any additional areas for consideration.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Finance and Funding Requests</u></p> <p>A Naismith provided an overview of the current financial position which was £1,306 in the bank account and £40 held as cash.</p> <p>A Naismith noted that Councillor Lambie had made a donation of £250 to the Parent Council.</p> <p>SG noted that she would apply to her employer, Virgin Money, to provide funds to areas that the school had highlighted for additional spend.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion on the departmental requests for funding and it was agreed that JP and AN would liaise with the school to take this forward within available funds.</p> <p>It was agreed that JP would approach Tesco to request a bag pack slot to boost PC funds.</p>	JP
8.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>No items were raised.</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 - HT Update to Parent Council, 11.11.25

Staffing Update

Since our last meeting, we have said farewell to Dr. Elaine Brand, Teacher of Chemistry, Ms. Janice Grierson, Science Technician and Ms. Louise Spiers, School Support Assistant. We have thanked all three for the support they have shown for our pupils and school and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Dr. Alisha Davidson, Teacher of Chemistry, joins us on Monday, 17th November. Thank you to Ms. Heather Dunn, Teacher of Chemistry and Ms. Gemma Coogans, Teacher of Technical Education, who have supported cover arrangements in October and November.

Previous longer-term absences have now closed.

School Improvement

Our Standards and Quality Report and School Improvement Priorities were shared in our newsletter and on our school website. This is the third year of our three-year plan. We are always keen to hear your feedback on our school improvement priorities. Full consultation will take place in the spring term as we formulate our 2026-2029 priorities. Our 2025-26 priorities are:

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.