



Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st January at 7.15pm

Present

J Pate (in the Chair)

M Fell	M Stewart
S Gardiner	T Summerville
A Naismith	M Wailes
A Norris	S Wayt

In attendance

Ms Lee	
Mr Gray	

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Apologies were noted for L Laird, C Inch, H Sinclair, J Smith and V Workman.	
2.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> The Parent Council (PC) considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 11 th of November and 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.	<u>Rolling Action List</u> Information on the school lets had been received and circulated to the PC and the date of the bag pack was confirmed as 21 st March. The PC were content that both items were closed.	

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>Following the report there was a discussion on the changes to curriculum choice for learners moving from S2 to S3. Ms Lee noted that the school hoped to improve engagement, attainment and attendance as a result of the change. In response to a question from A Naismith on the number of subjects chosen Ms Lee commented that the school hoped to continue to provide flexibility for learners who are unsure of which subjects to pick. M Stewart asked if it would be possible for some learners to continue with 8 subjects and some with 7 where clear choices were known. Ms Lee replied that this would be challenging from a timetabling perspective. S Wayt noted the option for some learners to pursue a Higher in the '8th' subject taken in S3 without necessarily needing to take a National 5 and Ms Lee noted the benefits of some courses being able to provide National 3 certification.</p> <p>There was a discussion on school trips, and it was noted that the Loaningdale funding for transport had allowed the school to fund merit trips for S1 and S2. J Pate asked if there were plans for an outdoor residential trip in 2026, Ms Lee responded that the London and Paris trips were being run instead in 2026 and 2027 respectively. It was requested that availability of trips be publicised more widely to ensure parents were aware of current offers. Ms Lee agreed to this.</p> <p>After a brief update on the Chaplaincy provision, with Ms Lee noting that the Kirkmuirhill Parish minister had joined the team, this section of the agenda ended.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Broad General Education (BGE) Reporting Pilot</u></p> <p>Mr Gray provided handouts and explained to the PC that the school had been involved in a pilot with South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) on changes to BGE reporting.</p> <p>A number of parents asked questions to clarify their understanding of the new reports noting some confusion over the achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels. Mr Gray responded to resolve these queries and noted that there would be an opportunity for feedback to be provided to SLC at the end of the year.</p>	

	<p>The PC were content to note the information provided on the reporting pilot.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Cost of the School Day</u></p> <p>Ms Lee took the PC through a presentation on cost of the school day. It was noted that a key message was that anything curricular and required for Qualifications Scotland should not incur a cost.</p> <p>Ms Lee noted that the slides from the presentation would be shared with the PC after the meeting.</p> <p>There was a brief conversation considering the use of grants to balance the need for equal opportunity while still being able to offer activities that enhance the school experience for learners.</p> <p>The PC noted the presentation.</p>	BL/MW
7.	<p><u>Finance and Funding Requests</u></p> <p>A Naismith provided an overview of the current financial position which was £1,340 in the bank account and £40 held as cash.</p> <p>No further departmental requests had been received.</p> <p>J Pate informed the committee that she had provided information to Lesmahagow Community Council to apply for the Renewable Energy Fund microgrant. She also noted that she had compiled a high level list of potential grants that the school could consider and that, with input on requirements from S Rivans, the Parent Council had applied to the Kype Muir fund for Duke of Edinburgh equipment.</p> <p>The PC noted that funds were available to be distributed but no decisions were taken. B Lee noted that she would get exact costings for microphones and speakers and noted that the PE department were looking at options to renew the gym equipment.</p> <p>J Pate closed in saying that more volunteers were required for the fundraising bag pack on March 21st and B Lee agree to speak to the music department about the possibility of providing musical entertainment on the day.</p> <p>There were no further queries and the item was noted.</p>	BL

8.	<u>AOB</u> No items were raised.	
	<u>Close</u> The Chair thanked those present for attending the meeting and advised that the next meeting would be held in the school on Monday 16 th March at 7.15pm.	

Signed

Date

J Pate, Chair, Lesmahagow High School Parent Council

Appendix 1 - HT Update to Parent Council, 21.01.2026

Staffing Update

Since our last meeting, Dr. Alisha Davidson, Teacher of Chemistry, has joined our Science Faculty. Mr. Pedro Jimenez Cueto, Teacher of Modern Languages, has deferred his probationary year. Mrs. Karen Connell, Teacher of Modern Languages, has joined us.

In December, we said farewell to Ms. Ellie Douglas, School Support Assistant and Ms. Lynn Forrest, School Support Assistant (Thurs/Friday), who moved to full-time positions within the local authority.

Mrs. Jade McFadzean, School Support Assistant, joined us in January. Another School Support Assistant will join us later this term, following the completion of recruitment checks. The position of Technician Team Leader (Science) is currently advertised and closes at midnight tomorrow. An additional Team Leader position within our School Support Assistant team will be added later this year.

Mrs Melissa Hunter, Teacher of Maths, returns in February and Mrs Jennifer Will, Teacher of Chemistry, returns in April.

Senior Phase Prelims

Senior Phase Assessments were completed in December and results and feedback have now been shared with students. Attainment Review meetings with Faculty Heads take place this week and next week (so far, we have met with the FHs of Maths, Social Subjects and Science). Reports will be completed and shared with parents/carers.

The final SQA exams commence on Wednesday, 22nd April. Exam leave will therefore start on Tuesday, 21st April. (Please note: students return to school after the Spring Break on Monday, 20th April.

Prize Giving will take place on Wednesday, 3rd June 2026.

Prom has been moved to Monday, 8th June 2026 and will take place at the Radstone Hotel.

The date of S6 Graduation will be confirmed in the next few weeks. Thursday, 2nd April (last day of term) is the date currently being considered.

Course Choice

S2 to S3 course choice has been completed. A free choice has been offered, as in S3-S5 for S4-S6. Masterclasses will be used in S3 to ensure curriculum entitlements are met in all curricular areas, as already currently happens with Modern Languages.

School Trips

Our 'Chemistry Camp' was a great success, supporting students and building confidence in advance of their Prelim. Feedback has been very positive.

In October 2026, students will have the opportunity to travel to London with the Social Studies Faculty. Next June, a trip to Paris has been proposed by the Pupil Support Team.

Planning for the S3 Blackpool Trip is already underway.

A very generous donation of £7,500 has been received from the Loaningdale's Trust, to support transport.

Chaplaincy Update

Rev. George Lind, Interim Minister at Kirkmuirhill Parish Church has joined our School Chaplaincy Team. Our next Chaplaincy Assemblies take place on Tuesday, 27th January, and will focus on Holocaust Memorial Day.

Our Chaplaincy Team currently consists of:

- Rev. Morag Garrett, Minister, Coalburn and Lesmahagow Parish Church
- Rev. George Lind, Interim Minister, Kirkmuirhill Parish Church
- Mrs. Helen Duffy, Session Clerk, Coalburn and Lesmahagow Parish Church
- Mr. Bob Baillie, Speaker, Kirkmuirhill Parish Church
- Ms. Jean Lennox, Scripture Union Leader
- Mrs. Tracy Baillie, School Support Assistant
- Mrs. Linda Wright, Pupil Support Teacher
- Ms. Shannon Kilday, Teacher of Music
- Mr Tom Anderson, Teacher of Inclusion
- Miss Barbara Lee, Head Teacher

This term, we will offer a Reflection Activity to students, organised by Rev. Garrett. Our Easter Assemblies take place in the last week of term.