

# Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 7pm

Attendees:

Wendy Russell (chair), Hazel Leggate, Elspeth Martin (minutes), Tia Gallacher, Dave Legg, Moira Fell, Richard McGowan, Alastair Gray

Apologies:

Ruth McArthur, Sarah Smith, Linsey Crooks, Theresa McCallum, Karen Bell, Nathan Purton

1. **Minutes of PC meeting** of 20/02/18 were approved with one amendment. Revised minutes for 20/02/18 will be issued with these minutes.

**Action 1.1 RM:** add Parent Council meeting minutes to school web site during Easter break and note there that the Parent Council can be contacted via school office email address with 'FAO Parent Council' in the subject line.

## 2. Merit System

Mr Parry is continuing to progress feedback from PC with staff working group and will advise next steps in due course. RM advised he would like to see attendance as part of the merit system.

## 3. PEF Funding

RM advised that LHS and South Lanarkshire were part of the new 'West Partnership' with a number of other local authority areas in West of Scotland. The purpose of this is to share best practice across a number of areas including curriculum and PEF Funding.

The Literacy PEF group has shown good improvements.

**Action 3.1 RM:** share Literacy PEF group presentation at next PC meeting.

Other PEF groups will be reviewed after the Easter break and decision taken at the end of summer term as to whether groups will continue or not.

**Action 3.2 All:** RM asked group to consider what could be done for PEF group to improve Health & Wellbeing and share ideas at next PC meeting. Note that advice is that the funds should be kept close to the wellbeing of the children.

## 4. The App

AG advised that the new LHS app is now available to download and will have content loaded during the Easter break and will launch on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Parents will be notified by letter including a flyer (scan of which attached at end of minutes) and there will be a banner on the school fence.

Content will include school calendar, school news, letters, links to Twitter feed and ParentPay.

Benefits will be better communication to all family members including grandparents and children can also download app. Where families are estranged the app will allow both parties to receive school info. The app will also allow filtering by year group.

A Parent Council Button can be added in the future as required.

AG stressed that contents would only be pushed out during business hours, not at unsociable hours. The introduction of the app will allow the number of text messages sent to be greatly reduced, thus reducing costs. Text messages will continue to be used for absences and emergencies such as school closure in adverse weather.

**Action 4.1 AG:** bring back to PC feedback on app after summer break.

## **5. Tesco Funding**

PC agreed that we should apply for Tesco funding to support Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) programme in school which could also be classed as Life Skills / Outdoor Learning.

**Action 5.1 SS:** Progress application for Tesco funding.

RM asked the group if anyone had contacts that could support the DoE outdoor hikes. HL suggested Andrew Sharky from Lanark Scouts or to contact Healthy Valleys, who do walking groups locally.

RM advised he was keen to enhance and recognise wider achievement within the school. WR suggested this be an agenda item at next PC meeting.

## **6. Standardisation of PE kit**

RM advised the pupil feedback had been that the T-shirt was not fitted enough and that he now had reservations about launching a standardised PE kit for Aug as it would be difficult to get a T-shirt to suit everyone.

Parents at the meeting, for the most part, felt that school should just choose the T-shirt and advise that it is the new PE kit and it is expected that all kids will wear it.

**Action 6.1 RM:** Find out if a skinny version of the T-shirt is available from the approved supplier.

RM updated the meeting that further to discussion with the PE Staff, rugby headgear will be neither encouraged nor discouraged by PE staff but will be left to individual pupils and parents to decide whether it is appropriate.

## **7. PC Meeting Tea & Coffee**

No one felt strongly enough about this to volunteer to provide it.