

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Monday 3 September 2018, 7pm

Attendees: Hazel Leggate, Marie Cox, Lorna Laird, Theresa McCallum, Karen Bell, Sarah Smith, Wendy Russell, Elspeth Martin, Richard McGowan, Graham Parry.

Apologies: Ruth McArthur, David Legg, Tia Gallacher, Moira Fell, Linsey Crooks

RM welcomed everyone to the Parent Council AGM and everyone introduced themselves.

1. Election of office bearers

Chair: Wendy Russell, nominated by Elspeth Martin, seconded by Hazel Leggate

Vice Chair: Ruth McArthur, nominated by Wendy Russell, seconded by Theresa McCallum

Secretaries: Elspeth Martin, nominated by Hazel Leggate, seconded Wendy Russell

Lorna Laird, nominated by Elspeth Martin, seconded by Theresa McCallum

It was agreed for now that we would proceed without a treasurer and retain a ring-fenced fund within the school fund. A treasurer's account can be set up in the future if required and a treasurer elected.

Post Note from RM - Our school fund guidelines stipulate that Parent Council money can't be lodged within a school fund. Therefore, the Parent Council need a separate bank account and will need to elect a treasurer. In addition, this is likely to be the reason for the TESCO application being declined as it had the School Fund bank account named on the application rather than a Parent Council bank account. WR confirmed that we will put the Treasurer position on the next PC meeting agenda.

RM asked if any of the group had a copy of the constitution. HL to check if she has a copy at home, if not WR will ask Sandra Biggart if she still has a copy.

Post Note from WR – Sandra has a copy and WR will ensure that it is available for the next PC Meeting

2. Previous Minutes

Previous minutes from 14/5/18 were approved.

RM to add these minutes to web site.

3. Outstanding Actions from Previous Minutes

SS advised that Tesco had declined the application for funding due to another application from the school. Better coordination is need in the future. PC will consider alternative fundraising opportunities in the future. Action closed.

RM thanked the group for feedback received on school improvement priorities. Action closed.

RM advised that he had not approached SLC re their endorsement of TIE. RM advised that he will continue to implement the 'Framework for Inclusion and Equality' within the school and that he had no plans to approach TIE to come into the school. Action closed.

4. Promoting Positive Behaviour System

GP took PC through the responses to the Merit system survey from pupils, parents and staff.

As a result of the feedback improvements are taking place to i) improve the consistency in how merits / demerits are awarded, ii) ensure all pupils feel able to earn a place on merit reward events, iii) improve communication about the merit / demerit system.

GP asked parents present to share with other parents where possible that one demerit is not something to be overly worried about and parents shouldn't panic if a child is given a demerit.

PC felt it was important that parents know on the day of the demerit why it was given rather than waiting until the totals come out. Various options were discussed for issuing children with a card or similar. GP & RM to consider if this would be workable for teachers.

WR asked that it would be good to have an update on the merit system in the spring to see how well the improvements have been implemented.

GP advised merit system costs £2k and is funded by Loaning Dale Trust.

HL advised Border Biscuits are great supporters of Lanark HS. HL to approach them to see if they would also consider donating to Lesmahagow High School, possibly for the DoE equipment.

GP advised the Merit Reward Event schedule would be issued with the school newsletter. **Pupil Equity Fund (PEF)**

GP advised that the PEF work last year had been a success and that LHS had been able to evidence tangible improvements.

There is a slight change to staffing of the PEF groups this year as follows:

Kirsty Blackwood (Music)	Health, Wellbeing & Engagement
Gemma Smith (RE)	Literacy
Nicola Rae (Maths)	Numeracy

GP advised that next week LYRA were taking a workshop with the girls in the PEF group around women who inspire them. They girls will write a letter to these women and LYRA ensure these women see the letters and very often the girls get responses.

RM advised the PEF funding had fallen slightly this year due to less young people falling into the free school meals cohort.

GP stressed that while the PEF funding had to be targeted at PEF young people, many if the resources were opened up to the wider school.

5. School Uniform

RM thanked PC for support with school uniform policy and advised there was now almost 100% participation.

6. Christmas Fayre

BL has set the date as Saturday 24th November to ensure this doesn't clash with the other local fayres. BL looking for support from PC.

WR asked if BL would attend the next PC meeting to give more information and for parents to check diaries and come willing to volunteer.

7. Partnerships – Parental Engagement Project

RM issued a Partnerships handout which he asked parents to read and digest. He asked parents to RAG score the features and challenge questions as follows (pick 3 or 4 if short of time):

Red: not currently doing this

Amber: doing this currently but could make improvements

Green: doing this well

RM keen for parents to be involved in partnership with the school to make improvements. RM issued the Improvement Planning Cycle grid and noted that he was inviting parents to be part of the School Improvement Group (SIG). He also issued the School Improvement Priorities and urged parents to consider getting involved in one of the five improvement areas. This RAG scoring exercise will allow the Parent Council to create a potential to-do list of things they can lead or support.

8. AOB

SQA results. Overall RM was pleased with results but will share more detail at next PC meeting.

Staffing. Two parents raised individual concerns that RM will deal with privately

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RM advised that he had 9 new members of staff covering French, Drama, Modern Studies & English as well as area cover staff.

Prelims. These will now be in December. Full timetable will be published on website.

RM advised Higher courses were changing and the school was still receiving details of changes.

These changes will be communicated with pupils as soon as possible.

Outstanding Actions

1. RM to share literacy PEF group presentation (c/fwd)
2. HL / WR to get copy of PC constitution to RM
3. RM to add minutes from 14/5/18 to school web site
4. HL to approach Border Biscuits re funding
5. Parents to RAG score features and challenge questions in Partnerships handout for 9/10/19
6. Parents to consider getting involved in School Improvement Group and School Improvement Priorities and give feedback on 9/10/19

Next Parent Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 9th October 2018, 7pm

Agenda items to include:

1. Christmas Fayre **BL**
2. SQA Results & comparisons **RM**
3. Partnerships, SIP & SIP **RM & parental feedback**

Future Meeting Agenda items:

1. Update on Success of school app **AG** (tbc)
2. Update on merit system improvements **GP** (Spring 2019)

Remaining PC meetings this session:

Tuesday 9/10/18

Wednesday 14/11/18

Monday 14/1/19

Tuesday 19/2/19

Wednesday 27/3/19

Monday 13/5/19

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