

# Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 9 October 2018, 7pm

**Attendees:** Hazel Leggate (Chair), Elspeth Martin (minutes), Tia Gallacher, Donna Kelly, Karen Hynd, Theresa McCallum, Alan Crooks, Barbara Lee, Richard McGowan.

**Apologies:** Wendy Russell, Ruth McArthur, David Legg, Moira Fell, Linsey Crooks, Karen Bell, Sarah Smith, Maria Cox.

HL welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting and advised she was standing in as Chair for the meeting as neither the Chair, Wendy Russell, nor the Vice Chair, Ruth McArthur were available.

HL especially welcomed new members Karen Hynd and Donna Kelly.

EM proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting of 3/9/18 be accepted, TM seconded.

## 1. Head Teacher Update

RM handed out his update, attached.

RM asked parents to consider the School Improvement Groups and let him know if anyone was interested in joining one to help the school with their Improvement Plan.

RM drew attention to the new model for parental reporting and asked for feedback and also encouraged those present to seek the views of other parents and feedback.

## 2. TIE Campaign Update (Time for Inclusive Education)

RM advised the LGBT group in the school were keen to invite the TIE Campaign to take assemblies.

RM advised SLC were supportive of this.

RM intimated his intention to book the TIE group for assemblies over the next 3-4 months.

RM advised this would link to LGBT mental health and anti-bullying.

The parent council unanimously objected to this for the following reasons:

- The school already uses the 'framework for inclusion and equality' which focuses on inclusion for all groups not just one specific group
- Putting the focus on this one group over and above other groups creates exclusion rather than inclusion within the school
- While the right of withdrawal is available this is not a good outcome and further divides the school community and could lead to further bullying.
- The parent council encouraged RM again to employ one single anti-bullying strategy in the school rather than one specifically tailored for the LGBT community.

RM agreed he would not book any TIE assemblies for now (and certainly not before the next PC meeting on 14 Nov) and would take PC concerns back to SLC.

RM advised the school did not keep records on bullying and that there were no school statistics that he could share on this.

**(Post meeting note for clarification** – All instances of bullying regarding young people are recorded and investigated in line with the “Treat Me Well” anti-bullying guidance

There was some further discussion about proposed LGBT curriculum material, which is not yet approved, being compulsory and parents not being informed of the content.

**(Post meeting note** - Pupil Support are preparing a simple guide for parents about what is included in the current PSE curriculum – this will be made available on the school website in due course)

### **3. Parent Council Constitution**

The existing constitution was distributed as well as a template constitution from SLC. PC members were asked to read both and feed comments back to WR by 1st November with a view to consolidating and approving a revised constitution at the next meeting.

### **4. Appointment of Treasurer**

KH was elected as Treasurer, proposed by HL and seconded by TM.

KH will look to open a bank account for PC before next meeting on 14 November.

### **5. School Improvement Groups**

These were covered in RM's update, 1 above.

### **6. New Members for Parent Council / Flyers**

All agreed that we should try to encourage more parents to come along to PC.

TG had prepared three flyers to promote the PC, these were circulated and members voted for their favourite. RM will produce these at A5 size for distribution at senior parent's night on 30 October / 7 November and S1-S3 parent's nights after Christmas.

HL thanked TG for her time and effort to create these flyers.

Any parents who can distribute flyers at senior parent's night please see WR

PC agreed that it would be good to get representation at PC of parents from Woodpark and Coalburn. It was suggested that some future PC meetings could be held in Coalburn to try to get some parents along from Coalburn.

It was also suggested that the agenda for the next meeting should be posted on web site ahead of the meeting as some parents may decide to come if they knew the topics being discussed. WR / RM to agree agenda by 4 Nov.

## 7. Christmas Fayre Volunteering

BL advised that the school is booked for Saturday 24 November

BL asked PC if they would prefer to front the Christmas Fayre. PC agreed that BL did a great job last year and were happy for the school to organise, but PC would fully support.

Suggested and agreed that PC volunteers would book slots to help with door duty and tea duty as well as set up and clear up, see table below, to be populated at PC meeting on 14 Nov. This will allow PC members to volunteer for a set time and not have to be there for the whole day. It was also suggested that PC have a table where parents can find out about PC.

	Set up	Door	Teas	PC Table	clear up
9am - 10am					
10am - 11am		Tia & Dave			
11am - 12noon			Tia & Dave		
12noon - 1pm		Elspeth			
1pm - 2pm			Elspeth		
2pm - 3pm					Elspeth &

Tables are available for £10 for selling crafts etc., spread the word.

HL asked if home baking was able to be sold. BL advised that what the school was providing should be shop bought.

## 8. Duke of Edinburgh Funding

The PC agreed that DoE should be focus for initial fundraising.

There are various wind farms which have funds available and WR is investigating this.

The DoE group have recently completed their expedition and will be receiving their bronze award in February.

More funds will be required to offer the silver DoE and to repeat the bronze award for the next age group.

Links are being made with other groups to try to share responsibilities and BL has recently spoken with Wiston Lodge about LHS groups using the facilities there.

All five staff who had originally volunteered to help with DoE have all moved on so there is a constant need for volunteers. Funding would certainly allow the school to buy in walking guides and other services rather than rely on teachers or volunteers.

## 9. Other Funding Opportunities

HL has approached Borders Biscuits for funding and has been given an application form. This was passed to KH to fill out.

## 10. AOB & Close

A parent asked about the Inspiring Lesmahagow group and RM confirmed this was a group for PEF funded kids. This parent raised concerns that non-PEF kids were feeling left out and didn't understand why they could not take part.

### Actions closed at this meeting

- HL / WR to get copy of PC constitution to RM
- RM to add minutes from 14/5/18 to school web site (3/9/18 minutes also added)
- HL to approach Border Biscuits re funding

### New Actions from this meeting

1. Parents to let RM know if interested in getting involved in School Improvement Groups
2. RM to revisit TIE assemblies with SLC
3. Parents to review both constitutions and feed any comments to WR by 1 November
4. KH to open bank account
5. KH to complete application for funding from Borders Biscuits
6. Volunteers to distribute flyers at parents night get in touch with WR
7. RM / WR to agree agenda for 11 Nov by 4 Nov to allow it to be posted early on website

### Outstanding Actions from previous meetings

1. RM to share literacy PEF group presentation (c/fwd)
2. Parents to RAG score features and challenge questions in Partnerships handout. Please pass comments on this to WR by 22 October. WR to brief RM on parental feedback.

### Next Parent Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 7pm

Agenda items to include:

1. Arrangements & rota for Christmas Fayre **BL**
2. SQA Results & comparisons **RM**
3. Partnerships, SIP & SIP **RM**

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:

Wednesday 14/11/18	Monday 14/1/19	Tuesday 19/2/19
Wednesday 27/3/19	Monday 13/5/19	