

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Wed 14th Nov 2018, 7pm

Attendees: Wendy Russell (Chair), Sarah Smith (minutes), Tia Gallacher, Dave Legg, Donna Kelly, Karen Hynd, Marie Cox, Barbara Lee, Theresa McCallum, Alan Crooks,, Alistair Gray, Richard McGowan,

Apologies: Ruth McArthur, Linsey Crooks, Karen Bell, Hazel Leggate, Moira Fell, Elspeth Martin.

WR welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting

The agenda items were discussed in a slightly different order than planned as recorded below.

1. Christmas Fayre

BL confirmed layout of stalls. X10 guests with stalls at a cost of £10.00. Discussed positioning of bouncy castle, Santa's grotto and confirmed there was tea/coffee/biscuits. WR confirmed volunteers from the PC for the event.

Actions

- **BL** to send WR posters electronically to be put on social media. Posters will be displayed in local shop windows.
- **WR** to mail out rota to PC members so all aware of their role on the day.

2. Duke of Edinburgh

Estimated cost @£200 per pupil for expedition. £21.00 for registration fee. When pupil numbers are confirmed, a better understanding of funding required will be known.

Actions

- **BL** to confirm number of pupils interested in participating in the DOE scheme.
- **WR** to look at possibility of funding from wind farms.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Amendments are to be made to minutes of last meeting before they are approved and added to school web site. HT requested that we add reference to the "Treat me Well" policy in the post note. Also, Under the same section, instead of 'The head teacher is preparing a simple guide.....', it should read 'Pupil support.....'.

Actions

- **WR** to amend send to HT for putting on the website. HT will include his update at the 9th Oct Meeting as an appendix.

4. Head teacher update

HT mentioned several events that are happening/have happened, some of which are in the school newsletter. Some of these are:

- HT took school captains to leadership meeting which was a positive experience. They will discuss ideas they have gained from this experience with BL and how they can be developed.
- A positive Remembrance Service was done with the Children and MSP Aileen Campbell visited the school to discuss Parliament as part of that assembly.
- Prelims start 3rd December and this is hoped to have a positive effect on children preparing after Christmas for their full exams in April May
- 19th December is the Christmas Concert and all will be welcome

Forthcoming school events will be highlighted on the school website and app.

5. TIE Campaign update

The Chair reminded the PC that Scottish Government had approved on 8th Nov that the recommendations of the LGTBI working group had been approved and that this would now move forward to implementation. PC members asked if the right to withdrawal would be taken away. HT confirmed that no guidance has been issued from Scottish Government on this and it may be some time before that is available.

There was another long discussion about the proposed assemblies by the TIE Campaign in the school.

As per the two previous meetings, the parent council again unanimously objected to this for the following reasons:

- The school already has specific guidance in place for PSE classes
- There has been no presentation of figures on bullying or information on disrespect against the LGBT children to suggest that an additional assembly for all children is needed. The Parent Council confirmed that they absolutely were in support of anti-bullying but the approach taken needs to be proportionate and balanced and should be an anti-bullying approach for all issues faced, not tailored for one specific group.

The HT confirmed that he was going to book the TIE Campaign assemblies for some time after Christmas. HT confirmed that he was doing this at the request of the LGBT Group within the school and that these assemblies would not impact on senior year subjects – but time would be taken from subjects such as PSE, RE etc. The PC asked if the HT would view the material for the assemblies beforehand to ensure it was appropriate. HT confirmed that he wouldn't review the material - other colleagues in other schools where TIE had done the assemblies had confirmed they were happy with what was presented, and he was happy with that recommendation.

The HT confirmed that Parents and children can opt out of attendance of these assemblies, noting that if parents and their children disagree about the choice – they would need to resolve that within their family situation.

The PC asked if some members could attend the assemblies once booked to hear the information being given. The HT confirmed that a small number of parents could attend. It was agreed we would confirm at the next PC meeting who would attend as representatives of the PC.

The PC asked how the HT will be able to demonstrate an improvement in issues that have been highlighted as a result of these additional assemblies since we do not have a baseline. HT confirmed that it will be a slow process as this is about culture change as well as action against bullying.

Actions

HT to notify PC of assembly dates.

WR to confirm at the next meeting who from PC will attend as representatives.

6. Bank account

KH confirmed that a bank account had been opened so funds raised at events such as the Christmas Fayre can be deposited. There are three signatories. Karen Hynd, Wendy Russell and Sarah Smith.

7. Proposed fund-raising opportunities

KH applied for funding from Borders biscuits. Awaiting response. Applied for up to £4k.

WR will work with KH on the Windfarm funding application.

Suggested spending of future funds – music equipment, football strips, PE tops in 'House' colours.

8. Parent constitution

Actions

- **WR** to update section 7.1. Once updated, send to HT.
- **HT** to send to Local Authority and upload to website.

9. Points for discussion at next meeting.

Due to time constraints, points for discussion at next meeting.

- HT to update group on SQA results.
- Group to consider how to attract more parents to attend parent's night and feedback at next meeting.
- Partnership working
- Improvement Groups

Actions

- HT to resend out Improvement Groups and Partnership working information for PC members to consider before the next meeting

Outstanding Actions from previous meetings

1. RM to share literacy PEF group presentation (c/fwd.)

Remaining PC meetings this session:

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