

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 24th March 2021, 7pm

Attendees: Wendy Russell (Chair), Colin Bates, Jennifer Cairney, Marie Cox, Lynne Forbes, Barbara Lee, Councillor Mark Horsham, Karen Hynd, Barbara Lee (Acting Head Teacher), Hazel Leggate, Elspeth Martin, Angela Norris, Lorna Laird (minutes), Vicki O'Rourke, Louise Spiers, Michelle Wailes, Pamela Doherty, Lynne Throw

Apologies: Gillian Brown, Heather Sinclair, Sandra Gardiner, Moira Fell

1. Welcome

WR welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting.

2. Approval of minutes

Approval by KH and seconded by KH by MC.

3. Treasurer Update

KH advised that the current balance in bank was £436.61.

5. Fundraising Plans

WR had contacted the Loaningdale Trust and will be open to apply for next school year. The feedback was that Community Council Grant applications have now closed.

When reviewing bids, following actions were agreed;

- Cake Craft Bid – WR to approach Cake Stuff for Home Economics donation
- GoFund Me Page – **Action** KH to set up positioning fund raising causes to attract support
- Explore Drama wood boxes fabrication options with Community Payback team – MH to provide contact and EM to **action**
- Approved funds to progress Art, Science & Drama bids, total £225 – KH to transfer money to the school

Action – WR to Revisit in May Meeting once we know how much more money we have raised.

6. Return to School

BL thanked all parents for their support as the school welcomed back the pupils. It was advised that the plan was to increase numbers to full numbers after the spring break.

The feedback to date has been generally positive. Parents finding communications helpful, good amount of staff contact and pupils feeling safe online. There has been a wide range of resources used and a range of tasks allocated to meet the needs of pupils and learning. At this time of blended learning, pre-recorded lessons are being used and providing a consistent approach. Of note; feedback comparison was favourable to other areas. It is advised that school uniform is also required (where possible) for both phased and full-time return. The issue of poor WIFI connectivity was also raised, BL asked for any feedback to be raised directly so the school could review.

Action - RM will create a brief survey for staff and pupils to gain a wider picture of our school connectivity. PD to share once received.

BL advised that SQA have provided assessments for National 5 and would provide assessments for Higher/Advanced Higher. SQA had provided clear guidance on assessments and they will take place in the classroom late April/early May.

Masks - BL confirmed that Senior Management were at the front door in the morning issuing face masks to pupils who arrived without a mask. 80 – 100 face masks were being issued every day which highlighted concerns regarding the environmental issue. The school have ordered packs of 5 cloth masks which can be given to pupils which would allow a fresh mask for each day of the week and they can then be washed and re-used. (Update – 600 reusable masks have been delivered and issued to pupils. Further reusable masks are on order.)

7. Vaccination Update (Non-Covid)

BL confirmed that the school immunisation team have confirmed timetable for S1- S3 HPV Vaccinations. Letters and consent forms will be distributed after Spring Break. All S1 & S2 pupils, as well as those in S3-S6 who previously missed their immunisation will receive it on the 10th May.

8. School Uniform

LT advised that this query has been addressed in Return to School update.

9. Transport Guidance (P7/S1)

LT asked if there could be more built into induction and transition stage for young people utilising transport.

Action – BL to build into transition programme

10. Head Teacher Update

BL provided a staffing update: -

- Mrs Lindsay Gibson, Teacher of Chemistry, leaves the school at the end of term.
- Miss Nicola Forbes is teaching additional Science classes in the summer term.
- Miss Stephanie Kelly, Teacher of Drama, joined us after the February break, following the departure of Miss Heather Gardner.

Lateral Flow testing is in place with 120 seniors taking part and S1-S3 consent forms have been distributed. All young people have had supported guidance and access to video to promote and help with process.

School Improvement Plan is under review with Health & Wellbeing, Continuity of Learning and Planning for Equity being key areas. Currently AG & BL are reviewing assessment arrangements in support of the SQA Alternative Certification Model.

BL advised that DR has been leading improvements on the Lesmahagow School Web Page, with a new health and wellbeing section having been added to share key resources and links.

PD advised of the Mental Health project, 'The Blues' which is a S3 early intervention. It is a voluntary programme where young people are screened to detect signs of depression/anxiety and supported appropriately.

Action – Detailed information to be shared – PD

The two-week timetable continues until end of term, this has been critical in reducing the number of classes. To date, this arrangement is going well.

Community Garden is progressing well, and SR provides regular updates.

The Easter service will be shared which was pre-recorded by the Rev Andrew Rooney.

PD advised that the Inclusion support area is at its final stage of completion. She advised that it includes a well thought out pleasant space where young people can take time out and reflect as well as bright, welcoming classrooms for learning and teaching.

Action – PC to view when restrictions lift at appropriate time.

11. AOB

No further items raised.

Next PC meeting

Monday 10 May 2021