

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council Meeting

Monday 23 August 2021, 7 pm, Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Vicki O'Rourke (Chair), Colin Bates, Jennifer Cairney, Marie Cox, Alan Crooks, Sandra Gardiner, Alistair Gray, Councillor Mark Horsham, Karen Hynd, Donna Kelly (Minutes), Barbara Lee (Acting Head Teacher), Hazel Leggate, Elspeth Martin, Angela Norris, Jill Pate, Michelle Wailes

Apologies: Moira Fell, Lorna Laird, Lynne Throw

1.	Welcome V O'R welcomed everyone to the first Parent Council meeting of session 2021-22.
2.	Minutes of previous meeting Minutes of meeting held on 10 May 2021 approved by SG and seconded by DK.
3.	Election of Office Bearers Chair: Vicki O'Rourke - nominated by KH and seconded by EM. Vice Chair: Michelle Wailes - nominated by EM and seconded by VO'R Secretary: Donna Kelly – nominated by VO'R and seconded by KH Treasurer: Karen Hynd – nominated by VO'R and seconded by MW
4.	Adoption of Parent Council Constitution Most up-to-date version of Parent Council Constitution (September 2019) circulated to members by VO'R. Adoption of Constitution postponed until next meeting to give members time to peruse and to give new members time to join.
5.	Current Funds Update Copy of Accounts for Year Ended 30 June 2021 circulated to members KH updated members on current status of bank account.
6.	Fundraising Plans VO'R suggested that members give this some thought and bring any ideas to the next meeting.
7.	Prizegiving Update BL advised that Mrs Wright is currently organising online prizegiving events for last year's prizewinners, in the form of awards for each year group, where pupils will be filmed collecting their certificate/award on stage, this will then be shared on Twitter for parents to view. It is hoped to hold these events in mid-September. Prizewinners will receive a letter inviting them to attend their particular event, including previous S6 pupils who will be invited back to collect their awards. BL will update Parent Council on exact details once she has these from Mrs Wright. All agree that it is important that pupils' achievements are recognised, in whatever format is appropriate under current restrictions.
8.1	Acting Head Teacher Update BL expressed thanks to the Parent Council on behalf of LHS for their support and fundraising efforts throughout the past year. BL passed on the particular thanks of those departments who have benefitted from the financial support of the PC, enabling them to purchase resources in support of learning and teaching. S1 pupils have made a positive start and have settled in well following their induction days. S4 – all S4 pupils have completed "The Blues" survey and any pupils identified as meeting the criteria will be invited to participate in the programme.

	Covid – LHS is continuing to following Scottish Government guidelines and local authority advice.
8.2	Staffing Update <i>Refer to Appendix 1 for full details.</i>
8.3	SQA Provisional results were submitted to SQA in June and all pupils received confirmation of their results on 10 th August. Attainment has continued to increase in almost all key areas. Analysis of results with our virtual comparator will be available late September. <i>Refer to Appendix 2 for full details/figures.</i>
8.4	Standards & Quality Report/School Improvement Plan Feedback would be welcome over the next few weeks on Standards & Quality Report and School Improvement Plan. The key themes for Recovery Planning are: Curriculum – rationale, design, development, learner pathways, skills for learning, life and work. Learning & Teaching and Raising Attainment – engagement, challenge and support, pupil voice, best practice, moderation, assessment, tracking and monitoring, literacy and numeracy, CLPL. Wellbeing – whole school, attachment, CLPL, external agencies, wellbeing needs of staff and learners, Child Protection awareness, recovery needs, children’s rights, celebrating diversity.
8.5	Pupil Equity Funding <i>Refer to Appendix 3 for full details/figures.</i>
8.6	Core Curriculum Funding Music tuition and core curriculum fees will be funded across all eight areas of the curriculum.
9.	Covid After-Effects CB asked BL if Covid has affected progress of pupils, and that of S1-S3 pupils in particular. BL advised that testing and monitoring is going on within the next six weeks in order to target support where required; those pupils identified will be offered additional support, particularly in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing.
10.	Extra-Curricular Activities SG asked about the re-introduction of extra-curricular activities – BL advised that it is hoped to have some re-introduced within the next six weeks, eg, Supported Study, Drama, Music and PE.
11.	Head Teacher Recruitment The post of Head Teacher will be advertised in August; Parent Council will be invited to participate in recruitment process.
12.	Head Teacher Collaboration MW asked if Head Teachers in South Lanarkshire hold co-ordinated meetings to discuss how schools are handling Covid situation. BL advised that next meeting of Clyde Head Teachers takes place on 24 August, BL will provide an update following this meeting.
13.	Format of Future Meetings The group discussed what format members prefer for future meetings – most prefer either face-to-face or blended format. MW asked whether LHS is now able to host face-to-face meetings within current Covid guidelines; BL has put in a request for meeting within school building, but stated that such a request has to be classed as essential for face-to-face meeting to be permitted within school premises. It was suggested that projector and laptop could be set up for some members to join meeting virtually, and that a good venue for this format would be the Library. All agreed that this would be the best way forward.

14.	<p>S1 Parent Participation in Parent Council Although only one S1 parent attended tonight's meeting (JP), there are others who would be interested in attending. It was suggested that an invitation could be extended to S1 parents on Facebook, possibly when the S1 photo is uploaded online?</p>
15.	<p>Young Scot Cards/Photographs Discussion took place about the issuing of Young Scot Cards and the taking of photographs: S1 – BL advised that some S1 pupils were still awaiting their Young Scot cards. S4 – any S4 pupils who need their photo updated for their Young Scot Card should be able to do so, as has happened in previous years. BL advised that school photos are normally taken in S1, S3 and S6, but that this pattern will have been disrupted by Covid. Discussion took place as to whether this could be carried out by a member of Support Services staff or an outside photographer. BL to check if S3 photos are to be taken and can be used for S4 Young Scot Cards; or if photos/cards can be renewed online?</p>
16.	<p>Payback Scheme AN asked about drama wood boxes – EM advised that she had closed off the application as we had sourced these from elsewhere.</p>
17.	<p>Thanks Members passed on their thanks to Angela Norris and Lorna Laird for their efforts as joint secretaries to the Parent Council for the past two years.</p>
18.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings Tuesday 5th October 2021 Wednesday 10th November 2021 Monday 17th January 2022 Tuesday 22nd February 2022 Wednesday 23rd March 2022 Monday 9th May 2022</p>

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Monday 23 August 2021 – Appendix 1

Acting Head Teacher Update – Staffing Update

Mr. Kenny Campbell (Teacher of Technical), Mr. Alistair Carter (Teacher of Geography), Mrs. Kimberley McCabe (Teacher of History) and Ms. Jennifer Mason (Teacher of Modern Languages) have successfully completed their NQT year in June 2021 and have all secured permanent posts within the local authority.

Mrs. Morag Storry (PT Support for Learning 0.4FTE) is now on maternity leave.

Mrs. Aileen Mullen (Principal Teacher of Maths and Numeracy), Mrs. Rebecca Anderson (Teacher of Inclusion and Teacher of English), Ms. Laura Stewart (Teacher of Modern Languages) and Ms. Lauren Millar (Teacher of Art and Design) have joined us from other South Lanarkshire schools. Mr. Kevin Kearney (Teacher of Business Studies) has joined us on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Mrs. Anderson will support our S1 and S2 pupils in the Inclusion Support Team alongside Mr Rivans and Mrs Docherty. A new School Support Assistant, Mrs. Amber Schnider will join our Inclusion Support Team after employment checks are completed. Mrs. Wendy Postma, School Support Assistant, will support pupils until Mrs. Schnider joins us.

Three Newly Qualified Teachers have joined our team:

Mrs. Bronya Watters (Teacher of Modern Languages), Mr. Callum Kirkpatrick (Physics and Science) and Ms. Ashley Montague (Teacher of History and Modern Studies).

Our new colleagues in Modern Languages allow us to offer Spanish within the curriculum, in response to pupil requests, starting in S2 this session.

Mr. Gordon Whitelaw (Teacher of English) is currently with us on Mondays and Thursdays. Mr. John Hamilton and Mr. Paul McGuigan have also joined us again this year to help with cover.

Mrs. Linda Wright (Acting DHT), Mr. Andy Hill (Acting PT Pupil Support), Mrs. Gemma Smith (Acting PT Equity and Inclusion) and Miss Iasha Iqbal (Acting PT Developing the Young Workforce) continue in their acting appointments.

Mrs. Theresa McCallum and Mrs. Pauline Maxwell continue their important role in distributing lateral flow tests each morning and throughout the day in the medical room or in the Street area at intervals and lunchtimes.

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Monday 23 August 2021 – Appendix 2

Acting Head Teacher Update – SQA

For S4, at National 5, 53.19% of students achieved five or more National 5s, an increase of 8% from 2020, and an increase of 21.56% from 2019. 78.72% of S4 pupils achieved at least three N5s, an increase of 13.34% from 2020 and an increase of 27.07% from 2019. 90.43% of students achieved at least one National 5, an increase of 7.74% from 2020, and an increase of 10.84% from 2019. 98.94% of students achieved at least five qualifications at National 3, which was also an increase of 12.15% from 2020, and an increase of 20.37% from 2019.

From S5, at Higher, 15.09% of pupils achieved five Highers, an increase of 2.85% from 2020 and an increase of 5.09% from 2019. 33.02% of pupils achieved at least three Highers, which has fallen by 10.86% from 2020, but is still 6.66% above our levels of attainment in 2018 and 19. 56.60% achieved at least one Higher, which is a slight increase of 0.48% from 2020, and increase of 12.96% from 2019.

From S6, 28.57% of our pupils achieved at least one Advanced Higher qualification, which is an increase of 8.75% from 2020 and an increase of 5.96% from 2019.

Appendix 3

Acting Head Teacher Update – Pupil Equity Funding

A minimum of 5% of our Pupil Equity Funding will be decided through Participatory Budgeting. This will be a minimum of £3522.45, from our £70,449 allocation for session 2021-22 (please note: this has been increased by 15% from our original allocation of £61,260). Mr. Rae, Teacher of Modern Studies and History, will lead a group to consult regarding participatory budgeting, with plans to be in place by October 2021. All members of our school community will be invited to contribute suggestions on how best to spend these funds through the Participatory Budgeting group, with a vote being organised to decide on the final arrangements.