

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 9 May 2022

Attendees: S Gardiner, K Hynd, D Kelly, L Laird, B Lee, V O'Rourke, A Norris, A Rae, M Wailes

Apologies: C Bates, G Brown, J Cairney, M Cox, M Fell, H Leggate, E Martin, A Naismith, J Pate

1.	Minutes of previous meeting Minutes of meeting held on 9 May 2022 approved by M Wailes and seconded by K Hynd.
2.	Participatory Budgeting A Rae gave a brief update – funds are available, most has been spent, some going to mental health awareness training for younger pupils and for construction of benches for pupils to gather socially outdoors.
3.	Guardian Email Guardian Email is a new tool for communicating homework to pupils linked to Google Classroom. This is more consistent as all on one system, and an improvement on the current Show My Homework tool. Pupils get their notifications on GC on their phones, parents will get a weekly email but can also check their child's/children's homework online. It was suggested that improvements could be made to provide greater consistency in the use of Google Classroom, B Lee advised that this was a current focus. M Wailes suggested that the school get feedback from parents and carers following the roll out of Guardian Email, which the school will be delighted to arrange. School will also produce a Good Practice Guide for staff and parents, this should be available for the next Parent Council meeting, so that PC and parents can bring their feedback to a future PC meeting.
4.	Homework Policy Updated Homework Policy is still in progress, it is hoped that this will be brought to the Parent Council for feedback when ready.
5.	Head Teacher Report – attached as Appendix 1.
6.	Parent Council Constitution Printed copies distributed at the meeting for PC members to read through and bring their feedback to the first meeting of the next session in September 2022.
7.	Fundraising It was suggested that Parent Council could be involved in some of the school's future events for fundraising opportunities. A Gray to share copy of 2022-23 calendar with Vicki, so that this can be circulated to PC for comment and thoughts on future fundraising ideas.
8.	Format of Future Parent Council Meetings Discussion took place on the possibility of holding hybrid Parent Council meetings in future, so that some parents can attend in person in school and some can join in online if that suits them better. ICT equipment is currently being updated which would make this easier and a possibility for the future.
9.	Notification of Parent Council Meetings It was suggested that dates of future Parent Council meetings be shared online across the various social media platforms, eg, Twitter, School App, Facebook etc, particularly to encourage new S1 parents to join. The school will try to duplicate information across all the various social media platforms, as well as the school App.

<p>10.</p>	<p>School uniform policy Discussion took place around school uniform policy, particularly the wearing of blazers and length of some skirts worn by female pupils. It was suggested that the option to keep blazers in a locker at school be explored, so that pupils could wear a waterproof jacket if walking to/from school (all first years will get a locker) as blazers would be kept dry if stored in school locker. Members were reminded that there are now 2 uniform suppliers (Hamilton and Lanark).</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>SLC Councillors Mark Horsham has been re-elected. Two new councillors (Ross Lambie and Ross Gowland) have been elected. Pass dates of future meeting to Mark Horsham and ask him to pass on details to new Councillors in order that they can be invited to future PC meetings.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Promoting Positive Relationships Policy This will include anti-bullying policy and will be updated in 2022-23.</p>

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Appendix 1 – Head Teacher Report

Staffing

Congratulations to Ms. Laura Stewart who has been appointed as Teacher of Modern Languages. Mrs. Lorna Sinclair and Mr Matt McGinley, Area Cover teachers, will join other SLC schools in August. Mrs. Barbara McFarlane will join our school office team later this month, Mondays to Thursdays, 9 – 2 pm. Mrs. Morag Storry, Principal Teacher of Support for Learning on Mondays and Tuesdays, returns from maternity leave in June. The positions of Depute Head Teacher and Principal Teacher of Inclusion will be advertised by SLC following job sizing.

School Improvement

Following consultation with pupils, parents, staff and partners, the SLC priorities for school improvement for 2022-23 will be:

1. Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish.
2. Ensure inclusion, equity and equality are at the heart of what we do.
3. Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in literacy and numeracy.
4. Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work.
5. Empower learners to shape and influence actions on sustainability and climate change.

Our own improvement priorities will be confirmed by September 2022, in consultation with pupils, parents, staff and partners. This year we have focussed on key targets relating to:

Continuity of Learning – Curriculum: Rationale and Design, Development of the Curriculum, Learning Pathways and Skills for Learning Life and Work. Learning and Teaching: Learning and Engagement, Quality of Teaching, Effective Use of Assessment and Planning, Tracking and Monitoring. Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy, Attainment over time, Overall quality of learners' achievements,

Health and Wellbeing: Wellbeing (Wellbeing toolkit, Nurture, CLPL relating to a range of themes to support young people), Fulfilment of Statutory Duties, Inclusion and Equality.

Equity – Supporting Wellbeing, Attendance, Attainment, Engagement and Participation. Participatory Budgeting, Removal of Barriers to learning, Cost of the School Day Policy.

Parent Council Meetings

When planning next session's meetings, the following dates mirror the pattern from 2021-22. You are free, however, to alter these arrangements to best meet the needs of the group:

- Monday, 22nd August
- Tuesday, 5th October
- Wednesday, 9th November
- Monday, 16th January
- Tuesday, 21st February
- Wednesday, 22nd March
- Monday, 8th May

Parental Engagement

We are considering establishing a Parental Engagement Improvement Working Group to strengthen partnership working between home and school. Research (e.g. by Janet Goodall) shows the significant positive impact that effective partnership working between home and school can have on children's attainment and achievements in school. The group would look to provide a range of opportunities for families to work in partnership with the school, e.g. Parents' Nights, concerts, showcase events, community garden, coffee morning, open afternoon, information sessions, uniform events, etc.

Parents' Evening

Senior Phase Parents' Evenings took place in February using School Cloud. Feedback from parents and carers accessing Parents' Evening appointments through School Cloud has been very positive. S1 Parents who responded to our survey expressed a preference to come into school for their Parents' Meeting, therefore our S1 Parents' Meeting, which takes place on Wednesday, 25th May 2022, will be in person.

SQA Exam Diet

The SQA exam diet began on Tuesday, 26th April and extends until Wednesday, 1st June. Pupils have been issued with their personalised SQA exam timetable, a transcript showing all units and courses they are entered for and a booklet with exam information from SQA. Advice on study skills has been shared with pupils by class teachers, at assembly, in Google classrooms and can also be found at: [2022 Study Skills - YouTube](#) Thank you to Mrs Forbes for preparing the Study Skills video.

New Timetable

Planning for Session 2022-23 is underway, with David Robertson leading the development of our new timetable, which is due to commence on Monday, 6th June 2022.

S6 Graduation

The S6 Graduation Committee have met several times to discuss arrangements, which will take place on Friday, 10th June. We look forward to welcoming S6 students and their parents/carers to this event.

Prize Giving

Prize Giving will take place on 14th June, in person. Preparation is underway, led by Mrs Wright and her team.

Homework

Arrangements for sharing homework has been discussed at whole staff and extended leadership meetings, with updated guidance on the use of Guardian Email being prepared by the working group. A BGE Homework Club has also commenced to support pupils with their learning.

Community Consultation

Pupils are currently participating in the consultation exercise regarding the community's use of Lesmahagow Parish Church. A group of S3 pupils are leading the consultation within the school, with all pupils having the opportunity to share their ideas.

Summer Term Holidays

- Friday, 27th May – Local Holiday
- Thursday, 2nd June – Public Holiday
- Friday, 3rd June- Queen's Jubilee Holiday
- Summer Holidays: School closes at 12.30 pm on Friday, 24th June.