

Lesmahagow High School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 12 September 2022

Attendees: S Gardiner, D Kelly, L Laird, Ms Lee, V O'Rourke, A Norris, A Naismith, Mr Gray

Apologies: C Bates, G Brown, J Cairney, M Cox, M Fell, E Martin, J Pate, H Sinclair, M Horsham, K Hynd, M Wailles

1.	Elections Chair – AN proposed V'OR as Chair seconded by AN Treasurer – V O'R proposed KH seconded by LL Vice Chair - V O'R proposed MW seconded by SG Secretary to be carried forward to next meeting. V O'R thanks DK for her work as secretary.
2.	Adoption of Parent Council Contribution It was agreed to review at next meeting including how many PC members are required as a minimum. Reviewing all current members every year group is represented.
3.	Minutes of previous meeting Minutes of meeting held on 9 May 2022 approved by S G and seconded by AN.
4.	Treasurers Report Current balance is £1258.70. Action: B Lee to check school has received all monies
5.	Homework – Guardian Email Emails will be sent to parents to accept and feedback will be sought at next meeting.
6.	Head Teacher Report – attached as Appendix 1.
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. Action: V'OR to follow up with Tesco : Review for Raffle, teas and coffees for Christmas Concert at next meeting.
8.	Winter Uniform Discussions are ongoing on winter uniform. Navy jackets were ruled out as an option. Currently investigating warm jumpers. Of note Senior braided blazers have been well received.

9.	Austria Trip The trip was still at scoping phase, which involved seeking interest. At this point there was no permission to progress with foreign trips instead offered London trip which can be progressed at this time. The Austria trip has been paused and will be reviewed.
10.	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.
11.	AOB Nothing raised

Appendix 1

Monday, 12th September 2022

Staffing Update

In August, we were delighted to welcome a number of new staff:

Barbara McFarlane (Support Assistant, School Office); Susan Crawford and Pauline Maxwell (School Support Assistants, classroom); Shannon Kilday (Area Cover Teacher of Music), Ross Campbell (Area Cover Teacher of Maths), Dieke Smit (Area Cover Teacher of English); Kevin Kearney has joined us again from Lanark Grammar on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in Business Education; Laura Stewart officially became Teacher of Modern Languages; Rebecca Anderson officially became Principal Teacher of Inclusion; Gemma Smith became Acting Faculty Head of Humanities; Anna Fletcher and Victoria McGregor became Lead Teachers of Equity, Inclusion and Engagement; Lesley-Anne Cimmino joined us as Depute Head Teacher; Donna Queen joined us as Teacher of Technical Education; Newly Qualified Teachers joined us in English, Lauryn McMillan; in Business, Lewis McMillan; in Maths, Christopher Campbell; in RMPS, Matthew O'Shea; in Maths and Physics, William Baird.

Iain Wallace reduced his days in school to Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Sharyn Muldoon has returned to full-time. Shirley Miller increased her days in school to Tuesday to Fridays. Laura Quinn's Maternity Leave commenced.

We are also delighted that John Hamilton and Paul McGuigan are providing additional support with cover arrangements again this year. John is with us on Mondays and Tuesdays and Paul on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Two weeks ago, we appointed Mr Tom Anderson as Teacher of Inclusion. Mr Anderson is a Maths and Physics teacher and will hopefully join us after the September break.

Applications are invited for the position of Teacher of Home Economics by 20th September.

SQA attainment

Overall, our results have shown greatest improvement for our S4s at Level 5, with 55.14% of young people achieving 5 or more Level 5 qualifications. This is the first time that our S4s have completed seven qualifications in a year with final exams, our curriculum structure having changed in session 2019-20. It's therefore worth noting that our 5@5 attainment has increased from 31.63% to 55.14% over that four-year period, giving an improvement of 23.51%. Whilst attainment in 1@5 and 3@5 were better in 2021 than this year, again, our attainment is better in both measures than in 2019 and 2020 by 9% at 1@5 and by 21.88% at 3@5. These percentages are pre-appeal, and therefore may also increase further.

Attainment at Level 3 and Level 4 has undoubtedly been impacted by attendance; promoting excellent attendance will be a key priority for 2022-23.

Level 3 – S4

Courses	2019	2020	2021	2022
1+	98.98	97.17	98.94	94.39
3+	94.90	96.23	97.87	93.46
5+	78.37	86.79	88.30	85.98

Level 4 – S4

Courses	2019	2020	2021	2022
1+	96.94	95.28	97.87	93.46
3+	91.84	94.34	96.81	91.59
5+	73.47	82.68	87.23	83.18

Level 5 – S4

Courses	2019	2020	2021	2022
1+	79.59	82.08	90.43	88.79
3+	51.02	69.81	78.72	72.90
5+	31.63	50.94	53.19	55.14

At Higher level, there was slippage from attainment in 2020 and 2021. However, attainment was better than in 2019 in all key measures. 57.45% of the initial cohort of 94 students achieved at least one qualification at Level 6. This was an increase of 14.72% from 2019. 34.04% achieved three or more qualifications at Level 6, an increase of 14.72% from 2019. Finally, 13.83% of the initial S4 year group achieved five Highers, which is an increase of 3.83% from 2019. A further seven achieved 4 Highers.

Level 6 – S5

Courses	2019	2020	2021	2022
1+	42.73	59.18	64.15	57.45
3+	26.36	42.86	53.77	34.04
5+	10.00	11.22	19.81	13.83

Our S6 attainment (and total number of S6 presentations) was lower. 14.15% of students (15 from the initial year group of 106 students) achieved at least one Advanced Higher pass. Five students (4.72%) achieved two AHs and one student achieved three Advanced Highers. Despite being in S6, this was the first SQA exam diet that these young people had completed.

Level 7

Courses	2019	2020	2021	2022
1+	22.61	20.00	27.55	14.15
2+	7.83	9.99	9.18	4.72
3+	2.61	4.55	4.08	0.94

Overall, our self-evaluation shows that we should be aiming to bank evidence where possible to provide a safety net for students at Level 3 or 4. We also need to consider Skills for Work and National Progression Awards for students where appropriate as well as supporting pupils exam preparation and exam technique.

Vision and values

Each year at the start of the session, it is important that we revisit our Vision and Values and agree if they are still appropriate or if it is time to review and refresh these.

Our Vision – aspire to be our best and our Values – respect, honesty, ambition, resilience and equity – Do you feel that these should be refreshed?

School Improvement

As you will be aware, the themes for our Improvement plan this year are:

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 key priorities are on our School Improvement Summary. Are there areas you would like us to focus on? All suggestions will be carefully considered.

Equity and Cost of the School Day

Our Equity team are currently promoting and supporting school uniform, access to free school meals, attendance at school and interventions to support pupils' learning and engagement.

All curricular costs (e.g. Home Economics, Technical, Art, SQA Drama costs) have been funded centrally for the second session, which removes costs from all families. In addition, all S1 pupils have been provided with a pencil case and stationery, scientific calculator, a locker and padlock and a T-shirt for PE.

Participatory Budgeting – Mr Rae will lead our Participatory Budgeting project again this session. He is keen to hear of any additional suggestions for the group to focus on this session. Last year, funds were spent to secure Mental Health First Aid Training, to purchase wood for outdoor benches, to provide pupil wellbeing boxes in each department and to provide lockers for all pupils. With our water fountains now installed, providing water bottles will be a focus for this year. Bike shelters are being provided through Cycle Friendly Scotland.

Pupil Leadership Team

Our Pupil Leadership Team were appointed today. We are delighted to inform you that our School Captains are: Elise Ward and Aneesa Mohammed;

Our School Vice Captains are: Kaylee Payton and Fraser McCourt;

Our Health and Wellbeing Captains are: Findlay Hynd and Farhaan Siddique;

Our Inclusion and Equity Captain is: Kian O'Rourke.

House Captains and Prefects will be confirmed next.

Our Senior Pupil Leaders will then appoint our Junior Pupil Leadership Team.

School Trips

Whilst we await updated guidance from South Lanarkshire Council regarding foreign school trips, we are delighted that Mr Mallaghan has offered to lead a trip to London in 2023, depending on pupil interest.

Mr Ross has offered an opportunity to view Champions League football on Wednesday evening, and since this trip was oversubscribed, it was possible to arrange for those who didn't receive a ticket to attend an alternative Premier League event on Saturday, 18th September.

A curricular trip for Drama has been arranged as part of their SQA coursework.

Homework

Faculty PTs have confirmed that Homework is being issued through Google classroom, or on paper, whilst ICT issues were resolved (this affected S1 pupils and new colleagues in particular). Annual data checks have been updated and the school office will now open Guardian Email access to the email addresses indicated on pupil contact forms. Guidance for staff and parents will be shared to

support the use of Guardian email, and there will also be an opportunity at our open evening for our Digital Ambassadors and staff to answer any questions about Guardian email.

Winter uniform

ALJ (Lanark) have now been added as an additional supplier of uniform (in addition to ScotCrest), with blazers, ties and PE t-shirts available for purchase. Red braiding has been added as an option for S6 blazers, at the request of pupils, and we think this looks incredibly smart.

Some of the school jackets viewed at a previous Parent Council meeting were not available in black. The jackets that are available in black can be viewed in the links below. Currently, we have not added these to our list of uniform items as we don't want to add to the list of badged items that families are asked to purchase, being mindful of the rising costs of living. Pupils had also requested a badged jumper as part of last year's consultation. Again, we were concerned that this would add to the cost of black jumpers, which are already part of our uniform. We are also aware that updated guidance from the Scottish Government will be issued later this year regarding uniform and will continue to update and refresh our approach in light of guidance and feedback from our school community.

R160A - £37.90

<http://www.promotional-store.com/en-GB/result/reversible-stormdri-4000-jacket/>

RG045 - £30.30

<http://www.promotional-store.com/en-GB/regattaprofessional/dover-jacket/>

R230M - £33.40

<http://www.promotional-store.com/en-GB/resultcore/core-tx-performance-hooded-softshell-jacket/>

R121A - £31.00

<http://www.promotional-store.com/en-GB/result/classic-softshell-jacket/>