



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parent Council held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.15pm

### Present

V O'Rourke (in the Chair)

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| S Gardiner         | J Pate        |
| K Hynd             | T Summerville |
| M Jeffrey          | M Wailes      |
| L Laird (MS Teams) | S Way         |
| A Naismith         |               |

### In attendance

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Ms Lee       | Cllr Horsham |
| Mr Robertson |              |

| Item | Topic  | Action |
|------|--|--------|
| 1.   | <b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b><br><br>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.<br><br>Apologies were noted for H Sinclair, E Martin, G Brown, A Norris and M Fell.  |        |
| 2.   | <b><u>AGM Business</u></b><br><br><u>Selection of the Parent Council</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair – V O'Rourke to continue, proposed by M Wailes, seconded by K Hynd</li><li>• Secretary – M Wailes to continue, proposed by V O'Rourke, seconded by K Hynd</li><li>• Treasurer – K Hynd to continue, proposed by V O'Rourke, seconded by J Pate</li></ul><br>The members of the Council noted as those present and those who had submitted apologies in advance of the meeting. It was noted that there was a least one member representing each year group. |        |

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|    | <p><u>Approval of the constitution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With a minor change to note that meetings would be held at a minimum of once per term the constitution was approved.</li> </ul> <p><u>Approval of accounts</u></p> <p>K Hynd provided a brief overview of the accounts for 2022/23. The accounts were approved.</p> <p><u>A report of work by the Council</u></p> <p>The report of work by the council in 2022/23 was noted.</p>                   |    |
| 3. | <p><b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b></p> <p>The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. A minor amendment was required to note that J Pate attended remotely, with this agreed the Council were content to approve the minute as a complete and accurate record.</p> <p>The minutes were adopted by J Pate and seconded by S Gardiner.</p>  |    |
| 4. | <p><b><u>Rolling Action List</u></b></p> <p>The action list was noted and it was agreed that the two remaining items would remain open.</p>  |    |
| 5. | <p><b><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></b></p> <p>Ms Lee provided a full update on school matters since the February meeting.</p> <p>The Head Teachers report for September is attached at appendix 1.</p> <p>Ms Lee shared a presentation showcasing standards and quality for 2022-2023, a link will be provided for members to provide feedback.</p> <p>There were questions around school attendance figures and Mr Robertson provided figures and analysis in response to this.</p> | BL |
| 6. | <p><b><u>Parking and traffic calming measures</u></b></p> <p>There was a general discussion around the traffic and</p>   |    |

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|    | <p>parking situation on Strathaven Road, it was noted that messaging was provided in the school to encourage considerate parking and for pupils to utilise active travel where possible.</p> <p>There was a request that Cllr Horsham raise the completion of the new road markings with the Council.</p>   |      |
| 7. | <p><b><u>School Uniform</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that adherence to school uniform was in a positive position with on-going efforts by the school to promote the policy.</p> <p>The recent communication to parents regarding the health and safety aspect of uniform was discussed, Mr Robertson confirmed that uniform ensured children were easily identifiable on their journey home from school and also noted the schools desire to be promoted in the local community through the uniform.</p> <p>The Parent Council noted their on-going support in this area.</p>  |      |
| 8. | <p><b><u>Conference Café Mural</u></b></p> <p>Mr Robertson updated the members on a potential request for funding to undertake a mural within the school, noting that the intention was the pupils would participate in the project.</p> <p>A wider discussion on fundraising then took place with areas of need being noted as transport for school sport activities and the potential for a youth worker.</p> <p>The Parent Council agreed to consider various fundraising options with a bag pack, promotion of 'easyfundraising' and the possibility of the High School taking a stall to sell items made by pupils at local Christmas or craft fayres being suggested.</p> | VO'R |
| 9. | <p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>There was a discussion around possible ideas to improve and promote the role of 'Parents as Partners'.</p> <p>Mr Robertson provided additional information on the possibility of a youth worker, noting a current project underway in Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill.</p>   |      |

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|  | No further business was raised.   |  |
|  | <b><u>Close</u></b><br>The Chair thanked those present for attending the meeting and advised that the next meeting would be held in the school on Tuesday 7th November at 7.15pm. |  |

Signed

Date

Vicki O'Rourke, Chair, Lesmahagow High School Parent Council

## **Appendix 1**

### **Head Teacher's Update – September 2023**

#### **Staffing Update**

The following staffing changes took place at the end of term:

Mrs Hazel Laird, Principal Teacher of Support for Learning retired.

Mrs Vicki McGregor, Lead Teacher of Equity and Inclusion moved to a post in Support for Learning in Uddingston Grammar.

Mrs Audrey Harrison, Team Leader, was promoted to Cluster Team Officer with the Hamilton Area.

Mrs Laura Quinn (Teacher of English) returned to our school.

Mr William Baird and Mr Matthew O'Shea moved to other teaching posts after successfully completing their NQT year.

Mrs Dieke Smit moved to a permanent post in Biggar High School.

Mrs Tracey Baillie and Mrs Cheryl Barr joined our School Support Assistant Team (classroom based).

In August, Mrs Catherine Travis assumed the role of Principal Teacher of Support for Learning (Wednesday to Friday), and retains her role as Teacher of Inclusion on Tuesdays.

Mr Lewis McMillan (Teacher of Business), Mr Christopher Campbell (Teacher of Maths), Ms Lauryn McMillan (Teacher of English) and Ms Nicola Forbes (Teacher of Biology), Mrs Una Beveridge (Teacher of Home Economics) were appointed to permanent positions.

Ms Jennifer Scott (Teacher of PE), Mr Ewan Gardiner (Teacher of RMPS), Ms Nicole Owens (Teacher of History), Ms Amy Gordon (Teacher of History and Modern Studies), Ms Molly McCallum (Teacher of Modern Languages), Ms Ashleigh McCluskey (Teacher of Psychology), Ms Jade Canning (Teacher of Business Education), Mr Scott Cameron (Teacher of Drama), Mrs Angela McGhee (Teacher of Home Economics), Mrs Naomi McCormack (Teacher of Maths), Ms Laura Gray (Teacher of Geography), Ms Lianne Russell (Teacher of Biology), Ms Bandu Guertzen (Teacher of Inclusion) and Ms Emma Alexander (Teacher of Modern Languages) joined our school.

This month, Dr Irene Nicol, Faculty Head of Science, has moved to Melville-Knox Christian School in Glasgow. Ms Isha Iqbal assumed the role of Acting Faculty Head of Science from 11<sup>th</sup> September and Mr John Hamilton and Mrs Heather Dunn have joined our Science Faculty in Physics and Chemistry. The position of Faculty Head of Science will be advertised in due course.

Mrs Mairi Mitchell has been appointed as Team Leader for our School Support Team. A further School Support Assistant will join our office team in the near

future. Mrs Alison Donaldson (Teacher of Drama) joined us yesterday. Mrs Lynn Forrest (Temporary School Support Assistant – Office Based) will join us tomorrow.

The position of Teacher of Maths has been advertised, and closes on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

## Exam Results

Overall, our results were in line with our tracking.

Our S5 results are very positive. The percentage of children with 1, 3 and 5 Highers has increased from 2022 figures, and a significant increase from 2019. Six students achieved five Higher As.

### Level 6 – S5

| Courses | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1+      | 43.64 | 59.18 | 56.60 | 57.45 | 63.55 |
| 3+      | 26.36 | 44.90 | 33.02 | 34.04 | 39.25 |
| 5+      | 10.00 | 11.22 | 15.09 | 13.83 | 20.56 |

Our S4 Level 3 results have also increased from last year and from 2019. Our S4 5 at Level 4 qualifications has fallen from last year and is below that of the previous four years, but will increase when college qualifications are included. Our S4 National 5 attainment is our key area for post exam analysis. Whilst in line with our tracking, the percentage of pupils achieving one or more Level 5 qualification has fallen and is similar to our 2019 attainment, which was before our move from 6 to 7 subjects. Ten young people achieved five As or more; five achieved eight As.

The percentages shown include only qualifications certificated by SQA in August by Lesmahagow High School as the presenting centre, and therefore doesn't include college qualifications or NPAs in any of the measures. It is likely, therefore that the percentages in our 'breadth and depth' analysis will increase in the September Insight update, which includes all qualifications attained by each of our pupils.

We are aware of the additional support given by Support for Learning, Clydesdale Virtual School, colleagues in Inclusion Support as well as colleagues across the school, which has benefited our students.

### Level 3 – S4

| Courses | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2023   |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1+      | 98.98 | 97.17 | 98.94 | 94.39 | 102.00 |
| 3+      | 94.90 | 96.23 | 97.87 | 93.46 | 100.00 |
| 5+      | 78.37 | 86.79 | 88.30 | 85.98 | 87.00  |

#### Level 4 – S4

| Courses | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1+      | 96.94 | 95.28 | 97.87 | 93.46 | 97.00 |
| 3+      | 91.84 | 94.34 | 96.81 | 91.59 | 89.00 |
| 5+      | 73.47 | 82.68 | 87.23 | 83.18 | 72.00 |

#### Level 5 – S4

| Courses | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1+      | 79.59 | 82.08 | 90.43 | 88.79 | 78.00 |
| 3+      | 51.02 | 69.81 | 78.72 | 72.90 | 62.00 |
| 5+      | 31.63 | 50.94 | 53.19 | 55.14 | 35.00 |

Our S6 attainment (and total number of S6 presentations) was higher than in 2022 in all measures, and higher than in 2019 for 2 and 3 or more AHs.

#### Level 7

| Courses | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1+      | 22.61 | 20.00 | 27.55 | 14.15 | 18.09 |
| 2+      | 7.83  | 9.99  | 9.18  | 4.72  | 8.51  |
| 3+      | 2.61  | 4.55  | 4.08  | 0.94  | 3.19  |

#### Education Reform

I'm sure that you will be aware that a reform of Scotland's education system is underway. This follows the publication of the OECD report, 'Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence – Into the Future' in 2021. Following this, Professor Ken Muir was then commissioned by the Scottish Government to provide independent advice on aspects of education reform. Ken Muir's report "Putting Learners at the Centre: Towards a Future Vision for Scottish Education" was subsequently published in March 2022. Muir recommended the formation of a renewed vision for education, a new qualifications and assessment body, a national agency for Scottish Education, a new Inspectorate body and support to move towards these aims.

Muir recommended that a national discussion took place to establish a new vision for Scottish education. The Discussion took place from July to December 2022, co-facilitated by Professor Carol Campbell and Professor Alma Harris, with their report being subsequently published on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the Hayward report was published: The independent review of qualifications and assessments. This detailed and comprehensive report was in response to the concerns highlighted in the 2021 OECD report, which noted that the senior phase was driven by high-stakes exams and over-reliance on exams.

The review focussed on possible changes to Senior Phase qualifications in schools, colleges and other educational settings, and arrangements for assessment.

The vision aims to achieve an inclusive and highly regarded qualifications and assessment system that inspires learning, values the diverse achievements of every learner in Scotland and supports all learners into the next phase of their lives, socially, culturally and economically.

The report recommends that a graduation certificate will be offered by all schools/education providers where senior phase education is provided. This would be made up of three parts: programmes of learning, project learning and personal pathways.

Learners would continue to study in-depth individual areas of the curriculum, general subjects and vocational, technical and professional qualifications. Where currently qualifications are graded, these would continue to be graded. Courses would be designed in modules, with pupils gaining credits as they completed modules. The number of assessments would reduce and S4 external assessments would be removed.

Pupils could personalise their learning to reflect their interests, contribute to society and in line with their career aspirations.

Project learning – young people would use their skills and learning to tackle a project. The project would not be graded, but would be linked to SCQF levels.

This will require an investment in professional learning, time for collaboration and moderation. A digital profile would be prepared for all learners to allow them to record their personal achievements. To strengthen parity of esteem the SCQF level should be used a descriptor alongside other qualifications. The information in the Diploma should align with the Insight data we analyse, and the position of AI in education should be considered.

Colleagues are currently reviewing this update and responding to the next step in the consultation process. Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/future-report-independent-review-qualifications-assessment/>

## **Improvement Planning**

Thank you for your feedback on our improvement priorities.

We have summarised our achievements from last session and priorities for this session in the Sway below:

<https://sway.office.com/DRqHWOs13b5F3SUm?ref=Link>