



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parent Council held on Tuesday 19th March at 7.15pm

Present

V O'Rourke (in the Chair)

K Hynd	H Sinclair
L Laird (MS Teams)	T Summerville
A Norris (MS Teams)	M Wailes (MS Teams)
J Pate	

In attendance

Ms Lee	Cllr Gowland
Ms Cimmino	

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.</p> <p>Apologies were noted for G Brown, M Fell, S Gardiner, A Naismith, E Martin, S Wayt.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Approval of Minutes</u></p> <p>The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on the 31st of January, minor amendments were noted to the list of members present, the action list and the Transport Consultation. Subject to these 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 T Summerville.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Rolling Action List</u></p> <p>The action list was noted and the closure of items 18, 19 and 20 were approved.</p>	

	<p>In relation to action 20 Ms Lee noted that Education Scotland were visiting the school as part of the consultation and would like to meet with parent representatives. It was agreed that V O'Rourke, M Wailes, H Sinclair, K Hynd, J Pate and T Sommerville would participate in the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></p> <p>Ms Lee provided a full update on school matters since the January meeting.</p> <p>Ms Lee highlighted that dates had been set for the S6 graduation and annual school prize giving events; 19th April and 20th June respectively.</p> <p>Ms Lee also highlighted that the school would offer a programme of Easter study sessions. The Parent Council commended the additional efforts of staff providing this support for pupils during their leave period.</p> <p>Ms Lee then delivered a presentation on attainment statistics for Lesmahagow High School. The Parent Council commented on the strong performance in a number of areas and there was a discussion on attendance barriers to attainment with differences seen across postcode areas.</p> <p>The Parent Council asked whether the school were able to use any of the positive results in wider communications. Ms Lee noted that this would need approval from South Lanarkshire Council.</p> <p>Cllr Gowland queried whether there was information on which further and higher education institutions Lesmahagow High School pupils progress too. Ms Lee noted that this is known with the majority going to institutions in Glasgow and the West. However, it was noted that pupils have previously gone on to study in a number of locations, including St Andrews, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee and Cambridge.</p> <p>The Head Teachers report for January is attached at appendix 1.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Parent Queries</u></p> <p>No parent queries had been submitted in advance of the meeting.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Finance Update</u></p>	

	<p>It was noted that grants have been received from Community Star (for the school band), Lesmahagow Community Council (for a range of projects including outdoor clothing) and Virgin Money Foundation (to support subscriptions to mathbox and sumdog).</p> <p>Ms Lee and the Parent Council extended their thanks to Ms Gardiner and Ms Pate for applying for and organising these grants,</p> <p>No payments had been made to the school since the January meeting.</p> <p>There were no funding requests.</p>	
7.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Ms Lee noted that an inspirational talk has been organised for the current 3rd year pupils, this will take place in June and the speaker is Graeme Armstrong.</p> <p>Ms Lee noted that the budget cuts mean that it is likely that the school library will be cut from 3 days to 2 days.</p> <p>No further business was raised.</p>	
	<p><u>Close</u></p> <p>The Chair thanked those present for attending the meeting and advised that the next meeting would be held in the school on Wednesday 8th May at 7.15pm.</p>	

Appendix 1

Head Teacher's Report – 19th March 2024

Staffing Update

Ms Anna Fletcher was appointed to the permanent position of Principal Teacher of Pupil Support on 19th February, with responsibility for students in Milton House.

Mrs Shirley Miller has been appointed Care Experienced Champion and will provide additional support to young people across our school as well as promoting the key priorities of the Promise <https://thepromise.scot/what-is-the-promise/> The Promise is a commitment to care experienced young people that they will grow up loved, safe and respected.

Ms Arnold, Supply Teacher of Art, has moved to a permanent post in another local authority. We thank her for her contribution to our school in her time with us.

Supply cover, area cover and subject specialists within our school continue to provide support to classes in several curricular areas.

Senior Phase Assessments

Visiting examiners have assessed students' practical performances in a range of subjects over the past few weeks. Students have also been busy completing assignments, folio work and completing courses in preparation for the final SQA exams, which begin on 22nd April. Assignments for a range of National 5 subjects were submitted to SQA on 13th March; assignments for a range of Higher subjects will be submitted on 17th April; remaining folio work is submitted in May.

In addition to the supported study programme, 'catch up' and study opportunities have been arranged throughout the Spring Break.

Insight Update

Insight was updated on Wednesday, 28th February. 84 young people left Lesmahagow High School in Session 2022-23; 17 from S4, 27 from S5 and 40 from S6.

There are many positives shown in this update.

Positive Destinations:

98.81% of young people were in positive destinations. (VC= 96.31%, SLC - 96.88%, West Partnership - 96.75% and National 95.87%).

It was also noted from the initial destination data that more young people secured places in Higher Education courses than in the VC or nationally, especially those from S6, where the percentage leaving to study a Higher Education course outperformed those in all comparator groups.

Literacy - Level 5 literacy was higher than in the VC. Level 4 literacy has been in line or higher than the VC for the past five years.

Numeracy - Level 5 numeracy has been in line or higher than the VC for the past five years. Level 4 numeracy slipped last year, particularly affected by non-attendance.

Improving Attainment for All – All learners outperformed those in the VC. When individual year groups are considered, it was students in the lowest 20% and middle 60% who were outperformed by those in the VC in S4. There were small numbers in this group, and again attainment was affected by non-attendance. All S5 and S6 outperformed those in the VC.

This shows an improvement, especially for those in the highest 20% of attainers. When we consider the Grade Neutral filter, it is also possible to see that young people were coursed at appropriately challenging levels.

Attainment v Deprivation - Students in all SIMDs except 5 and 7 outperformed those in the VC. The positive impact of equity interventions can be seen.

Breadth and Depth - Our attainment data shows that leavers outperformed those in the VC in almost all measures. The exceptions were 1 qualification at Level 4, quality of Higher and Advanced Higher passes (A Bands). SCQF data also mirrored the pattern for SQA National attainment, with 1 or more at Level 4, 1 or more at Level 6 and 3 or more at Level 7 being the only statistics lower than in the VC.

Opportunities for Young People

All students in S1 and S2 had the opportunity to engage in a full day workshop led by 'HumanUtopia' on Tuesday, 6th February. Feedback from pupils, parents and staff was very positive, and we will continue to revisit the themes covered to encourage young people to make positive choices and plan for their futures in the months ahead.

S1/2 students have also had the opportunity to participate in the latest Clydesdale Cup events at Lanark Grammar, where they enjoyed playing table tennis and badminton.

Well done to our Bronze Industrial Cadets, supported by Nicola Forbes, Teacher of Biology, who have completed their Young STEM Leader Level 4 award.

We have arranged for an inspirational talk to be delivered to our new S4 (current S3) students on the first day of the new timetable, on Monday, 3rd

June, when Graeme Armstrong, author and public speaker, will visit our school.

The skills and talents of our musicians continue to be showcased within our school and at organised events. Last night everyone was thrilled to hear the excellent performances of all those who participated in our Young Musician and Young Vocalist of the Year Competitions. Our school rock band, 'Ilynx' delivered an outstanding performance at this year's Battle of the Bands competition at Hamilton Town House on 21st February. Katelyn Cardwell was also excellent as lead singer with the South Lanarkshire Rock Collective. It was lovely to see lots of family members and friends in the audience supporting the students. We look forward to the South Lanarkshire Orchestral Society Concert on 25th March, and to hearing our musicians perform as part of an orchestra at Hamilton Town House.

Our Health and Wellbeing Captains and Mental Health Ambassadors represented our school at the Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference at the Alona Hotel, Hamilton, on 8th March.

Five groups of Senior Phase students have now completed Level 6 Emergency Aid Training, delivered by NextGen Training, Hamilton.

Young people have also enjoyed hosting and competing in the Clyde Valley Chess Club Competition; congratulations to Lanark Grammar School's team! Outdoor Learning continues to be a highlight of the school week for many students, who are developing their Forest skills and achieving Forest and Outdoor Learning Awards.

Trips to the Scottish Parliament, to the theatre to see 'Hamilton', and to Coalburn Church to see the Easter Labyrinth are also planned before Easter.

School Transport Consultation

Our Pupil Council met with Mrs O'Rourke, Chair of our Parent Council to discuss the proposal to alter the qualifying threshold for secondary school transport from two miles to three miles. Luke Harold, School Captain, submitted the views of the Pupil Council to South Lanarkshire Council as part of the consultation process. Students, parents and staff will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from Education Scotland to share their views on 25th March.

Budget Updates

An update was provided by South Lanarkshire Council regarding the Council Budget for this year in mid-February. This may affect our library provision, with opening hours reducing from three days to two days per week.

Fundraising

Thank you for your support with fundraising and grant applications over the past few months. We were delighted to receive support from:

Community Stars Fund – thank you to Mrs Pate for applying for this award. We have confirmed that the donation was received on 6th February and will be used to support the Music Camp Weekend project.

Lesmahagow Community Council – thank you to Mrs Pate for applying for a Microgrant to support the development and promotion of a range of activities for young people, including the purchase of outdoor learning equipment and clothing for our Inclusion Support Team, a laminator for our Art Department and curling kits for whole school and learning community use.

Virgin Money Foundation – thank you to Mrs Gardiner for securing funding to support subscriptions to Mathsbox and Sumdog for the next two sessions. This will help to support the development of Maths and Numeracy for all young people within our school. A further grant has also been awarded to our Maths Department to support the development of the Multiply/ You Plus Me Project, which will support the development and delivery of parent workshops in Maths and Numeracy, in partnership with our associated primary schools.