

LHS Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 8th October 2024

Present: Scott Steele (SS – Headteacher), Shona Fleming (SF - Chair), Ali Berardelli (AB - Vice Chair), Dee Collins (DC - Treasurer), Lisa Wharton (LW - Secretary), Jane Halewood (JH), Laura Kingswood Smith (LKS), Lorraine Servant (LS), Ceri Ewing (CE)

Apologies: Becky McCook, Yvonne Clark, Louise Pescod, Rachel Tonks, Alison Stephen

Welcome: The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pupil Council

The Parent Council welcomed Freya Fleming, S6, who gave a short presentation on the work of the Pupil Council. It represents the views of the pupils on whatever topics they want to bring to the council. There is a representative from each year-group. The reps then meet with the headteacher about issues, e.g. mobile phones.

Pupils can raise issues by going to their year rep, talking to Mr. Fairbairn, suggesting via the suggestion box or by contacting the virtual pupil council on Chromebook. The display outside of the library showcases the progress of the council on issues raised and shares messages of action. The council has acted on praise letters and phones policy.

Previous Minutes: Proposed – SF Seconded – LK

Treasurer's Report

Figures from Dee's email

Balance as at 08/10/24 = £2004.52

- We have not received printed statements since July but this is due to no movement on the account. Balance was confirmed by phone with bank.
- Looked into setting up online banking ASAP.
- Awaiting a payment of £2,500 from Foundation Scotland for the Glencoe House Sensory Garden. Thanks to Ali Berardelli for her work on securing this funding.

The parent council wishes to set up internet banking to facilitate easier management of the group's finances. The three current signatories will all become signatories of the online bank account.

The Parent Council paid £589 for the online booking system for parents' evenings. There was discussion around the booking system and decided to keep existing system. The Parent Council pays for this as it is something that Highland Council funding doesn't support.

Headteacher's Report

Senior Phase Tracking reports – There was confusion expressed by some parents about the senior phase tracking report. After some discussion, S. Steele said he would invite E. Groat (Depute Head Teacher) responsible for LHS's reporting system to a Parent Council meeting in the near future to consult with parents as part of his current review of report writing.

SQA Performance – S. Steele will invite S. Stewart (Depute Head Teacher) to explore the Insight data which measures the school's performance against other schools across Scotland at the November Parent Council meeting.

Fundraising / Sensory Garden – updates

Beetle drive is still planned. DC organizing. Next term is v busy. DC to liaise with Mr Steele.

Funding for Glencoe House garden project – Funds were awarded to a sum of £2500 from Foundation Scotland for the Glencoe House garden project. There was also discussion regarding possible community support to help in preparing the space for re-designing.

Sensory Garden

Once the paperwork is done, £2500 will come to the parent council for funding of work on sensory garden. The funders need to be updated on progress.

Scottish Water can help with practical work around the school for free as staff have time allowed for volunteer days. AB will feed back to Glencoe House about the help available.

It was noted that any play or outdoor equipment has to be purchased through approved Highland Council provider.

Shona Fleming is writing a letter to local businesses asking for financial support of PC fundraising.

SSE Renewables Community Benefit Fund was identified as a potential funding source, but will need a specific project to fund. LW to investigate and bring back detail to next meeting.

A quiz night with bottle stall was suggested. CE looking into this.

There was also a suggestion of PC running tea and coffee during the break at Cannibals of Coal musical on 10th December. (confirm dates). LS/LK volunteered to help. There was also discussion of having a bottle stall at this – CE / DC will run.

Possible Morrisons Bag Pack is on hold til Spring/Summer next year.

Easy Fundraising – this was decided against as already many local charities taking part.

Possible Art Auction – currently on hold

There was discussion around using the LHS car park for a car boot sale. AB will email Julie Trainer to find out if PC can use this space for fundraising events.

AOB

Liz Tangey has asked for PC to fund LHS membership of Dyslexia Scotland £100.
Passed to Kim Jamieson.

Parents' Evening – will stay in person, as more benefits to meeting teachers in real life and it resulted in higher engagement from parents. 44% - online parents evening, 59% engagement at in-person event. The timer to advise about end of slot is useful to maximise appointments for parents.

Parent Council publicity at parent evenings

AB organised a stand for PC with info flyers showing dates and times to engage with parents. This worked well and there were lots of chats with prospective new members of PC.

Issues raised by parents:

- senior phase tracking reports

These were felt to be very confusing and had caused undue stress for some parents and pupils. Mr Stewart will come to speak to PC in November. There was a suggestion that grades just be given at the end of the year as parents do not understand the tracking grade system.

Action: Mr Groat to consult the Parent Council when he comes to revise senior phase tracking report.

Extra opportunities for young people

There was discussion around who to contact with opportunities for young people to engage in extracurricular visits/ speakers to the school.

Mr Steele confirmed that speaker or opportunity needs to be relevant to pupils and enrich their experience, but there has to be a balance with needs of curriculum delivery.

If anyone is aware of an opportunity, contact Mr Steele or Ms McGonigal.

Dangerous road crossings

A concerned grandparent had been in touch to highlight children playing 'chicken' at the traffic lights outside school. Extremely dangerous for them and others. Mr Steele reported that the school was aware and had taken action.

Connect insurance

HC uses this to provide insurance for parent councils, fundraising, procedures etc. We are members and the log-in is available to office bearers.

The annual Data Check Form asks parents to provide email address if they are happy to be contacted by Parent Council. Can we contact these parents? SS to check GDPR requirements and let us know.

Next meeting - Tuesday 12 November 2024, 7pm, LHS Library