



## **Largs Academy Parent Council Meeting Thursday 19th January 2023, 6pm, on Teams**

### **Minutes**

1. Present: Cara McKee (Chair, taking minutes as no Secretary yet), Andrew Milner (Vice-Chair), Shaukat Aron (Treasurer), John Doherty (Head Teacher), Orla Gilmour (0.4 DHT), John Blair, Lynne Cameron-Finn  
Apologies: Analene Swan and Tracey Turnbull
2. Minutes of previous meeting: 14th December 2022  
Proposed by Andrew Milner, Seconded by John Blair.
3. Head Teacher's update (J Doherty)
  - a. Staffing:  
Orla Gilmour, Faculty Leader for English, Drama, and Literacy has been appointed as the new 0.4 DHT, for the two days B Wilson is not currently able to do the role.  
Natalie Clark has been appointed the 0.4 Faculty Leader for English, Drama, and Literacy while Ms Gilmour is busy as DHT.  
Sam Templeton has been appointed as a Physics teacher.
  - b. Term 3 update was provided in the HT Report
  - c. Prelims are going fine.
  - d. Strike action will take place across all schools on 28th February and 1st March. There will also be rolling strikes across Scotland between mid March and late April, not yet sure when these will affect North Ayrshire.
  - e. Options Process:  
Orla Gilmour outlined the timetable for the Options Process - provided in the HT Report. This is complicated because of all the many options available, so there are opportunities for discussion throughout.
  - f. Careers Fayre:  
This will take place on 16th February for pupils only during the school day. Having it during the school day means it can be attended by all pupils, whether their parents are available to bring them in to school or not. Lots of employers, education providers, and vocational providers are coming. Laura Griffiths is working on this.
  - g. Parent's Evening Evaluation:  
John Doherty will be sending out an evaluation to request feedback on the Parent's Evening format. Many more parents are attending Parent's Evenings with them being online, but there have been technical issues, and it doesn't suit everyone, and there have been some complaints. Planning to send the evaluation out in mid February and feedback to the Parent Council at the next meeting.

4. Questions to the school.

a. The Alpha Male Movement:

A few people have been asking about this, concerned about misogynistic and violent messaging targeted at boys. This kind of thing needs to be countered but a one off class is not enough. Big messages across the school are important, and the culture is important. John Doherty noted that there is a good mixture of genders with male and female staff teaching in every department, and working at all grades. Following recent discussions in the Parent Council the school clubs are now genderless and, apart from dance, there is a mixture of pupils across classes.

Mr Frew has been running an initiative training up young people to become MVPs - Mentors in Violence Prevention - trying to encourage young people not to be a bystander but to take action should someone be victimised. MVPs are helping to influence their peers.

Orla Gilmour noted that this does not seem to be having a negative impact on the experience of women teachers.

5. Treasurer update (S Aron):

Shaukat Aron now has online access to the Parent Council account. Cara McKee will work with previous members of the Parent Council to transfer funds from PTA accounts soon.

The first payment received for 2023 is from the book sale of £77.21 and the balance is £2,368.09 as of today.

6. Bids - 3 art bids, but John Doherty believes these will be better met from school funds.

7. Date of Next Meeting - At the meeting we agreed the next meeting would take place on *Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – 5.30pm in the school*. However, as this is a strike day we will move the meeting to *Wednesday 8th March 2023 – 5.30pm in the school*.