



Largs Academy Parent Council Meeting Wednesday, 2 November 2022, 6.30pm, on Zoom

Minutes

Present: Cara McKee (Chair), Andrew Milner (Vice-Chair), John Doherty (Head-Teacher), Colin Frew (Depute Head), Shaukat Aron (Treasurer), Lynne Cameron-Finn and Laura Hunter (members), Clair Paton and Gareth Smith (school staff - partial attendance), and Nathan Marshall (Secretary)

1. Apologies: Linda Beverage, Donna McNeil, Michelle Murray, Analene Swan, and Tracey Turnbull (members)
2. Minutes of previous meeting: Thursday, 16 June 2022
Proposed by Andrew Milner
Seconded by Shaukat Aron
3. Head Teacher's update (John Doherty/Colin Frew/Gareth Smith)
 - a. Term 2 overview (J Doherty)

Tuesday, 15 November 2022	S4 to S6 tracking reports issued
Wednesday, 16 November 2022	S5 & S6 Parents evening
Friday, 18 November 2022 to Monday 21 November 2022	November holiday
Tuesday, 22 November 2022	November in-service day
Saturday, 26 December 2022	Christmas Fayre
Thursday, 1 December 2022	Higher/A Higher prelims begin
Wednesday, 14 December 2022	S4 Parents Evening
Monday, 19 December 2022	Christmas Concert
Friday, 23 December 2022	Last day of term two

b. Rights Respecting School (G Smith)

John Doherty gave some background information on RRS, run by UNICEF, and explained what Gareth does. Gareth explained how the school already received the bronze award five years ago but are reapplying for bronze now to refresh the process. The school re-registered back in June.

Every child in the world has 42 rights. It will take the school a few years to get the final gold award. The school are starting with displaying the articles on Twitter posts and around the school. The staff spent their in-service day learning more about the rights. A small Steering Group will be started for pupils, parents, and staff to work together a few times a year. Andrew Milner suggests that all parents get invited and then a few are randomly selected to join the committee. **Agreed.**

c. Updated Anti Bullying Policy (C Frew)

The anti-bullying policy has recently been updated to make it more user friendly and up-to date. An updated, colourful and clear graphic has been published on the school website and is being made available to pupils. Colin says the hardest thing is for the pupils to report bullying and let guidance know. PC Pollard and Andy McCoy are leading this and S1 to S3 will be invited to join this throughout November. QR codes will be posted around the school for pupils to contact the guidance teacher. Parents are encouraged to contact the school if their child is getting bullied, and there are useful websites at the bottom of the infographic. 32 members of staff are taking on training around issues for LGBTQ+ young people and 4 (including Colin) are doing a more in-depth training. The new anti-bullying policy will be launched on Monday, 14 November 2022.

d. S6 Leadership (J Doherty)

The S6 at the school have the option to opt into a leadership course this year and get an SQA award from it.

e. Duke of Edinburgh update (J Doherty)

All parents in S1 to S4 got an opportunity to sign up to help. We need a ratio of 1 helper to 7 pupils for the expeditions. 8 parents have already signed up already and will start training soon. The expeditions will run in the penultimate week before summer. S4 will have a small meeting on Wednesday, 23 November 2022 on Teams.

4. Questions to the school. (A Milner)

a. Gendering conventions

The PE department made a mistake and advertised their two football clubs as 'football' and 'girls' football,' although all football is already mixed. This mistake has been corrected and in future writing about sports at the school will seek to avoid using presumptive gender.

b. Communications (Xpressions & Email; primary & secondary parents)

J Doherty said the school have been using email recently instead of Xpressions. C Paton attended the meeting and explained how email is still sent to the primary parent and not alternative contacts. Xpressions cannot be changed to let multiple parents get messages on separate accounts as there is only a primary parent contact or all (including emergency) contacts due to Groupcall settings which the school cannot change. To enable both parents to receive messages the primary parent's login can be used for Xpressions apps on multiple devices. In addition, to ensure both parents receive emails parents can set up a joint email account and use that for communications with the school.

C McKee & A Milner both feel that it should not be the default to expect a family to have a primary parent who manages everything but recognise that this is a matter for Groupcall. J Doherty and C Paton thought Groupcall would have to rewrite their whole system, which in turn relies on SEEMIS to enable both parents to receive messaging, and that many families wish to have a primary parent receiving all messages. **C McKee will ask Connect - a wider parent council organisation - to see if there might be a solution.**

c. Decision making process transparency

All teachers must speak to parents before pupils about change of levels for assessments. Those parents will get a letter with a 14 day response to decline the move in level. Pupils may go against teacher's advice as the final decision is by the pupils and parents and not the teacher.

5. Treasurer update.

a. Parent Council (S Aron)

Been to the bank and the signatures have been changed, but still awaiting changeover of ebanking. In the account there currently is £2291.

b. PTA accounts (C McKee)

The Parent Council have heard nothing from Deputy Treasurer, Lorna Adams, since before summer, so it was agreed she is assumed to have stepped down. **C McKee will email her to advise.**

Due to the difficulty with changing signature for the main bank account recently it was unanimously agreed that the PTA accounts will be closed and money transferred to the Parent Council account.

6. Bids - No current bids

J Doherty is planning to ask for a bid to cover some of the catering expenses from the Prize Giving. The Prize Giving catering cost £1500.

7. Events - Christmas Fayre - 26/11/22

a. Bookstall - C McKee

C McKee will be running a bookstall to raise funds for the Parent Council. She has asked for donations of books for adults, teens, and older children. Requests have also been posted onto the PC Facebook Page & Twitter Page.

b. Publicise - everyone

C McKee has asked that everyone could raise awareness about the Christmas Fayre. Poster can be found on the school's Twitter page.

8. C McKee will attend the Connect (Scotland-wide Parent Council organisation) AGM on 15th November

9. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday, 7 December 2022 - 5.30pm in the school.