



## Largs Academy Parent Council Meeting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023- Online, 6.00pm

### MINUTES

**Present:** Cara McKee (Chair), Lynne Cameron-Finn, Stefanie Macnamara, Peter Bryson-Meehan, John Doherty (HT), Katy Roser, Analene Swan, Jenny Clark, Brian Teaz, Colin Frew (DHT), Shaukat Aron, Laura Hunter, Sofia Doolan (Secretary).

1. **Welcome:** C McKee welcomed everyone onto online meeting.
  - a. C McKee introduced new secretary for parent council meetings S Doolan.
2. **Apologies:** A Milner, D McNeil, C Hussain, S Goyal
3. **Minutes**
  - a. AGM -9<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
**Minutes proposed by L Cameron-Finn, seconded by S Macnamara**
4. **Head Teacher's Report** (J Doherty)

Term 2 has started within Largs Academy  
For S1 parent evenings one to one calls will be held with their guidance staff who are H McClelland, G Fury and N McNicol  
S3 parent's evenings had been changed due to problems with North Ayrshire firewalls which leads to a high likelihood of all parents' evenings being held in person.  
Tracking due for seniors which will include target grades.  
School is bringing back a how to pass evening for S4-6 held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 ran by H McClelland and L Cozens for informing pupils and parents about prelims and SQA exams.  
National 5 prelims have now moved to before Christmas break. Higher prelims to January.

  - a. **Updates**
    - i. **Rights Respecting schools**

School has successfully gained their silver accreditation with Rights Respecting Schools, some strengths from UNRC visit were that the school has great promotion of rights, approachable staff with problems taken seriously and welcoming feeling from the school to pupils.  
Next steps for accrediting gold will be supporting families into ensuring they understand Rights Respective Schools and developing campaigns and opportunities for young people.
    - ii. **Mary's Meals 5km**

School raised highest ever around £4,200.

iii. **Skills Academy Launch**

Skills Academy incorporates Seeds and Shovels, Largs Picture House, Creative Minds Photography, Living La Vida Mocha, & LA Events Class and offers qualifications at NPA 5 and 6.

Launch of these on Friday with a showcase from 10-11.15am with ribbon cut for the school's new barista station. Parent council is welcome to come along.

iv. **S4 First Aid course**

Almost half of S4 now trained within First Aid training went well, and was enjoyable, and provides an extra qualification.

b. **Feedback on newly launched Parent/Carer Newsletter**

Many parents agreed it was useful as they don't use social media.

J Doherty stated that they will continue to release a couple a term and keep them short.

5. **Questions to the school**

a. **School uniform (K Roser)**

Can we take working towards Rights Respecting School gold accreditation to work together to create a dress code which is fit for purpose in 2023?

Concerned that insisting on conformity impinges human rights and wellbeing.

Opinions were shared around the parent council regarding school uniform, noting that the dress code at Largs Academy has got a lot more relaxed in recent years.

The Scottish government is currently conducting a review on school uniform, with no plan to scrap it. There is no point in the school revisiting uniform policy until the government review is completed. The topic will be revisited in a few months<sup>1</sup>.

b. **Awards (L Cameron-Finn)**

Why is there separate awards for sports, is there any way to give recognition for other subjects?

J Doherty stated that it used to be standard prize giving and sports award was 1 ceremony but that was too time consuming and so sports faculty head G Cavani runs their own awards. C Smith is hoping to pull together an evening awarding achievements in expressive arts.

c. **School Photos (L Cameron-Finn)**

On the day of the S6 group photo many pupils were not present due to other events such as open days, was there a reason the photo was scheduled for the last day of term?

J Doherty and C Frew stated that the office books the appointments and admitted to bad timing, the individual and group photos were not completed at the same time as they require different setup.

C Frew suggested a possible reshoot and will pass on that it's a bad idea to book on the last day of term.

d. **Environmentally friendly reports (S Macnamara)**

Is there any way to cut back on the amount of paper used for reports?

J Doherty stated that the school uses their system SEEMIS which doesn't let you adapt the format of reports. SEEMIS also does not allow for reports to be emailed.

The school does remove unnecessary sheets, but will see if more could be removed. There were discussions of printing off the last page which may be the only relevant page.

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<sup>1</sup> Addendum: The consultation on school uniform was completed last academic year, with a report on the responses available online here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/analysis-report-responses-consultation-school-uniform-scotland/>

A working group has been set up to put together guidance on school uniform which will be introduced in due course.

More information on the working group is available here: <https://www.gov.scot/groups/school-uniform-working-group/>

**e. Textbooks (L Cameron-Finn)**

Concern about pupils needing to buy their own textbooks if taking home as there is not enough for the whole class.

J Doherty stated that budgets are too small for facilities to be able to buy new textbooks every year, and there are shortages in some areas.

Faculties can place bids to gain funding for more textbooks.

**f. Behaviour on trains (B Teaz)**

4.07pm train has been disrupted by pupils, from the schools' view is there anything that can be done regarding behaviour on public transport?

School has held assemblies to encourage good behaviour, they have also put staff on trains.

Messages were sent home to parents of pupils from the west Kilbride area regarding behaviour.

The school has been in contact with ScotRail however they have had little cooperation in trying to resolve the problem like adding a conductor to the carriage of pupils.

The school also struggles to follow up with behaviour complaints where pupils have not been identified.

**6. Bids**

- a. **First Aid (C Frew)**. Agreed at AGM and money transferred. S4 training has been fantastic. Young people have greatly enjoyed the course and C Frew feels the money has been spent well.
- b. **Duke of Edinburgh** - Participatory Budgeting Bid (C McKee) - update - still in review period. Kids voting Nov 6th-19th. Results to follow by May 3rd. 80 pupils participating in DofE.
- c. **Lectern sticker** - Vinyl School logo 495 x 382mm for lectern to apply ourselves would be £30 +VAT from 6274 Design. Lectern sticker has been approved by J Doherty. Proposed by Cara McKee fund the vinyl, seconded by Laura Hunter. Unanimously agreed.

**7. Fundraising**

- a. **Fundraising Group** - we need a group of people who can take the lead with fundraising things. E.g. it would be good to get Easy Fundraising set up. Still to find participants for this group<sup>2</sup>.
- b. **Christmas Fayre** - Saturday 25th November. We need books. Message has been put out on social media for second hand books which can be sold.

**8. Dates of Parent Council Meetings 2023-4**

All meetings are currently on Tuesdays, Tuesdays are no longer good for everyone - to review for 2024.

[In school meeting - 5th December at 5.30-6.30pm](#)

Online meeting - 16th January

Online meeting - 27th February

In school meeting - 16th April

In school meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> May

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<sup>2</sup> Addendum, Lynne Cameron-Finn & Stefanie Macnamara have agreed to join this group.