



Largs Academy Parent Council Meeting Tuesday 27th February 2024 - Online, 5.30pm

Minutes

1. Welcome from the Chair (C McKee)

Present - J Doherty, C Frew, C McKee, J Bryson-Meehan, S Macnamara, B Teaz, Analene Swan, J Clark, S Dolan

2. Apologies: D McNeill, S Goyal, C Hussain, K Roser (stepping down), L Cameron-Finn

3. Minutes from last meeting - 16th January 2024

- a. Password/Pin for Britannica should read largs/schools

Minutes proposed by C McKee, seconded by S Macnamara

4. LGBT Charter (C Frew)

The LGBT Charter is led in the school by F McIlroy and C Frew, with a champion group of pupils who meet on Mondays. The school is working with LGBT Youth Scotland, who provide an assigned manager. The school is currently aiming to gain the bronze award. To achieve the bronze award certain aspects need to be completed by Easter, at which point they will let the school know if more work is required. The process started with a baseline survey with the LGBT group for pupils. Training for staff members is required with at least 20% having to complete 3.5 hours from LGBT Youth Scotland. Staff who've completed training wear rainbow lanyards. All staff were given a briefing sharing lessons learned from the survey on the staff training day. The school's antibullying policy has been amended, the school is continuing purple days, LGBT history focus and focused PSE lessons. Posters in the school have been improved. The school intends to go for silver after bronze, this will involve more staff training with LGBT Youth Scotland. With more banners and awareness around the school and information accessible to allow people to learn about the topic. Within the school website you can click on groups and supports for LGBT. The school's LGBT group for pupils has grown and is very inclusive.

5. Head Teacher's Report (J Doherty)

The Option process is currently underway.

The council budget review will happen 28/02/2024. School library may face a large cut in funding, but the school hopes to keep the school librarian. A 2.5 teacher cut is also proposed¹.

a. Careers Fayre

This went well with many parents in attendance too. B Teaz stated it was a useful fayre for all current pupils and would be useful for ex pupils.

The fayre is now held during the school day to allow more pupils to access.

¹ The 28/2/24 Council budget review decided not to cut teacher numbers, but school libraries have got a massive cut in funding.

b. Feedback from surveys

Parent survey was held with 180 responses, with majority positive toward the school. Feedback from the survey would be to support more lower cost school trips.

Concerns were raised in pupil survey about behaviour impacting education, particularly verbal abuse between peers and mobile phone usage.

Staff feedback is that mobile phones are causing disruption.

c. Mobile phone policy

School is implementing a stricter phone policy.

Staff feedback is that phones are distracting and exacerbating other problems. The plan is to move to a switch off policy for mobile phones to help support teaching and wellbeing. The plan is to implement the policy at new timetable change. The school isn't banning phones, but the current policy is a 3-strike ban which is inconsistent and ineffective.

C McKee asked, "what will happen to pupils who refuse to comply?" J Doherty answered that the Scottish government stated they will support stricter phone policies and he sees no good reason as to why most pupils need a phone while in a classroom. Solutions will be found where there are valid concerns however.

B Teaz asked "when will the policy be published?" J Doherty answered that surveys show phones are disrupting and so around March there will be a meeting to release the new phone policy. Parents will be given notice ahead of time.

6. Questions to the School - Safety on the way to school - Crossing Moorburn Road (J Bryson-Meehan)

J Bryson-Meehan pointed out safety concerns for pupils of the Academy & Primary schools crossing from the shops to the park path and to go up Glenacre Drive. She suggested we ask for another crossing patrol person to help there. The Parent Council think that the path through the park is a recommended route to school and so there is a need to improve the safety.

J Doherty was concerned there may be no budget for an additional crossing patrol person as the current crossing patrol budget is likely to be cut in the forthcoming budget review.

We wondered if a solution could be a zebra crossing on Moorburn Road. J Doherty will contact the relevant people at the council and hopes to feedback at the next meeting to see next steps.

7. Treasurer report (S Aron)

Moved to next meeting.

8. Bids - No new bids.

a. Update - Lectern sticker - 6274 had created the sticker and have now provided it.

9. Fundraising Group report

Payment from Easy Fundraising is currently sitting at £16.13 with £148.77 pending to come through.

We haven't had any new supporters, so we need to continue to promote in the school newsletter.

J Doherty recommended a stall at S1 parents evening 17/4/2024 to help sign incoming parents up.

10. Dates of forthcoming Parent Council Meetings 2023-4

[Next meeting 5.45pm on Wednesday 17th April in the school. This follows immediately after the S1 Parent's Night.](#)

In school meeting - 28th May

2024 AGM in school Tuesday 3rd September 2024.