Largs Academy

PARENT COUNCIL
Chair: Brian Teaz
Vice-Chairs: Donna McNeill & Jenny Clark
Treasurer: Shaukat Aron

Largs Academy Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday 22nd October 2024

Minutes

Present: Cara McKee (Outgoing Chair), Brian Teaz (Incoming Chair), Allana Reilly (St Mary's Primary PC), Joanne McCready, Clare Hussain, Jamie Woodburn (Largs Primary PC), John Doherty (Head teacher), Stefanie Macnamara, Tracey Orr, Diane Agnew. Jude Bryson-Meehan and Colin Frew.

1. **Welcome from Chair**
2. **Apologies**

   Amanda Rawley, Lynne Cameron-Finn, Analene Swan, Shaukat Aron (Treasurer), Suzanne Faulkner, Donna McNeill (Vice Chair), Jenny Clark (Vice Chair), and Katy Roser

3. **Minutes & Notes from last meetings**
   - **a.** Parent Forum AGM 17th September
   - b. Librarian Campaign Meeting 27th September

   Minutes & Notes accepted as true records of the meetings.

4. **Position of Chair**

   Brain Teaz appointed as Chair unopposed and unanimously accepted.

5. **School uniform**

   Here's a brief summary of the Scottish Government's new school uniform policy from D McNeill:

   - There is no legal requirement to wear a school uniform.
   - A shared uniform can provide a positive impact on school life.
   - It gives connection, identity, acceptance and respect.
   - Each school should adopt a uniform policy that promotes reducing cost, reducing waste and promotes re-using items.
   - Generic items of clothing should be promoted avoiding compulsory branded items.
   - Some pupils with neurodiverse conditions may find it challenging to wear certain types of clothing and/or materials and schools should take inclusive steps to support their choices.
   - Each school's policy should be informed by views of pupils, teachers, parents and carers.

   Full guidance for schools is available here.

The new school uniform policy was discussed at length, including the wearing of soft collar shorts and questioning whether ties were compulsory. The parent forum concluded that Largs Academy were applying the Scottish government principles to a satisfactory level, with a recognition that no young person would be sent home for not wearing uniform.

ACTION - Mr Frew to update the official policy to make it clear that plain black hoodies etc are acceptable items of uniform. Also to make it clear that parents/guardians of any young person with specific requirements can request alternative uniform arrangements.

6. Glasgow Motivational and Wellbeing Profile (C Frew)

Mr Frew provided an overview of the above outlining that the school aims to have this questionnaire completed twice a year by all pupils. The aim of the questionnaire is to track the wellbeing of all our young people. The results will be used to monitor and where appropriate intervene if specific issues are identified for individuals or across year groups.

7. Head Teachers Report

Newsletter shared, which will be sent out following meeting.

Plans to agree with pupil council the top 5 key priorities for the school in the coming year.

Mr Doherty outlined a current engagement around NAC budget decisions for February 2025. Many cuts suggested including potential reduction in resources for schools across the region, including a reduction in full time staff, police campus officer funding and inclusion workers.

ACTION - Parent Council instructs School to send a link out to parents & carers to encourage response to engagement.

8. Questions to school – S1 volunteering day (J Bryson-Meehan & C McKee)

Concerns were raised regarding the organisation of the event and nature of the volunteering. Mr Doherty and Mr Frew recognised there had been challenges associated with this including issues with providers pulling out at short notice, the weather, and availability of probationer teachers. Actions and measures have now been taken to avoid similar issues arising in the future and to ensure that teachers and parents have a clear understanding of where young people would be volunteering. Further discussion took place about the type of volunteering opportunities. It would be good to be able to help out charities or do things in the community which made a real difference.

ACTION - Parent forum to provide ideas and potential volunteering opportunities to the school.

9. Bids

No current bids to discuss

10. **Ongoing campaigns**
    a. **School librarian (B Teaz)**

    Many thanks for everybody's hard work so far. Letter went to new MP 15/10/24, no response. New budget proposals from NAC in engagement phase. These do not include the school librarians as this has already been decided as cut. B Teaz has asked Cllr Collier for an update on other ways that money could be saved. The current engagement is looking at other ways money could be saved.

    b. Moorburn Road Crossing

    No updates.

    c. Minibus

    J Woodburn is preparing to put the bid in with the LAPC as the lead partner.l

    d. Sports Scotland Facilities

    No updates at meeting[1].

11. **Fundraising Group report**

    Table at Christmas Fayre agreed, options of lucky dip discussed.

    ACTION: J Doherty to request donations for lucky dip for Fundraising Thursday on 31st.

12. **Treasurer report (S Aron)**

    £8900 in the account which will be audited in due course.

13. **Date of next meeting**

    Online meeting - 19th November 2024

    Proposed future dates (all Tuesdays & TBC): Online meeting - 17th December, Online meeting - 14th January, Online meeting - 25th February, In school meeting - 1st April, In school meeting - 13th May, In school meeting - 17th June, Parent Forum AGM - 2nd Sept.

[1] Since the meeting Alan Hill has responded with potential dates and times to meet with Inverclyde sports centre and these have been shared with Mr Doherty.