



## **LENZIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**

### **The minutes of Lenzie Academy Parent Council held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

#### **Present:**

Claire Miller  
Anne Denton  
Kathryn Clark  
Sarah Giffen  
Fiona Kirkland  
Laura Forrester  
Cllr. Rod Ackland  
Siobhan White (Chair)  
Jack McLean (Clerk)

#### **In Attendance:**

Brian Paterson (Head Teacher)  
Jennifer Byres  
Joe McCrystal  
Karen Clark

#### **Apologies:**

Gayetri Ramachanderan  
Mark McDowell  
Iain McKinstry  
Cllr. Sandra Thornton  
Cllr. Gillian Renwick

#### **1 Chair's Welcome and Apologies**

Mrs White opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Parent Council. She tendered apologies that had been received. The Chair welcomed Joe McCrystal and Karen Clark from Skills Development Scotland who had been invited to update the Parent Council on their work to support young people at Lenzie Academy.

#### **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes from the previous meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were accepted as read and seconded.

#### **3 Membership Updates**

The Chair advised that there were no new membership updates.

#### **4 Skills Development Scotland Presentation**

The Chair introduced Joe McCrystal and Karen Clark who are career advisers from Skills Development Scotland and whose work across East Dunbartonshire had recently received very positive comments.

Joe and Karen circulated a Scotland's Career Service Guide to members and offered an insight into their role working in partnership with every secondary school in East Dunbartonshire. They offered a



comprehensive insight into student needs and the support that is available to them to enable young people from S1 to S6 to develop their Career Management Skills and to take ownership of their own development. They emphasised the key themes used to support young people and identified some of the tools that are available for parents and carers to use. Foundation Apprenticeships were discussed in some detail along with the benefits they offer to young people.

A full discussion took place regarding the routes, pathways and opportunities that are available locally to young people and to their parents and carers. Joe and Karen highlighted some public events that are scheduled to take place that may be of interest particularly to summer leavers.

Skills Development Scotland inputs will continue at all year assemblies and at all Parents Nights over the coming months.

## **5 Chairperson's Report**

The Chair confirmed that she had received no further correspondence relating to the PTAs response to the EDC Questionnaire that had been circulated and discussed at the previous meeting.

Similarly there was no further update available relating to Lenzie Academy's Building and Structure priorities but it was noted that the next Estates Meeting was scheduled to be held in March 2020.

The Chair highlighted receiving correspondence regarding 'Liquor Licensing Arrangements' relating to events being held by the Parent Council. It was considered unlikely that the Parent Council would be involved in directly coordinating such events and it was agreed that this be passed to the PTA for their own consideration and response.

A discussion took place around the formal consultation around the Catchment and Admission Policy. Some practical issues were identified that continue to impact on Lenzie Academy admissions and the Chair agreed to highlight some of the Parent Councils' concerns to the relevant authorities.

## **6 Head Teacher's Report**

### **Preliminary Examinations**

Performance updates about how well pupils have performed in the recent preliminary examinations have been produced and will help identify which young people need extra help and support to enable them to fulfil their potential.

### **Staffing**

Mr Paterson updated members on recent staff changes and formally thanked staff who were moving on and welcomed new arrivals to Lenzie Academy.

### **Prize giving**

Prize giving this year will be split into two separate events – one for the Broad General Education and the other for the Senior Phase. Mr Paterson updated members about an offer from an ex-pupil to sponsor a Modern Studies prize and to hold seminars to support senior pupils interested in attending universities in the USA.

### **LA+**

Mr Paterson offered updates on the LA+ (Behaviour Management System) and outlined some changes that are being made to support the process.



### **UCAS Update**

Whilst acknowledging that a number of universities do not make offers until late February or early March Mr Paterson highlighted that the pattern of offers being made to pupils this current year is very similar to the offers made over the past two years. He confirmed that Lenzie Academy should have a much clearer picture by March.

### **School refurbishment update**

Mr Paterson offered an update on matters relating to the school refurbishment including the limited progress in relation to the development of the 4G pitch. There is a hope however that an ASN (Additional Support Needs) resource will be completed by June/July 2020. There was no further update on the refurbishment of the Guidance Base which was due to commence in October 2018.

### **German Exchange**

Lenzie Academy have a new teacher in the modern languages department who has agreed to lead the German Exchange programme and the Staufer Gymnasium intend to send approximately 15 students to Lenzie during September/October 2020. Lenzie Academy will also advertise for pupils to participate on the exchange programme during June 2021. In the fullness of time it is hoped to re-introduce German as a subject choice, provided there is viable uptake for the subject.

### **School events and activities**

Mr Paterson provided a comprehensive update on a wide variety of events and activities that have taken place at Lenzie Academy over the months. He thanked all staff and pupils who participated and congratulated participants on their successes.

### **7) Pupil Questionnaire (Equality and Diversity Group)**

Two members of staff who are part of the Equality and Diversity Group at the school would like to run a questionnaire relating to LGBTQ+ to help identify any related issues that the school should be aware of. It was considered important that participation was voluntary and that the questionnaire could be anonymised using the GLOW system within the school. It is hoped to achieve a true reflection of related issues in an anonymous and optional manner and to see what young peoples attitudes are. It was felt essential that a 'prefer not to answer' option is offered for those participating.

### **8) Parental Engagement Update**

Mr Paterson offered to invite Mr Farquhar from Lenzie Academy to the next meeting of the Parent Council to highlight the 'learning and teaching strategies' employed at the school. Some other schools have introduced innovative engagement activities to help highlight how difficult and challenging the school life can be at times and it is hoped to see engagement with parents at Lenzie further improve.

### **9) AOCB**

No further actions were discussed.

### **10) Date of Next Meeting**

Mrs White thanked all the members of the Parent Council for their attendance and input and suggested 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 as the date for the next meeting. The Chair called the Parent Council meeting to a close.