



LENZIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

The minutes of Lenzie Academy Parent Council Meeting held remotely (MS Teams) on Tuesday 27th October 2020

Present:

Aileen McGrane	Chad Morse	Colette Maxwell	Fiona Kirkland
Fiona Wright	Gayetri Bhaskar	Joseph Jojy	Laura Forrester
Lesley Connacher	Melanie Quince	Carol Nurbhai	Sandra Thornton
Sarah Giffen	Shui He	Audrey Hand	Siobhan White
Jack McLean			

In Attendance:

Mr Paterson (Head Teacher)	Mr Farquhar	Mr McDowell
----------------------------	-------------	-------------

Apologies:

N/A

1 Chair's Welcome

Mrs White opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Parent Council and other parents / carers who were participating. She explained to the functioning of the Parent Council and highlighted the various resources that were available to interested parties on the school web-site. No apologies had been received.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting on 30 January 2020 were accepted as read and seconded by Laura Forrester.

3 AGM Date and Format

The Chair advised that the Annual General Meeting should be held as soon as possible and would have to be held remotely again using MS Teams. It was agreed that a suitable date would be identified and circulated in a timely manner.

The Chair asked the committee, ahead of the AGM, if the permitted Parent Council membership numbers as specified in the Constitution was still fit for purpose or should the maximum number of Parent Members be reduced from the current maximum of 16. The matter was discussed at length and it was decided to leave the maximum number of Parent Council Members at 16 for the time being.

4 Chairperson's Report

The Chair reported on the following activities:

- On 22nd September the Chair attended an online focus group organised by the East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) Education Officer for secondary school provision to discuss 'wellbeing, equality and inclusion' questions as part of parental views on the self-assessment document 'How Good is our School?'



- On 5th October the Chair attended an online session for Chairs of Parent Councils to discuss the Councils Digital Strategy for Education and school preparedness for blended learning.
- On 7th October the Chair attended a regular meeting with Gary Logue (Parent), Mr Paterson, and EDC Estates Officers to discuss ongoing School estate issues. A follow-up meeting is scheduled to be held in November to chart progress.

5 Head Teacher's Report

Mr Paterson provided the Parent Council with a detailed update of matters currently relating to Lenzie Academy:

COVID Update

The return to school has proved very challenging for both staff and pupils within schools.

Staff absence

Due to staff self isolating this has been much higher than the average across August and September on top of the normal level of staff absence caused by general illness. There are inevitable impacts of this on learning and teaching. EDC employed more temporary staff in June and allocated them to schools to help give schools greater capacity to cover absence.

Pupil absence

Across August and into October pupil absences were also higher than normal and this was similar to the situation across the rest of Scotland.

Daily routines

The daily routines in the school have been challenging with enhanced pupil supervision required for various matters.

Curricular issues

There has been a significant change in the way lessons are delivered to pupils compared to what would normally be the case with key changes in the delivery of PE, Music, HFT, DT, Art and Drama. The school are unable to provide extra-curricular activities at present.

Assemblies

The school are not allowed to have year group assemblies at the moment and this is proving problematic.

Parental meetings

Cannot go ahead in their current form but a number of changes have been made to try and compensate for the inability to meet parents / carers.

School Recovery Plan

EDC have suspended the normal 'School Improvement Plan' process to focus on a 'Recovery Plan' relating to:

- Transitions
- Health and wellbeing, including nurture
- Family engagement
- Continuing to ensure equity, excellence and educational continuity



Supported Study / LA Launch

EDC have given schools additional resources to provide a comprehensive supported study programme for senior pupils. This will begin in early November and continue until Easter.

LA Launch has already started and offers a quiet space for pupils to complete homework tasks, to access ICT and to seek assistance from teachers.

Preparations for blended learning

Through the period May-June 2020 schools devised alternative timetables based upon 33% or nine hours teaching per week for all year groups. EDC viewed this as being achievable, based upon the staffing and accommodation constraints necessitated by 2m distancing.

SQA Results 2020

There were issues with the SQA's approach in light of the cancellation of the exam diet. The school had been tracking S4-6 pupils' progress carefully across August-March and were comfortable with what we thought our pupils would achieve:

- S4 5+ at N5 = 71% (on a par with the average over the past five years)
- S5 5+ at H Grade = 50% (highest on record)
- S5 3+ at H Grade = 70% (highest on record)
- S5 1+ at H Grade = 87% (highest on record)

SQA Exams 2021

The National 5 examination diet has been cancelled and the H Grade and AH Grade exams have been pushed back by a few weeks. As a result the school will be looking to change the traditional pattern of assessment for S4 pupils to try and maximise their chances of success.

School refurbishments

4G Pitch - A contractor to construct our new 4G pitch has been appointed and hopefully construction of the pitch can begin in due course.

Painting – EDC have agreed to re-paint the schools corridors providing a much needed refresh.

Internal re-modelling – EDC have agreed to some internal works to enhance the school's provision.

A number of parents acknowledged the various difficulties that teaching staff had had to deal with and asked Mr Paterson to thank them all for their efforts on behalf of the Parent Council.

6 Parental Engagement Strategy

Mr Farquhar provided a presentation to update the PC on the Parental Engagement Strategy which is considered an integral part of the schools' Recovery Plan. Its aim is to foster positive links with the parent body, engage parents in pupil learning and reflect the voice of all parents. Mr Farquhar advised that a parental survey was due to be carried out to canvas opinion on such matters. Provisionally though the strategy would include 5 Workstreams:

1. Vision, Values and Aims
2. Communication and Consultation
3. Celebration and Outgoing Information
4. Family Learning
5. Digital Technology



Mr Farquhar discussed each of the workstreams in some detail and explained that the purpose of the presentation was to offer an initial update to the Parent Council in advance of a full update being offered to the main parent / carer body within the school.

7 PTA Update

Mr Farquhar provided an update on recent PTA activity.

8 AOCB

Mr Farquhar updated the PC on plans to create a Contemplation Area within the school. He had been engaging with an EDC group called Street Scene with a view to creating a memorial for a number of Lenzie Academy pupils who over the years had sadly passed away. The Contemplation Area would offer benches and a quiet space for pupils who would benefit from such a facility.

9 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair thanked all parents and members of the Parent Council for their participation and advised that the date of the AGM would be circulated when a suitable date was identified. The Chair called the Parent Council meeting to a close.