



## **LENZIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**

### **The minutes of Lenzie Academy Parent Council Meeting held remotely (MS Teams) on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**

#### **Present:**

Fiona Wright	Carol Nurbhai	Gillian Cay	Gayetri Ramachandran
Nina Teasdale	Miss Byres	Mr McDowell	Siobhan White (Chair)
Mr Paterson (Head Teacher)			

#### **Apologies:**

Jack McLean	Laura Forrester	Gillian Renwick	Sarah Giffen
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#### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

Mrs White (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone who was participating. She offered an overview of how the Parent Council functioned and highlighted the various resources that were available to parents / carers on the school website.

A list of apologies was noted.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were accepted as a true record.

#### **3 Chairperson's Report**

Mrs White advised that a questionnaire will soon be circulated relating to 'Active Travel' which will have a section related to school journeys. This will be circulated in due course. Mr Paterson and the Chair recently met with EDC Estates and are please to confirm that work is almost complete on the new rugby pitch. It was noted that there did not appear to be any fencing round the whole pitch and this may cause potential security issues moving forward if not addressed.

The Chair met with Jan Pollock and Kevin Kelly who are EDC School Quality Improvement Officers relating to the EDC Alternative Certification Model. The Appeals Process was discussed in some detail.

#### **4 Head Teacher's Report**

##### **SQA Alternative Certification Model**

With the cancellation of the 2021 SQA examination diet the Scottish Government asked the SQA to devise an 'alternative certification model'. The establishment of a steering group called NQ21 would oversee this process. The steering group had membership of major stakeholders such as the SQA, Education Scotland as well as professional associations representing directors of education, school leaders and teachers' organisations. In essence, teachers in schools would determine provisional grades for S4, S5 and S6 pupils using their professional judgement based upon 'demonstrable evidence'. In practice this meant teachers would be devising various forms of assessment and schools would put in place opportunities for pupils to



demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in the various subjects they were studying. The assessments would not replicate the SQA exam but would more likely be chunked into smaller assessments. There would be a five-stage process involved:

1. Assessments would be agreed upon within schools and discussed and agreed with moderation partners in other schools.
2. Assessments would be marked and cross-marked in subject departments by teaching staff.
3. There would be a thorough moderation process undertaken at school level. For example, a subject department in Lenzie Academy, such as Biology, would engage in professional dialogue once all work had been marked and cross-marked to ensure consistent application of standards.
4. There would be moderation at local authority level. For example, the biology department in Lenzie Academy would work with at least two other Biology departments in other EDC schools to compare standards. In all subject departments across EDC there are teachers who work with the SQA as markers, setters and verifiers and their expertise could be used to moderate standards across the local authority.
5. Once moderation had been completed at departmental level there would be quality assurance procedures implemented at whole school level.

As far as Lenzie Academy is concerned the main assessment block for S4-6 pupil finished on 21 May, though a number of subjects continue to offer some assessments beyond that date. All provisional grades once they have gone through the various moderation and quality assurance procedures will be sent to the SQA in late June.

#### **New Timetable**

Due the very disjointed and truncated nature of the academic session in 2020-21 and the implementation of the alternative certification model outlined earlier, we are starting our new timetable later than would normally be the case. The new timetable for session 2021-22 will start on **Monday 14 June**. Further details will be issued about this in due course.

#### **S6 Leavers**

Lenzie Academy would normally hold an S6 Leavers ceremony in late April, prior to S6 going on SQA study leave. The S6 Leavers Ball would be held in early June. Due to COVID restrictions, neither of these events could take place in the way that they would normally do. In fact, S6 pupils only must attend classes when they have assessments to sit which is far from ideal. The last official day for the current S6 pupils will be Thursday 10 June and the school are engaged in preparations for a scaled down series of events on that day.

#### **Learning loss**

There have been a number of ways that the school have tried to make up for learning loss. The identification of learning loss was done through a triangulation approach that involved feedback from guidance staff; pupil wellbeing questionnaires and surveys about learning loss and where pupils felt they needed more help. We also spoke with PTs (Curriculum) to gain a departmental perspective. This allowed us to develop a range of universal and targeted supports for pupils.

1. As a school we were allocated some additional staffing. We identified departments where we had guidance staff so that they were freed up to enable them to work more intensively with their caseloads to identify who was struggling more and provide appropriate support. We managed to secure additional staffing in Biology, Business Education and PE. This freed up guidance teachers in those departments.
2. Where additional staffing allowed the school reduce class sizes, facilitated more team teaching and it enabled us to do individual and small group extraction in the Senior Phase in some subject areas.
3. We used selected periods from 'core' subjects (PE, RME and PSE) to provide greater input in the following areas – metacognition; skills; literacy and numeracy.



4. In S1 we used Drama periods for skills and meta-cognitive inputs. In S2 we used elective time for enhanced literacy and numeracy – particularly numeracy as this is where pupils felt they needed most support. In S3 and S4 pupils were taken out of PE and RME at different points in the session to work on their NQs. In S5/6 we had the elective periods and we used these to facilitate extra work in NQs through self-directed study.
5. We continue to have small group tutorial work for Senior Phase pupils who are attempting 'crash' H Grade subjects.
6. A key focus next session will be to utilise the lessons learnt from digital learning approaches used through lockdown 1 and 2 by incorporating these approaches as part of our regular learning. For example, using 'flipped learning', utilising narrated power points and some of the work of the West partnership to enhance and reinforce learning for our pupils. This will be a major part of our Improvement Plan for 2021-22.

### **Year Group Heads**

Every few years we change the year group responsibilities of the deputy head teachers (DHTs). From the start of the new timetable the following DHTs will be responsible for the following year groups:

- S1 Mr Farquhar
- S2 Mrs Clyne
- S3 Ms Robertson
- S4 Ms Sinclair
- S5 Ms Munro
- S6 Mrs Elliott

### **Staffing Update**

There have been several staffing changes for next session outlined below:

- **Guidance** – In August Ms Buchanan will join us as a Principal Teacher (Guidance) from Graeme High School and will also be teaching Drama as well as her guidance duties.
- **Temporary posts** – the school have two temporary positions, one in English and the other in Maths that we need to fill this month for August.
- **Newly Qualified Teachers** – the school have been provisionally allocated the NQTs requested for 2021-22 but there is nothing definitive as yet. We await final confirmation as students can back out at the last moment or fail their final placement. Final details will not be known until later this month.

### **S1 Reports**

In recognition of the challenging start that our new S1 pupils have had we have decided to issue another report for our S1 pupils. This will be issued later in June and there will be some additional follow up phone calls to parents/carers who request further information about aspects of the report that they receive.

### **3G Rugby Pitch**

I am delighted to announce that work on our new rugby pitch has been completed. This will enable us, as an official school of rugby, to play rugby throughout the year due to the installation of new floodlighting. The pitch can accommodate junior rugby matches and will also allow year-round training for senior rugby. We are very grateful to East Dunbartonshire Council for the significant investment required to bring this new resource into operation for the benefit of our PE department and, through our links with the SRU and Lenzie Rugby Club, the wider Lenzie community.

### **Prize Giving 2020-21**

The annual Prize Giving Ceremony is traditionally one of the highlights of the school year where we invite parents/carers and wider family members to come into the school and join us in the celebration of young peoples' achievements. This covers their academic endeavours; their continued commitment and



determination to succeed and also their commitment to helping others through the recognition of wider achievement.

Last year we needed to devise a new set of arrangements for our Prize Giving ceremony due to COVID and this took place in September rather than June. Unfortunately, the school were not allowed to have any parents/carers or wider family members in school to celebrate their children's successes. This year's arrangements will be similar to last year. Although we cannot be certain what the situation will be in September 2021 with regard to restrictions on schools and wider society, it is highly unlikely that we would be allowed to have a large gathering of 400+ people into the school so we are proceeding on the assumption that the pupils will attend but not wider family members. This is a huge disappointment but unfortunately will likely be necessary.

### **Change of Guidance group names**

As many of you will be aware we have used the guidance teacher's surname as the basis for naming guidance classes. For example, Mr Curran's guidance classes would be 1CN through to 6CN. There are advantages to this approach but when a guidance teacher leaves the school and a new one starts, we must change the names across all S1-6 classes for that guidance group. From August we are going to link the guidance groups more to our existing 'House' system and thus the following will apply:

### **Fleming House (CO + MC classes)**

This House is named after Alexander Fleming the biologist and pharmacologist who discovered penicillin

- **CO classes become FL1** so 1CO will now be 1FL1 and so on through to 6FL1
- **MC classes become FL2** so 1MC will now be 1FL2 and so on through to 6FL2

### **Inglis House (MB + WR classes)**

This House is named after Elsie Inglis a leading suffragette and doctor at the time of the Great War

- **MB classes become IG1** so 1MB will now be 1IG1 and so on through to 6IG1
- **WR classes become IG2** so 1WR will now be 1IG2 and so on through to 6IG2

### **Mackintosh House (RA and SL classes)**

This House is named after Charles Rennie Macintosh the famous Scottish architect and designer

- **RA classes become MT1** so 1RA will now be 1MT1 and so on through to 6MT1
- **SL classes become MT2** so 1SL will now be 1MT2 and so on through to 6MT1

### **McKay House (CN + MH classes)**

This House is named after Ailsa Mackay and economist and Scottish Government adviser on gender equality

- **CN classes become MK1** so 1CN will now become 1MK1 and so on through to 6MK1
- **MH classes become MK2** so 1MH will now become 1MK2 and so on through to 6MK2

It is recognised that this change will take some time for pupils and parents/carers to get used to, but it was felt the time was right to deepen some of the links into the House system and this is one additional way to do this.

## **5 Show My Homework**

Mr Paterson offered a description and update on the running of this facility. He confirmed that parents can access the site and monitor each pupil's homework allocation. He confirmed that 'Show My Homework' has an ongoing annual cost to the school of around £3000. MS Teams had been well used by teachers and pupils during lockdown as an alternative and a majority seemed to enjoy and prefer it. Mr Paterson asked if parents would prefer to retain 'Show My Homework' or move more towards MS Teams allowing a saving of £3000 per year that could better utilised. The matter was discussed at length and various points were considered. It was



decided that some analysis of the 'Show My Homework' system data could be undertaken to identify accurate parental usage of the system and help properly inform a final decision.

## **6 Developing The Young Workforce**

Mr Paterson introduced Jennifer Byres as the school's new DYW Coordinator and she provided a full account of her new role highlighting many options that exist for pupils who may be preparing to enter the workplace and to support those most at risk from achieving negative destinations. There has been a recent focus on some 4<sup>th</sup> Year pupils who were preparing to leave Lenzie Academy and had needs at this time.

A key role has been building a better DYW 'platform' for pupils within the school and to enhance key business partnerships going forward. Several 'trades' and 'apprenticeships' options are also being planned as an alternative to College / University options during August.

Ms. Byres highlighted the benefits of the existing LA Launch facility which currently runs 3 times per week at the school and suggested the addition of an afterschool facility to assist pupils with UCAS / College / University and job applications. She asked if parents would be supportive of such an additional facility. The matter was discussed at some length and there was general support for the idea in principle.

## **7 Pupil Equity Funding**

Mr Paterson updated the Parent Council in relation to 'SIMD 1 & 2 Funding' the school receives which is linked to families' incomes. The school is to receive £68,000 this year which is an increase on the amount received in previous years. The school is also looking to find the best way to consult with parents as to how such funding should be spent. In the past employing organisations for teacher training, Breakfast Clubs, subsidising theatre trips and the purchase of bread makers have all been undertaken. The school want to consult but do not wish to overwhelm parents with huge amounts of information.

It was suggested that a proposal be produced by the school in broad terms along with specific examples to help explain what was being suggested. It was considered that the school was best placed to know what resources are required and that all pupils would receive some benefit from such an investment. Mr Paterson agreed to publish a Special Newsletter with a proposal and include a request for alternate suggestions to be made.

## **8 Lenzie Academy PTA**

Mr McDowell updated the Parent Council on matters relating to current PTA activity. Fundraising activities are still very restricted, but a 'Donut Sale' and a 'Balloon Race' have recently been organised. Funding has been provided to help pay for the '2021 Leavers Ceremony'.

## **9 AOCB**

A question was raised about what alternate arrangements were being made to replace the S2 Parent Evenings that had been cancelled earlier in the year because of Covid restrictions. Mr Paterson advised that he will be looking into this to identify all gaps that have been created due to recent circumstances. The school will ensure that going forward there is an opportunity for the S2 and similar year groups to be able to catch up in the reporting process at the beginning of the next term. School teachers and staff are desperate to get back to more 'normal' working arrangements and the school will progress this as quickly as is reasonably practicable. A further question was asked relating to the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme which seems to have stalled in recent months. Young people have continued to work, and volunteering continues but the scheme does not appear



to be allowing this work to be recorded. Mr Paterson advised that both the school and East Dunbartonshire Council have roles to play in the scheme. Mr Paterson agreed to discuss with the school coordinator, Miss Ness, and obtain an update.

No other competent business was raised.

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

Mrs White thanked everyone for their participation and advised that the date of the next meeting at the start of next term would be circulated in due course. She asked Mr Paterson to thank all of the teachers and staff for their hard work over the past year.