



## **LENZIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes for the Annual General Meeting of the LAPC**

**7pm, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**(Held remotely using 'Teams')**

#### **1 PC Chair's Welcome**

The Chair welcomed members of the Parent Council and visitors to the remotely held Annual General Meeting. This meeting had been postponed from 1<sup>st</sup> December due to technical issues.

In attendance were:

Mark McDowell	Andy Torbet	Jack McLean	Chad Morse
Laura Lamb	Phil Reoch	Fiona Wright	Siobhan White
Carol Nurbhai	Sarah Giffen	Laura Forrester	Niel Farquhar
Gayetri Ramachandran			

Apologies were received from:

Nina Teasdale	Damion Cooper	Audrey Hand	Fiona Kirkland
Brian Paterson			

#### **2 Minutes of Previous AGM**

The minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting held Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were accepted as read and seconded by Gayetri Ramachandran.

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

Mrs White outlined the role of the Lenzie Academy Parent Council. She advised that the Constitution is available for anyone who wishes to read it and that it is posted on the School website. Building issues were discussed at length and an update relating to proposals put forward to EDC for building improvements and redecoration. The Chair discussed some of the issues that parents had raised with the Parent Council and that had been highlighted to the school. She also indicated involvement in the following:

- Regular meetings of the Parent Council Forum comprised of the Chairs from all ED Schools Parent Councils who meet with the Director of Education for East Dunbartonshire.
- Focus Group involvement relating to wider educational matters that Impact on the school such as the recently held 'How Good Is Our Service'.



- Presentations on Parental Engagement, Attainment Review, Skills Development Scotland and the People Questionnaire on Equality and Diversity.
- Parent Council Chair / Lenzie Academy Head Teacher: regular meetings have taken place to discuss and address matters of parental concern over the past year and during the Covid Lockdown. The school's Recovery Plan has been placed on the school website for parent / carer's information as well as being circulated by e-mail.
- Various building issues have been routinely dealt with throughout the year. The most pressing issues that are outstanding for the school estate relate to security at the front and rear entrances, a matter regarding roosting pigeons and other more general upkeep issues. Maintenance and development of the property is an ongoing issue that is monitored on a regular basis.

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

Mr Farquhar presented the Head Teachers report for the year:

##### **School Roll**

The roll is approaching capacity, particularly in some year groups. Notional capacity is 1310 and the current roll is 1270. Next year the school will probably be at or near capacity, as the school expects 235 S1 pupils in August 2021 whilst approximately 200 will leave.

##### **COVID Update**

Now that the school is in Tier 4 all PE is outdoors only. This reduces choice and puts pressure on school resources. Both gyms, the games and assembly halls cannot be used for such activities. This has had knock on effects for S1 pupils who cannot make use of the pitch as they normally would on a Wednesday.

The delay in the construction of the new pitch has, in some respects, been a positive as our S1 can still utilise the bottom car park to ensure they have some space for fresh air and an area to expend some of their energies. It has been a difficult and challenging year for our S1 pupils. All other year groups are aware of the wide range of trips and extra-curricular activities that would normally be on offer within the school but this year can't happen. Notwithstanding this our S1 cohort do seem to be very happy with their circumstance.

The school's music instructors have returned and a combination of face to face and online instruction is now possible. Some ICT issues that limited our online capabilities have now been resolved.

Ventilation of the building had been a concern as we approached the winter months but adequate ventilation in classrooms and communal areas without pupils and staff having to endure temperatures that are not ambient has not occurred. The school's heating system is working very well and maintaining a comfortable temperature across the school.

Senior officers from EDC visited the school on Thursday 2 December as part of their health and safety review of schools. Staff and pupils seem content with the operational practices the school has adopted. Trade unions and pupil councils have not expressed any concerns or misgivings related to this.



East Dunbartonshire Council have provided the school with 20 visualizers to enhance our capacity to hold meetings remotely and enhance learning and teaching. Some departments that have practical demonstrations utilise them as part of their ongoing work.

### **Staffing**

A number of new staff have joined the school this year either in permanent posts, as Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT) for a year or as temporary teachers. The school are very happy with the level of commitment and the quality of teaching being provided, especially by our NQTs who have missed a significant amount of their training year due to COVID.

### **Ms Lynne McCosh**

At this point I want to formally pay tribute to a dear colleague, Ms Lynne McCosh, who passed away on Monday 23 November, after a long illness. Ms McCosh was a really valued colleague who had worked in the school since August 1999. She was an excellent teacher of Mathematics and a huge support to many pupils and their families as a principal teacher of guidance for MH classes.

Some staff members as well as members of the senior leadership team attended her funeral. In school a two minutes silence was held as a mark of respect for Ms McCosh and to remember her valued contributions to the school community during her time here.

### **School Captains 2020-21**

Details of the various school captains were intimated to the meeting. It was explained that all eight youngsters who made it through to the final round of interviews performed superbly well and it was abundantly clear how proud they are to be pupils of Lenzie Academy. Any of the eight would have been worthy captains and they should all be hugely commended.

Similarly for the various house captains. Again, the interviewers were very impressed with how the youngsters had acquitted themselves through the interview process and their ideas to enhance the school's House system.

### **EDC Annual Attainment Review**

This year's attainment review focused on school recovery and learning loss, how we identified it, what we are doing to make up for the deficit and how we are measuring pupil progress. The meeting also focused upon:

- the school's contingency arrangements in the event of a move to blended learning and/or another lockdown
- our assessment plans for S4 and S5/6
- the school's positive destination figures (98% positive), and
- the schools view of some of the measures EDC were putting in place at authority level, particularly the use of professional development groups (PDGs) for moderation of assessments in the senior phase.

Overall, council officers were highly satisfied with the school's plans and how we are taking them forward.



### **New Rugby Pitch**

There has been a delay in taking forward the new pitch due to the Roads Department have not yet ruled on the 'construction methodology study'. This relates to the traffic management system to be employed by the nominated contractor. Also the Planning Department have not come back with regard to the construction of the new fence as part of the work to be undertaken. It has been decided therefore that the work will not commence fully until 4 January 2021. This delay means that the work should be completed by the spring break. A letter will be issued to all parents/carers towards the end of term as a reminder of the works starting in January.

### **Contemplation Area**

The school unveiled new benches in memory of Kornelia Burak and Abigail Hall in October and have been working with EDC to try and source additional funding to enhance the area to ensure it is a decent space for family and friends to attend or indeed anyone who wants some quiet space. The school will pursue grant funding and EDC have said that they will work with the school to enhance the whole quadrangle area. It is worth noting however that two of the captaincy team (EG and NL) have been putting in long hours to enhance the area. This is highly commendable and we thank them for all their ongoing hard-work on this.

### **UCAS Update**

This year we have 128 pupils applying through UCAS for 2021 entry – 17 for early entry:

- Medicine (9)
- Veterinary Medicine (4)
- Dentistry (3)
- Oxford (1)

Of the remaining 111 we have processed more than 80 and this will be ongoing over the next week or so.

As a school we also offer youngsters the following supports:

1. Mock interviews for early entry courses. This will include extensive feedback and further interviews.
2. Mock interviews for college courses (starts from January onwards).
3. We facilitate meetings with people who can assist with interview techniques and skills. This year we have an ex-pupil from nine years ago who works at the University of Dundee who is doing Teams sessions with our pupils.
4. We buddy people up with others who have gone through the same or similar processes eg. we have one pupil this year who has applied for medicine at Oxford and we buddied with one of our pupils who is currently studying medicine at Oxford.
5. Ordinarily we would bring people into the school to discuss areas where we have no expertise eg. engineering. This year we can't do this so we will try and facilitate any supports virtually.

### **S4 Assessment**

As you know all National 5 courses will not take place this year. As a result the school have changed the assessment arrangements for S4 who will no longer undertake a prelim in January 2021. This will be pushed back until March to ensure that we give all pupils the best possible chance of achieving



the best possible estimate. The school are still in discussions with departmental heads as to whether the school hold a formal prelim diet in March or whether assessments are undertaken during the double periods. This will be finalised in January and we will inform all parents/carers of S4 at that time what the finalised arrangements will be.

### **S5/6 Tracking**

Results from the S5/6 post-October assessments tracking for the current S5 and S6 is looking very positive and better than we would have expected when comparing their overall results in S4 with the previous year's S4 results and now comparing this year's S5 at this stage with last year's S5 at this stage.

### **Supported Study**

Each week the school offer between 18-24 sessions for supported study and most will go ahead as planned. There are often between 5-12 pupils per session. The sessions delivered by departments is determined by areas where they feel pupils need more support on allied to discussions with pupils as to what they would like offered.

As we move more towards the S5/6 prelims it is likely that the numbers attending will grow. They will certainly grow after the prelims during the February to April period. It is likely that the S4 numbers will also grow as we approach their assessment block in March.

### **LA Launch**

This programme is primarily aimed at S1-3 pupils. It offers a quiet space to complete homework or work on projects. The sessions run on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3.30 – 4.30. Attendance tends to vary with an average of between 3-5 pupils per evening. As we approach the prelims this tends to grow with some S4 pupils also attending.

### **School events and activities**

The impact of COVID restrictions has meant that many of the ordinary things that we do have had to be cancelled, altered or amended but there are still a number of things happening within the school:

- £1200 was raised for Children in Need through our dress down day.
- An 'odd socks' day as part of Mental Health Awareness week
- We have selected our S3 Mentors for this year and they will be getting questions from P7 pupils and making a video to help answer their questions/queries about what life is like in secondary school.
- Our school captains are making a video for all departments to create a virtual 'Open Evening' for our P7 pupils and their parents/carers. It is hoped that this will be put on our new school "YouTube" channel this is currently being created.
- Our S6 pupils are setting up a Young Enterprise company with a view to working with the PTA to sell new and second hand past paper booklets. This is still being developed.
- We have embarked upon 'Operation Strava' (with the PTA). This is for our pupils and staff to walk the equivalent of from Lenzie Academy to the North Pole. It is linked to an online app. There will be an element of fundraising associated with it and also House points are at stake.
- Some of our S6 pupils are developing an 'Operation Shoe Box' appeal to aid youngsters at Christmas.
- We will be having Christmas quizzes in PSE with House points associated based upon scores.



- As a staff we hold our 'Christmas Tree' appeal whereby staff take 1-5 requests from youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds and buy presents which are then delivered to them.
- All staff are free to enter the 'decorate your door' competition with the winner being chosen by our school captains. This will take place over the next couple of weeks.
- We will be having a Christmas Fayre on 11 December where our retail classes will be selling various things that they have put together. We have risk assessed this to ensure appropriate social distancing between senior pupils who will be selling the items and other year groups who may be purchasing.
- Our annual Young Musician of the Year event will also take place on 11 December. This year pupils will send in a video of their performance and this will be judged with the winner gaining the accolade of being the best in school and also winning House points for their own house.

Members of the committee offered their thanks to the school staff for all their hard work during these testing times. In particular the supported study that is being offered.

## **5 Election of Parent Council Members**

- Membership of the Parent Council is a minimum of six and a maximum of sixteen parent members, plus two staff members as stated in the Constitution. A small number of resignations have been received this year and two current members are required to step down having served for the past two years. Both members who were standing down intimated a desire to stand for re-election:
  - Sarah Giffen
  - Gayetri Ramachandran
- The following persons intimated a desire to stand for election to the Parent Council as new members:
  - Nina Teasdale
  - Damion Cooper
  - Carol Nurbhai
  - Jack McLean

No other notes of interest had been received.

- Since there would be no more than sixteen members in total on the Parent Council a vote was not required and all nominations were accepted and welcomed onto the Parent Council.
- Mrs Forrester offered to stand as the Deputy Chair of the Parent Council, given that this position had remained vacant for over a year. There were no other nominations for this position and Mrs Forrester was duly appointed. This was seconded by Mr McLean.

## **6 Lenzie Academy PTA**

Laura Lamb updated the committee on the running of the PTA and explained that the business year was shorter than normal running from August to March due to the impact of Covid restrictions. During this period £3000 was spent across the school; Bounce Back for S1's, Health and Wellbeing sessions for S2, S5 & S6, new prizegiving trophies and a donation was made to the



creation of the Contemplation Area. Membership seems to be increasing amongst parents and teachers. She advised that the usual bidding process within the school had to be postponed this year so the PTA took the decision to purchase 500 reusable face masks which were donated to the school.

A new PTA Web-site has been designed and is linked to the school web-site. The PTA have successfully used 'Group Call' to distribute information about events and it will be utilised further as and when required. The only other event being planned is a Spring Fayre.

Phil Reoch offered an update on the PTA finances from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. The PTA started the year with £2262 and ended it with £3831. The 500Club monthly subscription is the biggest income and this was enhanced by donations and 500Club winners donating their winnings as prizes. Other income was realised from a very successful quiz night and from other fundraising activities. Total income for the year was £4749.

Mr Farquhar offered his personal thanks to Phil who was stepping down from his involvement with the PTA. He has worked tirelessly over the years and everyone at Lenzie Academy very much appreciate his efforts.

## **7 AOCB**

N/A

## **8 Closure Of Meeting**

Mrs White thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. She advised that details of the next AGM would be circulated later next year but looked forward to holding another Parent Council meeting in late January / early February 2021.