



LENZIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

The minutes of Lenzie Academy Parent Council Meeting held remotely (MS Teams) on Tuesday 1st March 2022

Present:

Fiona Wright	Carol Nurbhai	Mr Farquhar	Gayetri Ramachandran
Siobhan White (Chair)	Stephen Hall	Mr Paterson (Head Teacher)	
Jack McLean	Mr McDowell	Laura Forrester	Tanya Thorsen
Ms Byres	Nina Teasdale	Sarah Giffen	

Apologies:

Nauman Dar	Oliver Tchoumi
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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

In relation to some business discussed at the previous meeting some parents highlighted difficulties that their children had experienced relating to the provision of work provided to pupils during Self Isolation due to COVID. Mr Paterson highlighted that information and resources are currently available on the MS Teams facility and that when a young person was absent due to illness there was no expectation that work should be covered during this absence albeit he appreciated that as recovery took place there may be a desire for students to catch up on missing lessons. The material on MS Teams was designed to provide this facility until the young person was well enough to return to school. He agreed to take this matter back to the teaching staff to highlight the issues raised.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 6th December 2021 was accepted as a true record.

3 Parental Engagement Strategy

Mr Farquhar provided a very informative update on the development of the school's Parental Engagement Strategy. His summary of activity highlighted the Vision, Values and Aims of the Parental Engagement Strategy which now mirror the School's Vision, Values and Aims.

He discussed communications and consultation as well as focussing on 'celebration' as a key focus of outgoing information. Family learning was highlighted as a consideration going forward as well as the continuing development and use of Digital Technology. Twitter and You Tube have been used as a vehicle for circulation of such information and has already been put to good use in circulating the 'S1 Welcome Evening Video' and a 'Virtual P7 Open Evening'.

Mr Farquhar highlighted that Inclusivity (respect and compassion) and Ambition (high expectations and embracing change) were key factors in the strategy. The school were currently looking to develop



opportunities for pupils to edit and produce much of the material themselves with some guidance and supervision. The 'We Believe In You' message will be launched very soon using such a You Tube video.

By way of 'communicating and consulting' several events are planned, including a Parental Questionnaire where the data returned will be analysed by the school's Principal Teacher of Data. This information will then be used to form the agenda for focus groups that will take place during March. Findings and next steps will be reported back to parents during May. Changes have been made to the format and frequency of Parental Newsletters which has been well received. Focus groups will be created to assist with the delivery of this.

The 'Family Learning' work stream will contribute questions to the parental questionnaire and future inputs will likely include Developing a Young Workforce, Equalities, Study Skills and Wellbeing presentations.

The school's office staff will be heavily involved to ensure that valid information is distributed in a more effective manner. Development of a School APP will also be explored to enhance the circulation of information.

Parents commented that using mentors to communicate information to the P7s about starting at the Academy was a far better way to share such information with this age group.

Mr Paterson added that there were no plans to have gatherings of a significant numbers of visitors within the school so it was unlikely that face to face Parent Evenings could take place in the traditional format during the current school year.

4 Chairperson's Report

Mrs White offered an update on various matters that had occurred since the previous meeting.

5 Head Teacher's Report

New School

A more substantial feasibility study has now been agreed in relation to a 'new school' for Lenzie Academy albeit there is very little information available at present in relation to this. This development signals a significant commitment from EDC and other agencies including the Scottish Government. This item generated a significant amount of discussion on related matters.

Senior Phase Assessments

Early indications are looking positive at this stage in the school year based on teachers' judgements and the various assessments that have taken place to date. Numerous comments were made regarding the number of examinations that students have been undertaking this year. It was explained that the Alternate Certification Model allowed students the opportunity for a more comprehensive assessment model which offers young people better chances overall. It was explained that this arrangement may change in the coming years.

Staffing update

1. Mr McNeil will take on an Acting PT PEF role and lead on aspects of character education.
2. Mr McKinstry will take on an Acting PEF PT role and lead research on a review of quantitative and qualitative data into the effectiveness of PEF and what further improvements Lenzie Academy can make as a school to enhance the impact of the existing programmes.
3. The school have appointed a new Technical Technician, Mr Robert Ferguson, who will start at the end of March.
4. The school's new rugby coordinator, Mr Adam Rankin, started in late January.



Retirement

At the end of June Mrs Janice McIver, PT of HFT, will retire after many years of dedicated service to the school. Mrs McIver has been a leading light in Home Economics at national level, working for the SQA in a variety of roles as well as leading a very strong and high profile department within the school. Many schools far and wide have actively sought out Mrs McIver's expertise and advice. The advert for this post will be interviewed for in due course. The successful applicant will likely start in August.

Purple Friday

As part of the school improvement plan the school are developing a range of activities and events that celebrate equality and diversity, which is an EDC priority. Over the past few months, the school have looked at the following:

- Black History Month.
- The Equalities Act.
- Remembrance assemblies
- Holocaust Memorial Assemblies.
- Chinese New Year.
- World Religion Day
- LGBT History Month. As part of this the school had Purple Friday led by the 'Allies Group' on Friday 25 February

All the work for these assembly inputs have been led by pupils who must be commended for all their hard work in raising other peoples' awareness of key issues in relation to equality and diversity.

Fair Trade Fortnight

The Fair Trade group has been working hard to devise a series of fundraising opportunities in aid of Fair Trade. They have presented a very detailed set of proposals that had been thoughtfully put together and include:

- Raising awareness of UN Development Goals.
- Creating leadership opportunities for pupils.
- Strengthening partnerships with the local community groups such as 'Fairtrade Lenzie', 'The Fairtrade Foundation' and 'The Scottish Fairtrade Forum'.
- They have planned a range of opportunities e.g. attending assemblies to promote awareness of Fairtrade; devising a Fairtrade bake-off for pupils, teachers and parents; cake sales at intervals and devising an S1 Fairtrade product competition; asking departments to create Fairtrade themed lessons.

This group of youngsters are to be commended for their initiative and commitment over a prolonged period of time and a special thanks also to the staff who supervise.

Parental support

Mr Paterson, on behalf of the whole school community, offered a vote of thanks to the number of parents/carers who have, through their generosity, raised significant sums of money for the school. The PE department asked for some sponsorship of PE kit and the school have been taken aback by the generosity of the response which has allowed for the purchase of a number of full kits for school sports teams. Many local firms, parents/carers and staff donated prizes for the raffle that took place as part of the PTA Race Night on Friday 25 February. Through a combination of the race night itself and the raffle, a sum of over £1700 was raised by the PTA for use in supplying the school with a wide range of supports across the session.



Many thanks to the parents/carers and staff of the PTA whose dedication and hard work has resulted in such a successful evening for the school.

Pupil successes

Scottish Schools Athletics Association

Holly K in S6 won Gold at the SSAA Indoor Track & Field event at the Emirates Arena. Holly was successful in the long jump event with an incredible distance of 5.35M.

Scotland U15 Football

Lucy B in S4 represented Scotland u15 recently in Northern Ireland. The team were 3-2 down at half time and came back to win 6-3.

Scotland U16 Hockey

Kyle F (S4) has been selected for the Scotland U16 hockey team, a fantastic achievement and well deserved! He will play his first international game against Wales at Easter.

Northeast Open Figure Skating

William S and Alison S had fantastic skates earlier this month with both scoring personal best scores.

William was placed first in his group (level 2 boys) with a score of 20.80. Alison was placed sixth (of 23) in her group of beginner girls with a score of 15.62.

Piano Recital

One of our S6 pupils, Anna-Louise K, performed a concert at the Red Deer village in Stepps. Her programme of classical piano music included music by Bach, Beethoven, Gershwin and more. Anna is a superb pianist and the audience were treated to an evening of outstanding music.

EDC Young Peoples Forum

Two of our S5 pupils – Oliver S and Mark A – have been selected to join an East Dunbartonshire Young Peoples Forum. The boys had to go through an application process and will join a discussion group looking at how East Dunbartonshire incorporates the ‘Convention of the Rights of the Child’ into its schools and early years’ centres provision. This is a commendable achievement and these two representatives will offer sensible and realistic ideas as part of the discussion group.

AH Music Pupils

Our AH Music pupils spent a full day in February with award winning percussionist (and former Lenzie Academy pupil) Calum Huggan. Calum was hugely impressed by the musicianship and creativity of the pupils who collaborated in composition workshops to create a new piece of music to be played at St Cyprian’s Church in front of a large audience.

Scottish Cup Success

The Lenzie Academy U13 football team defeated Cardinal Newman High School 5-1 to reach the last 16 of the Scottish Cup. A commendable achievement and the school wish them good luck in the next round of the cup.

Dance Festival

About 40 pupils participated in the school’s annual Dance Festival that was held earlier today. All pupils performed exceptionally well and further details will be put into the March newsletter that will be issued just before the Easter break. A special thanks go out to Mrs Rae and Ms Fountain who organised the event.

Developing the Young Workforce Update

DYW was introduced by the Wood Commission for the Scottish Government in 2014 with the 7 year aim of reducing youth unemployment. With the impact of the pandemic, it is now more pertinent than ever to ensure young people have equal opportunity to achieve a positive destination after they leave school. East Dunbartonshire continues to be the best performing local authority in Scotland in ensuring pupils leaving school secure a positive destination with 98.6% of all leavers going into employment, attending a college or going to university against a national average of 95.5%.



February Army Skills Workshop

Four representatives from the Army Recruitment Centre visited Lenzie Academy on 23 February 2022.

Selected pupils in S3-S5 took part in a very interactive and enjoyable workshop, where they took part in a military-drill style warm up and various code breaker, map reading and team building challenges. The pupils then had the option to attend a follow up Army Careers presentation, which the vast majority did. Engagement and cooperation in the event was excellent, and the pupils asked the officers some very thoughtful questions about life in the armed forces, and the application process

6 AOCB

2nd Year Options Process

One parent reported that she found the process difficult to manage and did not feel that the information was signposted as well as it could have been. After a good search the information was eventually located and was of a good standard. It was felt that this process could be better highlighted. Mr Paterson agreed to have someone review the information and the signposting.

No other business was raised.

7 Date of Next Meeting

Mrs White thanked everyone for their participation and advised that the date of the next meeting would be circulated in due course.