



LENZIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

The minutes of Lenzie Academy Parent Council held on Thursday 28th November 2019

Present:

Claire Miller
Gayetri Ramachanderan
Laura Forrester
Cllr. Sandra Thornton
Siobhan White (Chair)
Jack McLean (Clerk)

In Attendance:

Brian Paterson (Head Teacher)
Mark McDowell
Iain McKinstry

Apologies:

Fiona Kirkland
Sarah Giffen
Anne Denton
Kathryn Clark

1 Chair's Welcome and Apologies

Mrs White opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Parent Council. She tendered apologies on behalf of Fiona Kirkland, Sarah Giffen, Anne Denton and Kathryn Clark.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting on 28th October 2019 were accepted as read and seconded.

3 Membership Updates

The Chair welcomed Jack McLean as the new Clerk to the Parent Council. She also announced the resignation of Moira Reoch and thanked her for her service to the Parent Council and as the PTA (FOLA) representative. Mr McDowell agreed to represent the PTA for future business.

The Chair commented that given the relatively low membership level of the Parent Council this was perhaps an indication that there was a good level of satisfaction amongst parents at



Lenzie Academy. Notwithstanding this she highlighted a lack of membership from parents of younger pupils at the academy (S1 and S2) and that efforts would be made to canvas support at upcoming Parents Evenings and other school events.

4 Chairperson's Report

The Chair advised that she had attended a meeting recently relating to Lenzie Academy's building and structure which saw the creation of an action plan with several priority works being noted. There are currently urgent issues relating to the front and rear doors of the school as well as roofing and cycle rack provision. A detailed action plan with identified priorities has been agreed with the Council and will be checked for progress at the next Estates meeting in February 2020.

Mrs Ramachanderan highlighted some recent maintenance issues relating to some of the school toilets. This matter was discussed in some detail and it was agreed that where local issues remain this would be brought to the attention of the School Janitor. As above, the issue of the toilets has also been notified to the Council and is on their action plan.

The misuse of aerosol deodorant cans resulting in the activation of the school's fire alarms continues to cause disruption and concern within the school. A full service of the Fire Alarm is being undertaken but parents / carers are requested to ensure that aerosol canisters are not brought onto the school site by pupils.

5 Head Teacher's Report

Staffing Update

- Miss Rosie Sutton was appointed on a 23 month contract in the Mathematics department in light of Mrs Lennox moving to be Acting PT Support for Pupils.
- Mrs Jude Canning was appointed to a permanent post within the Business Education department.

EDC Attainment Review

This took place on Thursday 14 November and officers were hugely impressed with the quality of overall attainment within the school with the approaches to literacy and numeracy moderation and tracking, which they viewed as 'sector leading', as well as the school's approach to the development and recognition of wider achievement for young people.

Mr Paterson took the Parent Council through a detailed power point slide show that demonstrated some of the school's highline messages against the East Dunbartonshire Council averages and against the school's virtual comparators. It was clear that the school's new curriculum structure was impacting positively across all measures.



Senior Phase Tracking

The October assessments undertaken by all S5/6 pupils have demonstrated a very positive picture of their progress to date. The progress is better than expected at this point in the session and some very positive SQA results should be seen in August 2020. The school puts in place a lot of supports for pupils e.g. supported study; Tuesday afternoon elective time is focused more on revision whilst all subjects finish their courses in plenty of time and thus can do much more work by way of focused revision for all pupils.

School events

- **School photographs** - The annual school photographs took place on 30 October and passed off without incident.
- **Character Education** - The school was visited by Professor Livingstone and Dr Corry from the University of Glasgow as a follow up to their visit last year as part of the school's involvement in the development of intentional Character Education. Both academics met with the head teacher; a group of staff involved in the initiative and a group of pupils. They felt the school was making excellent progress and were hugely impressed by the commitment of staff and the enthusiasm and talent of the young people.
- **Vision Schools** – On Thursday 7 November Mr Paterson, Miss Byres and two S6 Ethics Ambassadors attended an awards ceremony at the Scottish Parliament to receive a Level 1 Award as a school that has developed a range of cross-curricular approaches to the teaching of Holocaust Education.
- **Remembrance Assemblies** – The annual Remembrance Assemblies took place on Friday 8 November and this year were delivered by four S5 pupils. The pupils researched and delivered their presentation very well.
- **Senior Phase Pathways Event** – The school's annual Senior Phase Pathways event took place on Thursday 14 November where lots of universities, colleges, employers and third sector providers came into the school to discuss with S4-6 pupils what opportunities exist beyond school. Thanks were offered to Mrs Sutherland for organising this major event.
- **Art Exhibition** – The annual Art exhibition took place on 19 November and allowed parents / carers to see the quality of Art work from the previous year's SQA candidates. The purpose was also to allow current N5, H Grade and AH Grade students to see the requisite standard needed to meet SQA required benchmarks.
- **Young Musician** – The school's "Young Musician of the Year" competition took place on 21 November and attracted 13 entries – four voice and nine instrument. The standard was extremely high and the winners this year were AE (voice) and VL (cello). Both pupils will now progress to compete against St Ninian's HS and Kirkintilloch HS in February of next year.



- **Parental Engagement** – The school held a new ‘Parental Engagement Event’ at the end of November where a number of departments demonstrated for parents / carers the skills that they teach in their subjects. The focus of the event was to allow parents and their children to learn together. 10 subject departments were in attendance and 43 parents / carers signed up to attend. After a brief overview by Mrs Clyne and Mrs McNab the parents could opt for two subject specific sessions and a whole school session – these were on ‘Study Skills’ (led by Mr Cameron) ‘Careers’ (led by our SDS adviser Joe McCrystal) or a wider achievement session (led by Mrs Davidson). Thanks were offered to Mrs McNab and the Family Learning Committee for organising what was a hugely successful event, as demonstrated by the excellent feedback from those parents who attended.

6 EDC Questionnaire

The Chair updated members on the EDC Questionnaire that had been circulated and that the completion date had been extended to 29 December 2019. The structure of the survey and nature of the questions were discussed in detail. In general the individual questions were considered very difficult to answer and presented challenges when trying to provide an accurate collective response based on the individual responses received. The Chair advised that she would nonetheless provide a composite response but would also offer comment to EDC on the format of this questionnaire for future reference.

7 PTA (FOLA) Update

Mr McDowall updated the Council on recent PTA (FOLA) activity and highlighted the very successful Quiz Night that was recently held at Lenzie Rugby Club. He advised that over £700 was raised and that the PTA were very happy with the response received and progress made. Mr McDowall highlighted that a ‘Race Night’ was being planned for the beginning of March 2020.

8 AOCB

Mrs Forrester asked what further steps the Parent Council could take to support Lenzie Academy and some further discussion was generated around this point.

No further actions were discussed, and the Chair called the Parent Council meeting to a close. She suggested a date for the next meeting of the 30th January 2020. Mrs White thanked all the members of the Parent Council for their attendance and input.