



LINLITHGOW ACADEMY

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting

Held on

28th May 2014

PRESENT:

David Devine (Chairperson), Lindsay Guthrie, , Kathryn Morrison, Mark Fulton, Douglas Gray, Helen Boxall, , Jennifer MacDonald (Parent Members) , David MacKenzie (Rector and advisor to PC), Elaine Stewart, Derek Wolfe.

APOLOGIES:

Elsbeth Brown , Kate Signorini, Councillor Boyle, Councillor Day, Douglas Taylor, Neil Anderson (Pupil Council member), Daniel Devine, Mhairi Sheail, Councillor Stuart Borrowman, Rhona White (Teacher),

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes from 28th April 2014 Approved.

Action: Douglas Gray to send a draft to David Mackenzie for his comments. (to produce a simple guide for parents about Curriculum for Excellence and assessment in the senior phase)

Carry forward to next meeting– Consultation/Input gathered; Support offered form Art department; David Rodgers to produce Diagram

Action: Councillor Borrowman agreed to follow up a response. (Lindsay Guthrie had still not received a response or acknowledgement from West Lothian Council in regard to her letter on school engagement with the referendum)

No progress to report. DM noted Council has allowed debate in school on referendum – will not be permitted after 27 June 14.

Action: David Devine would follow this up with John Low and Jim Cameron at West Lothian Council. (Anywhere Anytime Learning (AAL) had still not been successfully implemented despite being launched in October 2012.)

Letter sent but no response yet received.

CLlr Borrowman contacted Jim Cameron who gave a list of reasons why not enabled again and that some schools were running a pilot re-launch. Aiming for Oct '14. PC has little confidence in Councils ability to achieve this.

DD expressed dissatisfaction that the Council had ignored previous PC input to the AAL .

Concern raised that some teachers are still expecting pupils to use devices in class – this could cost parents for data access via mobile network.

ACTION DM – raise this issue with teachers

2. HEAD TEACHER RECRUITMENT

David Devine provided update:

- Long Leet interview day held – a full day event in the school
- DD thanked Kate, Douglas and Roz Coe for all their efforts in supporting the long leet day
- Elaine Cook held a feedback session with Parent members only – very constructive session and EC welcomed PC input
- Decided at that session to proceed with 2 candidates.
- Interview will be undertaken by Moira Niven, EC, 2 PC embers (DD& EB) and 2 councillors.
- Risk if candidates accept other posts in mean time. DD expecting contact form EC imminently
- Interviews expected to be held 5th June '14
- Concern if candidates withdraw as typically 8 week notice period. Due to salary level this is not the most attractive post.

3. HMIE INSPECTION UPDATE

DD has received a copy of the RIF

- This is a confidential document and must not be shared outside PC
- A parent only meeting is to be held 10th June to discuss key points
- DM offered to have a meeting after that to explain/ discuss any points
- DD expects the RIF to feed into next sessions PC plans
- DM noted that no parents (outside PC) had contacted him regarding the Inspection report.

4. RECTOR'S REPORT

During in-Service Day walked through RIF with Staff. Areas for planning to focus on:

- S1-S3 Broad General Education – focus on cross curricular learning
- Parents concern over lack of feedback – looking at potential of more frequent but shorter updates
- PC are happy to input to the process

- Issue with Staff time for input to process
- Mags DeLuca is coordinating Self Evaluation

Appears to still be a lack of parental understanding over the senior phase approach to CfE

- DM view that they had tried
- Plan to go back to parents to ensure correct check and balances in place and explain the options available.

ACTION DM - to investigate concern that some classes have slowed/stopped when S4s are taking National 5s

Staffing:

- 50% of business dept are moving to new roles – 2 offers have been made.
- New appointment in Autism unit
- Biology interviews next week
- Music – challenge getting a probation teacher in place
- Budget very limited so cannot hold any extra resource
- Tam Bailie (Children’s commissioner) available for next awards ceremony
- Children of Chernobyl have again visited Linlithgow

5. PUPIL COUNCIL REPORT

Disbanded for the year

6. LAA UPDATE

The LAA Bingo Night had income of £1003 and a profit of c. £700.

New lunch ordering machine installed – DM will be asking LAA for contribution.

ACTION DM – to ask Linda (Canteen) if Menu can be published on website

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Issue of timing for WLC apprenticeships not coordinated with school year (especially Exam schedule)

ACTION DM – to raise this with work placement team and look into approach. (Sarah McKay)

MF wanted to ensure the PC list of topics from last year is discussed again

DD asked PC members if the intended to stay on for the following year. ES plans to stand down.

David Devine thanked David Mackenzie on behalf of the Parent Council for his time and Linlithgow Academy and his work with the Parent council.

8. PROVISIONAL DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

1st meeting: Tuesday, 2nd September 2014

AGM: Wednesday 8th October 2014

2nd Meeting: Thursday 20th November 2014

3rd Meeting: Monday 12th January 2015

4th Meeting: Tuesday 24th March 2015

5th Meeting: Thursday 28th May 2015