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**Linlithgow Academy Parent Council Meeting**

7:00pm, Tuesday, 21st November 2017, Linlithgow Academy Library

**Attendees:**

Parent Members: Elspeth Brown (Chair), Laurie Boles, May Geddes, Douglas Maxwell, Douglas Gray, Derek Wolfe

LAA Representative: Alison Sharp

Head Teacher: Karen Jarvis

Teachers: Rhona White, Rachel Bryson, Kate Dickson

Pupil Council: Jack Williamson

Guests: David Tait (Councilor), Neil MacDonald (Parent), Emma Wood (Parent), Richard Burnett (Parent)

Apologies: Jenny O’Donnell, Campbell Ford, Gillian McLean, Susie Hume

1. **Welcome**

Elspeth welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular West Lothian Councilor David Tait, new LAA representative Alison Sharp, new staff member Rachel Bryson and parents who were attending for the first time.

1. **Approval of the Minutes from meeting of 2nd October 2017**

Minutes were approved by Laurie Boles and Derek Wolfe and will be posted on the website.

1. **Head Teacher’s Report**

Topics covered:

* Staffing – Mr Rodger is providing support to Senior Management Team as S1 Year Head
* Budget
* Parents Nights – The Gym Hall has been used recently as the venue for Parents Evenings and has been well received by staff, parents and pupils.
* Children In Need Day

1. **Communication**

* Website and Twitter – Interest and activity has been very strong. A new standardized school website, developed by West Lothian Council (WLC) is in the final design phase. Initial preview indicates that it is very similar to our current website. Whitburn Academy is live already on the new format.
* School App – gathering momentum through continued interest and content.
* On line Homework – MILK lite now available. Parent letters to be sent as soon as possible. Pupils will be informed via assemblies.
* Parents’ Night – Questionnaire re communication was very positive. Responses for S4 were 69 and S1 was 70.
* Group Call – not feasible to have 2 emails on contact numbers. WLC confirmed not currently available but earmarked for future development.

1. **LAA AGM**

Position of Secretary remains vacant. In the interim, Pupil Council has been asked to attend and take minutes of the meetings. Forthcoming events requiring assistance from LAA are 12th Dec (Church) and 14th Dec (School Hall).

**Action: KJ to promote LAA via App and Website.**

1. **West Lothian Council 2018/19 Budget Consultation**

Discussion held regarding the WLC budget consultation – see WLC website for full details.

LAPC has formally responded to the consultation and the Chair had also urged PC members to respond individually.

Areas of particular concern for Linlithgow Academy are:

1b Reduced Instrumental Music Provision

1c Redesign of Devolved School Management

4a Impact on schemes such as 'Excellence in Sport'.

7a Revised Catering and Cleaning Models and Standards

7b Revised Facilities Management in Schools

7d Reprioritised Passenger Transport Strategy

It was agreed that LAPC would write to WLC expressing their concerns, in particular with regard to the proposal to 'integrate a reduced instrumental music provision into the mainstream curriculum.'

**Action: EB to formally write to WLC on behalf of LAPC.**

1. **Pupil Council**

Update provided on Pupil Council activities to date.

1. **Teachers Report**

School capacity was discussed and potential pressure from intake of pupils from future years.

1. **West Lothian Parent Forum**

Feedback provided by EB/LB from WL Parent Forum meeting held 11 Oct 17.

Topics covered were as follows:

* Review of the Broad General Education
* National Testing
* Early Years Expansion
* Attainment Data
* Regional Improvement Collaboratives

**10. Dates of next meetings**

* Wednesday 31st January 2018
* Thursday 15th March 2018
* Wednesday 23rd May 2018

Future meetings will be held in the **school** **library**.

**\*\*Note change of venue\*\***

All Parents/Carers are very welcome to attend these meetings.