



Linlithgow Academy Parent Council Meeting

7:00pm, 30 March 2022, Zoom Video Conference

Attendees:

Parent Council Members:	Douglas Maxwell (Chair), Ann Marie Penman (Vice Chair), Andrew Grant, Campbell Ford, Hannah Dunn, Jeremy Fuller, Lesley Paxton, Lynne Pascal, Mary Joseph and Pamela Calabrese and Iain Woodhouse
Head Teacher:	Grant Abbot
Teachers:	Luisa Burgess, Rhona White
Invited Representative:	Margo Brewster (Business Manager), Alison Bulloch (Deputy Head Teacher)
Pupil Representatives:	
Parent Forum:	Ashleigh Smith, Tony Gribben, Marcia Coutts, Richard Payne, Aisatu Nimaga, Claudette Boa, Judith Gray, Ailsa Macdonald, Alison Spori
Councillors:	Cllr Tom Conn
Clerk:	Soné Spottiswoode
Apologies:	Cllr Tom Kerr, Andy Gray, Helen White, Dermot Murray, Christine McGuinness

Welcome, introductions & apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were as noted above.

Minutes from meeting of 10 February 2022

DM clarified that all outstanding minutes including from meeting 10 Feb 2022 will be circulated by e-mail to PC members for approval

Action: the clerk will circulate the minute of 10 February 2022 to PC members for approval

Standing Items

1. Councillor's Report

- Apologies were received from Councillor Tom Kerr.
- Councillor Tom Conn gave an update on the Executive Educational meeting, held last week., including Covid arrangements.
- GA gave update on some of the building work underway in school. Councillor Tom Conn, Dr Elaine Cook and the Headteacher Mr G Abbot have had discussions regarding potential refurbishment areas at the school.

- Cllr Tom Conn confirmed we have a commitment from Dr Elaine Cook, Depute Chief Executive of WLC with responsibility for Education, Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Services, to attend a Parent Council Meeting to update us on actions taken by WLC to address issues with over-crowding and improvements to the school estate. This commitment dates from last year.

2. Head Teacher's Report

The Head Teacher thanked young people and staff for all their hard work, especially during a very busy and demanding month of March. Parents and Carers were thanked for their patience and support.

Grant Abbot gave an update on:

- Covid measures
- First year reports
- SQA exams in school
- Easter holiday study provision
- U/18 Football team - Scottish Cup Final
- Staffing changes
- Website update

Alison Bulloch - DHT gave a detailed explanation on the following:

- Estimate grades
- Basis for appeals or exceptional circumstances

Margo Brewster – Business Manager gave an update on

- AAA (alternative assessment arrangements)
- Invigilation arrangements in school

A question was raised and answered about why there were 2 sets of prelim diets for higher maths prelims and whether both calculator and non-calculator were assessed on both occasions.

3. Teacher's Report

Rhona White gave an update on positive work in school and on fundraising including

- Staff would value consultancy with Dr E Cook in terms of a social area for staff.
- Active Eco group – Dandelion project
- Science departments - a donated pond and potatoes (Parents/carers are encouraged to ask for some and plant them with pupils)
- Mini restaurant
- Art and architecture
- History
- Autism groups car washing project

Rhona White raised the issue of whether a staff room was required for all staff. There are traditional bases, however no space for staff meetings during school hours.

Action: Councillor Tom Conn to investigate Winchburgh school design and alternatives within government school guidance.

4. Items from Parent Forum

Locked Toilets – there was a query re pupils not finding open toilets to use. GA clarified why toilets might at times be closed and which toilets would always be open for use.

5. Special Focus topics aligned with the four headings in the School Improvement Plan

5.1 Course choice information for parents/carers (discussion)

- GA gave an update and overview around course choice provision followed by a general discussion.

5.2 Sub Group Feedback – anti bullying group

- AMP gave an update on the anti bullying group

5.3 Sub Group Feedback – Communications

AMP asked about a request received by on PC Fb page to advertise online schools service. There was general agreement not to advertise tutoring services requiring payment on the Facebook page

Action: AMP to decline request received by fb page

6. Grant Abbot suggested that the school could have a working group on the curriculum involving parent representatives.

Action: Anyone interested in joining a curriculum group should let DM know

The meeting closed at 9pm with thanks to those attending

Appendix 2 – School Improvement Plan

1	Improvement in all young people's wellbeing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consult on and renew school inclusive policies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Learner Empowerment: Upscale Learner voice provision incl. creation of Pupil Parliament
<input type="checkbox"/>	Revisit and relaunch our positive relationships policy and restorative practices
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduce Mental Health Qualification for S4 and Level 6 First Aid for S5 and targeted S4 pupils
<input type="checkbox"/>	Revisit the Responsibility of All elements within HWB to ensure teachers can identify and understand where and how they can contribute
2	Enhance Learning & Teaching
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify pedagogical approaches that promote engagement in learning.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish a collaborative, enquiry-based model of curriculum making and team teaching approach
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop a strategic planning framework that supports systematic reflection on practice and focused planning for learner engagement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Revise and reframe school quality assurance procedures
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adapt 'learning round' format to ensure that a clear focus on learner engagement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrate young person's guarantee, career education standard and employability skills into day-to-day pedagogy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Embed and consolidate our improvements around Digital learning
3	Closing the attainment gap between the most and least advantaged children:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Revisit curriculum pathways to ensure we maximise attainment for the most disadvantaged
<input type="checkbox"/>	Faculties will consider the full range of qualifications within the SCQF in order to maximise the attainment and achievement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Publication of Accredited Achievement pathway that maps all qualifications and opportunities across the school
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduction of Career Ready initiative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Target Numeracy and literacy S1 Groups at SNSA band 6 and below.
4	Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop a bespoke pathway and support packages for identified learners that best meet their needs
<input type="checkbox"/>	School-Business partnerships database created through improved parental and community-based contacts and interventions.