



LINLITHGOW ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Linlithgow Academy Parent Council Meeting

Wed 2 Oct 2024

7.00 pm – 8.30 pm

Meeting in school and Zoom video conference

Minutes

Present:

Parent Council (PC) Members: Ann Marie Penman (chair), Karen Marriott, Stuart Hamilton, Ky Norton (vice-chair), Adam Schofield (treasurer), Nick Goldfinch, Julia Miller, Fiona Couper-Kenney, Kelda Bryson and on Zoom: Lindsey Campbell, Laura McGowan

Parent Forum Members: - on Zoom: Anu Jassal, Kimberley Paton, Helen Jenkins, Claudia Kotey, Kishor Ravikumar, Oksana Alfavitska

School Representatives: – Grant Abbot (head teacher), Sarah Carney (staff representative) and on Zoom: Luisa Burgess (staff representative)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting began with a welcome to all attendees, both in-person and on Zoom, and introductions. Apologies were noted from those who were unable to attend.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted without any amendments.

Matters arising: Kelda Bryce was appointed as a member of the Parent Council

3. Items from the Parent Forum – School Budget

A question was raised regarding the ongoing budget challenges faced by the school. Grant Abbot explained that the school budget is determined based on pupil numbers and allocated to the school to allow for local decision-making through devolved school management (DSM). The need for budget savings for 2024/25 to 2025/26 was highlighted. There was further discussion about the use of the budget, including meeting staffing costs, the impact on the budget of any change in the pupil roll (both increase and decrease) and ongoing budget pressures.

4. Focus Topic – Senior Phase Curriculum Rationale

Grant Abbot outlined the rationale behind offering six subjects in S4, emphasising the importance of considering the highest level of achievement for a pupil at the time they leave school. It was highlighted that this approach takes into consideration balance, workload and long-term progression.

There was discussion around curriculum structure and its flexibility, with a focus on ensuring depth in pupils' learning rather than simply covering a large number of subjects. Attainment levels in the fourth year and progression across the senior phase were discussed, along with the challenges associated with maintaining pupil motivation in certain subjects. The importance of balancing pupil interests with future success was acknowledged.

The school website page on teaching and learning was referenced for more information <https://linlithgowacademy.westlothian.org.uk/article/83185/Senior-Phase-Curriculum-Model>

5. Fundraising

Laura McGowan gave an update on various fundraising initiatives and strategies. The use of a card payment system, Sum Up, was proposed to support fundraising, with a trial period planned to assess its effectiveness.

Adam Schofield outlined his role as treasurer and noted that he will provide a financial report at each PC meeting.

It was agreed by the PC that the fundraising group would:

- set up the 100 Club and begin selling tickets
- proceed with the Tesco Blue Token scheme application
- continue exploring sponsorship opportunities with local organisations and community groups
- submit grant applications including the Aldi Scotland Sports Foundation and Sports Scotland
- organise refreshments for the upcoming music concert and explore similar opportunities at future events
- write an article for the Black Bitch magazine about the fundraising group and its initiatives.
- reimburse where necessary for licence fee costs already paid out

There was a discussion about the possibility of using donated laptops within the school's IT infrastructure. It was agreed that Laura will meet with Grant to explore this further.

Laura invited any parent or carer to join the fundraising group by emailing linlithgowacademyfundraising@gmail.com

7. Head Teacher Update

Grant Abbot gave an update on

- staffing
- the winter assessment diet – the need to accommodate special arrangements for 43% of students was highlighted.
- Updates on toilet renovations,
- Music Camp
- Award Ceremenoy
- S4 1st aid

The meeting finished at 8.30pm with thanks to those attending.

Dates and proposed focus topics for Parent Council Meetings for 2024/25

- PC meeting 1 Mon 02/10/24
Senior Phase Curriculum
Rationale
- PC meeting 2 Tue 19/11/24 IT and
digital training
- PC meeting 3 Wed 15/1/25
Support for pupils including health
issues and neurodiversity
- PC meeting 4 Tue 4/3/25
Supporting parents to assist home
learning
- PC meeting 5 Thur 1/5/25 Parent/
& carer/community engagement
- PC meeting 6 Wed 4/6/25 School
Improvement Plan



School Improvement Plan Summary 2024.2025



Priorities for Improvement

1. Our CORE approaches are used by all staff to engage young people in their learning
2. Teachers demonstrate increased confidence in applying strategies to support the principles of inclusion and wellbeing.
3. Staff apply understanding of progression in the BGE to meet ALL learner's needs in the classroom

Priorities for Consolidation

We are confident that

1. Our enhanced Future Skills programme is fully integrated.
2. Our Pupil Parliament will play a crucial role in promoting learner voice.
3. We will achieve UNCRC Gold Status
4. Our teachers will be using digital tools to promote inclusion.
5. Our refreshed Mental Health Strategy is embedded
6. Our teachers will be using existing pupil data to support classroom interventions

Priorities for Understanding

1. How can the school improve its communication and resources to better support parents in assisting their child's learning at home?
2. How can the school enhance its methods of providing timely and helpful information about students' progress to parents?