

MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 8th November 2017

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSIONS	ACTION POINTS
Introduction & Welcome	LMcG welcomed all and thanked all for the great turnout	
Apologies	F Harris, D Nelson, M Doig, L Sargent, Cllr Alexander, Cllr Milligan, N Greenan, L Scott, J Douglas and Cllr Lay-Douglas.	
Minutes last meeting	All checked and confirmed	
Councillor Business	Councillors could not attend due to Community Meetings but are delighted to be able to attend when they can through the year.	
Student Presentations	<p>YPL –</p> <p>Emma Whittingham introduced students – Youth Philanthropy Initiative is a chance to win £3000 for a charity of your choice. This year was won for Health & Mind.</p> <p>Groups started and then decided on what issue we wanted and choose Mental Health. Find something relative and different. Hard to co-ordinate all members together but worked well. Criteria highlighted.</p> <p>Teachers arranged for Charities to come in – mini booths set up and then decided which charity to go with.</p> <p>Group develop planning skills and time co-ordination and shared work equally and prioritise tasks. Much more confident now.</p> <p>Many fundraising activities undertaken.</p> <p>PC standard of all presentations were high – very professional.</p>	
Careers Night	<p>Teigan Hunter</p> <p>Careers Evening last week to encourage students to see different jobs out there. Majority of students were from S3 so it was good for them as their course choices will be coming up after the year.</p> <p>150 students and 55 volunteers.</p> <p>Ipad donation for a draw.</p> <p>Good feedback for future events and time could be reduced to 1 hour and perhaps be open to all schools in Midlothian. Teigan will pass these thoughts on to next year's new Head Boy and Head Girl.</p> <p>Teigan has Leadership Award on her timetable which needs a project to be undertaken and completed. She has successfully taken this on with this Event.</p> <p>CH - Leadership and Personal Development Awards are an enhancement to our Courses available. These awards help evidence students' achievements for their future.</p> <p>CH – praised Teigan on her achievements and how she is progressing in her Head Girl Role.</p> <p>Pupil Voice – Miss Blake</p> <p>Presented to Year Groups to encourage students to apply to be involved in this – helps opinions to be heard. Application process – which were then selected from.</p> <p>First meeting focused on staff morale and discipline/behaviour and how these issues are dealt with. Collated ideas, thoughts on possible solutions. Meet regularly – Teigan will get a schedule of meeting dates. Students can apply to join throughout the year.</p> <p>AH-K asked how effective will this be. Teigan said that as long as they keep meeting and feeding back to staff and students and</p>	

	<p>keeping people aware then it will be a positive.</p> <p>JD – asked how we were going to engage students that do not step forward to be involved in these initiatives.</p> <p>CH – many students are engaged in the wider – sports, and other clubs. People who are disengaged are being worked with by Student Support to try to reengage students to education. There are wider groups within the Community to help support these students.</p> <p>SS – behaviour issue seems out of control?</p> <p>CH answered that he felt that was a strong comment and the behaviour issues are still in the minority however are important.</p> <p>CH meeting with staff to get feedback and thoughts on how to tackle this effectively.</p> <p>SLT looking at how they can be more visible around the school.</p> <p>FW looking at policy papers around behaviour management – updating and launching in January.</p> <p>CH – there was an Incident first week back after October. Rumours led to a mass of students moving around the school which was unpleasant. Students and staff helped afterwards with information and the response since that from all has been very positive.</p> <p>Staff representative</p>	
<p>Mentoring – How Parents Can help</p>	<p>Rebecca – wanted to make this more effective. Matt and Rebecca want to meet regularly with students to give advice on how to revise and support. All S5 students will get a mentor from 4 S6'S per House. More detail will be given to the mentees and will be followed up. Meet after every Tracking Report and before and after Prelims.</p> <p>AH-K – asked about frequency of meetings and suggested that more times that can be meet are much more effective.</p> <p>CH - each S4, S5 and S6 have a caseload SS teacher – some students need less support and are consistently doing well and will benefit from support from Mentors. Students who need more support will be engaged with SS/SLT and other areas.</p> <p>FR – asked if they matched up skills – Rebecca replied more that students who needed a bit more support then Mentees can help with advice and constructive comments.</p> <p>How are the Mentees supported? – Paperwork being worked on; 2 promoted members of SS and other S6 students' support.</p> <p>Richard McLaughlin from Light up Learning presented:</p> <p>Set up 3 years ago as a charity and LHS first school. Trying to address unequal access to education, to help create an environment that has little pressure with no focus on exams etc and look at where their interest lie and focus on confidence to initiating their learning. Organising ideas and honing skills with the students and their experience of school is much more positive.</p> <p>Working with students in receipt of Free School Meals and work with Student Support to look at persons that it can benefit. 14 students at LHS starting at S3 till they leave the school. Sustained engagement. 1 lesson a week S3-S4. S5 slightly less frequent and S6 Capstone Project – sees mentor twice a term. Graduate opportunities – looking at wider support from community. Parental support is really important but home circumstances can affect this. Small budget for books, field trips etc.</p> <p>Aims to set up contacts with the people that the students have interest and skills in.</p> <p>Trying to create more opportunities and bring back joy to learning</p>	

	<p>again. Small numbers - 22 so far. Researcher implemented evaluation methods and questionnaire. Positive feedback. Looking for feedback or if you can bring skills to us then Richard would like to hear from you!</p> <p>As LUL is a charity it would be great if anyone could support with funding.</p> <p>4 members of staff now on board on LUL.</p> <p>Background – 2 friends at Cambridge – Richard involved with Sutton Trust and both felt the wanted people to love their learning. 2 more joined since then.</p> <p>How will LUL find more mentors? Looking at being more full-time so more students can be supported but funding is key.</p> <p>CH – we hope that parents will act as Role models in S1 which would bed in this ethos and grow towards the LUL involvement.</p> <p>How teachers can be more involved – Richard would welcome more involvement to have a dialogue which could be useful.</p>	
<p>Update from Council Meeting on budget cuts and their effect on Secondary Schools</p>	<p>5 PC members went to this meeting.</p> <p>Very depressing discussion on these horrendous cuts £13.3 million this year going to £45 million in next few years. By 2022 shortfall would be £45 million unless more funds from Government.</p> <p>UK government no more money to Scot government. No more money and faced with cutting many services.</p> <p>Bus/Library/ Clubs/ Charity and Community groups funding cut heavily and many more.</p> <p>LMcG will write to Council, MSP and MP re educational cuts after speaking with as many people as possible.</p> <p>Hot school meals going from Secondary schools. Proposal that only 1 Library left after this. Unsure of LHS Library. Difficult to get answers as at present these are proposals.</p> <p>Full document on Parent Council Facebook page.</p> <p>Partly due to Midlothian being the largest growing council and largest under 15 population and 4th largest over 70 population.</p> <p>Houses builders – what can they contribute to the community?</p> <p>School Librarian starts end of this month but will need to await result of Library cuts.</p> <p>Some redevelopment ideas were mentioned. Enterprise division looking at bring businesses in.</p> <p>Learning Assistant's to be cut by 10%</p> <p>Janitors – proposed cut from 22 to 11</p> <p>Teachers are protected but non-teaching staff and background areas will have an impact.</p> <p>Important even more that Fundraising from PC is as good as possible.</p>	
<p>Fund Raising Update</p>	<p>FR – Christmas Fair. Over 40 stalls confirmed; Groups and School departments. Still need volunteers to help on evening.</p> <p>200 club – 59 members so far going in right directions.</p> <p>Dalkeith Ford – sponsored again this year – very generous.</p> <p>Fundraising requests from departments welcome</p>	<p>RR - Form out again to departments</p>
<p>Update on Website</p>	<p>CH – apology for the delays. Significant progress in last 10 days – will be ready for a Phase 1 launch at Christmas.</p>	

Mental Health Initiative	CH – Jayne Ross leads on this within the school. SS more for targeted support. JR will attend hopefully in January to discuss further.	
Head Teachers Report	<p>CH – went through report.</p> <p>Learning & Teaching – monthly bulletin out to staff to share good practice and focus.</p> <p>Connections Programme – rolling over the session in 4 different parts.</p> <p>DHT advert – 18 applications – disappointing so this has been re-advertised. Short-leet in January and need 4 PC members to be involved. Then go to Short-Leet – 3 councillors, 3 parents from PC who have undergone the training in this and HT.</p> <p>S1 PSE classes that HT and DHT's are visiting classes and fielding questions on lots of topics.</p> <p>Enjoy- Home Ec, D & T and PE</p> <p>NC looking for a rep from PC for Partnership Collaborative Planning.</p> <p>AH-K – extra Dress Down days for supporting PC? CH no more probably will be offered but funds will be supporting all.</p> <p>Charities selected by Charity Committee.</p>	RR to circulate to PC
AOCB	<p>Parking in Disabled Bay – limited time to discuss. Community police officer to be contacted to help with an effective patrol of this to ensure Bays are not being abused. Disappointing that some disabled users who cannot park have been subjected to verbal abuse when they try to converse with people parking illegally – in the instances mentioned all the persons parked illegally were other parents picking up students from the school. There is a large car park for the whole Centre and the Parent Council would ask that people are considerate and do NOT park in these bays without a valid Badge permit.</p> <p>Reports – communication to parents could be better</p> <p>CH – 2 types on Newsletter – KB one and start of each term a Head Teachers report.</p>	

E-mail contacts for information:

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Next Meeting date Thursday 18th January 2018 at 19.00 Lasswade High School – Room 114