

LASSWADE HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 05/09/23 @ 7pm

Introduction and welcome: Sara welcomed all.

Minutes and Apologies: Previous minutes approved

Councillor Derek Milligan, Parents Denise Barron Taylor, Lindsay Mweene, Fionnuala Speedie, Helen Thomson.

Councillor Questions: There were no questions directed to the Councillors from the forum

Parent Council Timetable

(Attach updated table of dates and topics.)

In order to keep the topics relevant Campbell Hornell and Sara Adam invited the forum to make suggestions as to relevant topics which should be discussed at meetings. This invitation to contribute will be reiterated in the weekly headteacher update.

2023 Improvement Plan Update

Mr Hornell shared the positive destination figures for school leavers is currently 97.3%. Lasswade's aim is for this to be 100%

Mr Hornell advised that there is currently a consultation and national discussion on the purpose of education and also feedback is being sought by all teachers and this should be submitted by the end of October. There is also work ongoing surrounding qualifications.

Mr Hornell also highlighted the work that is ongoing within all departments in the school to evaluate and continually improve what they offer to students of Lasswade.

School Captains

We were introduced to some of the School Captains and heard the rigorous but fun recruitment process that they had gone through to secure this position. They are currently involved in organising and hosting the Senior Awards Ceremony.

The school Captains have multiple goals over the year and one of the aims that they are keen to address is to "unify the school". Due to the size of the school requiring Juniors and Seniors to have breaks and lunch at different times it is feared that the senior pupils are not always visible leading to a loss of the seniors as positive role models so they are keen to work on some strategies to improve this.

Georgia also identified that High School as the "Best Years of your life" might not be the case for everyone so increased awareness and ensuring a supportive, thriving environment is important.

Chair update

Prior to the Summer holidays a no of volunteers from the parent council provided refreshments at Sunshine on Leith. This was well received especially the icepoles as it was a ridiculously hot day.

SA attended the Parent Council Chairs meeting key points from this meeting

- Many Parent Councils struggling with engagement
- Gail Currie (Parent and Learning Liaison Officer) happy to attend some meeting and make suggestions
- Updated on work of Connect who exist to support school councils
- Advised on the Central Education Team Restructure

Parent Council have received an application from Caroline Brown for funding for £450 to purchase 25 zip tops (school uniform). This funding will be provided to the applicant in due course)

Christmas Fair was discussed and now in school calendar for Thursday 30th November. SA to invite school groups to consider which stalls they will provide then to open to external stallholders by end of September/ October at latest.

200 club unfortunately no volunteer for this as yet, so SA will get Fiona Harris to bring draws up to date then SA will take this over temporarily until someone can be found to run this. It was recognised that Fiona has been hugely accommodating in continuing this job since her family are no longer Lasswade High pupils and this has been the case for a no of years.

Q&A

There was a question re SQA artwork return. Miss Montague kindly responded to CH. The response is that the work returns from SQA October and must be displayed within the school until the end of the year as stipulated by the SQA. There will be a sharing exhibition of this work in November. The work will then be distributed to the artists in Jan and can be collected from reception for those who have left school.

Diane Ward asked about carbon literacy and whether school is preparing pupils in awareness of their carbon footprints? Ali Mitchell advised us of the new development post (Miss Guthrie holds) in which Sustainability is a key feature. The geography department have been focussing on Fairtrade. The school are trying to apply for green flag status and providing a Level 6 award in Fuel Change. A parent who teaches in Edinburgh suggested an educational game called Climate Fresk

AOCB

None

Chair: Sara Adam (SA)

Treasurer: John Aitchison (JA)

Head Teacher: Campbell Hornell/ Ali Mitchell (CH) (AM)

Secretary: Vacant. 5/9 Minutes by SA

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Next meeting: Thursday 12th October in person. AGM