

## MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2023

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSIONS	ACTIONS
Introduction & Welcome	Sara welcomed all	
Minutes & Apologies	Previous minutes approved Apologies: M Doig, Cllr Virgo & D Barron-Taylor	
Councillors Questions	<p>Cllr Alexander: Roads portfolio remit – looking at the pothole probe, invested in roads equipment and cleaning, hopefully pothole issues will be minimised with works being done.</p> <p>Cllr Milligan: Budget through, some decisions out of council hands e.g. teaching staff numbers being protected. Midlothian actually needs more teachers but budget not coming in. 18 new teachers that cannot be recruited due to Devolved School Management (DSM) budget. Budget balanced however done by borrowing monies from PPE schools. Extending the loans and borrowing for next 5 years. Next year £11 million needs saved and rising over years. Other areas within the council struggling with cuts. 50% to education 25% to Health &amp; Social care so any savings are bound to be looked to come from these areas. Reliant on Scottish Government to add to budget re inflation etc. however that is not forthcoming. Cllr Milligan explained how the budgets are set and are often on historic data. COSLA (Convention of Local Authorities) works with government.</p> <p>CH: school working on staffing budget, the cuts are not at the level we were worried about but still concerning regarding the 1% budget cut. Not the same amount of recruitment is happening; looking at NQT's (newly qualified teachers). If requested NQT's do not come through this is concerning that the staffing may be really tight which affects the ability to cover when illness and vacancies hit.</p> <p>Course choices nearly complete, so we then look to see what class sets are viable given the teachers we will have in place.</p>	
SPOTY 2023	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March. Big event within school community. Voting for the 4 main nominees. Parent Council doing refreshments and will be promoting the 200 Club.	Plea for help with refreshments
Study Leave 2023	<p>Work done with the other schools in the Local Authority.</p> <p>Proposed dates: inclusive Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May</p> <p>Change of timetable: after the end of study leave.</p> <p>Immersion days – day offered before exam where students can come into subjects to do some focused study.</p> <p>Google classroom means of communication all details.</p> <p>In-person appointments</p> <p>Quiet area in Library available</p> <p>AAA's (alternative assessments arrangements) cause an accommodation issue.</p> <p>Last year we had 6 blended learning days to assist with numbers and accommodation.</p> <p>We hope to avoid this in 2023 with some Activity days to alleviate numbers within the school on busy exam days.</p> <p>S4/S5 &amp; S6 will expect study leave.</p> <p>Parent Council agreed they are supportive of this plan.</p>	

School Uniform Session  
2023/24

Consulted this week with Student Voice and now Parent Council on the proposals that have been placed onto the website. School liaised with all Year Groups. Google link will be open to get feedback for approx. 1 month. School hopes to then confirm dress code by end April.

Dress code is useful for security to identify our own students. School still waiting on feedback from government on uniform, expect this to say to simplify it to help financially. Strong views are held on this. School needs to balance this. Many families are under pressure with the cost of living. Pre-pandemic very few students not in uniform. Post pandemic is very varied. Need to reflect the context; PE in recent years has expanded hugely with the variety of courses they offer. This puts pressure on the changing rooms due to numbers. Propose to offer students that on the day they have PE they can come dressed for PE.

Black and white will be the colour code with something that has school logo on it. See proposals on website.

PC thoughts:

- Students will love the variety of options
- Refreshing, broad approach, some people learn better when they are dressed and feeling comfortable. PE option considerate. More modern approach.
- Shirts with logo? Branded shirts are expensive so not needed but if a half zip top, blazer or jacket the school logo should be on it.
- What about learners changing for PE that are dressed more traditionally so they will need to change and this may disrupt the start and end of lessons. CH: enough teachers to get students into class. Review as it embeds.
- Are we having a formal dress day? CH: we would expect "new" options to be worn every day except Dress Down days and non-uniform days. We expect government update to confirm flexibility. So no return to more formal day-to-day.
- Iron on or sewn on logos? Discussed and this option may be more of a hassle to parents. Pre-branded seems more effective.
- T-shirts – is this with a logo? No. Concern that designer items may creep in.
- How do we keep identity of school and identify students as LHS students. CH: need something with logo or shirt/V-neck with a house tie.
- What if someone comes in that are not a LHS students with a black hoody on? This can happen at present, rarely, so we deal with that.
- What is the difference in uniform wearing at present? Between 250-350 students are not in uniform and this increases slightly as the year goes on. Since COVID the biggest loss of uniform expectation is shoes and blazers.
- Simplified option fits in with making the school as economical as possible.
- School want to be as inclusive as possible. Many students may still choose to wear their shirt and tie.
- Leaflet needs to be clear that they have to wear a school branded piece of clothing.

Encourage students to do what is comfortable and most cost effective way may still be a tie and shirt.

Parents Evening Session 2023/24	<p>All Parents Evenings online this year, agreed in summer 2022 through consultations.  Feedback from S3- S6 – 32 responses 71% preferred in-person.  Staff feedback: 47 responses – 60% preferred virtual option.  See slide attached.  PC views on S1-S3 being virtual and S4-S6 in-person:  Agree especially for Junior school in-person can be stressful due to amount of teachers to try to see in a big building. Yes, can be manic.  S4-S6 – good to get fuller feedback for in-person.  S3 into S4 good for course choices if in-person?  Unions need to be consulted also in considering teachers’ times and amount of evenings within their Working Time Agreement.  Comment on booking system: some parents cannot get on to book  Some comments on being cut-off; one teacher only saw class 3 times before the Parents’ Evening.  School has some learning to do also – how can we comment to parents efficiently and effectively within the time constraint.  4 minutes may not be quite long enough.  Few experiences of teachers not being organised so time wasted.  Negotiations next week on all these matters.  S6 come back to 5 minutes – that is not that much longer?</p> <p>Proposing re-naming of the “Parents’ Evening”. Proposed change to Student Progress Consultation Evening from August 2023.  Comments:  Surprised this hasn’t happened sooner.  Name change may encourage students to come along to the evening. Advertise this more.  Care experienced students – Student Support supports students with this.  PC supportive of this proposal.</p>	
200 Club Draw	Numbers have dwindled post pandemic. A Morrison will take this on and hopeful to recruit more parents/carers to support this. J Aitchison new treasurer working on handover with Fiona Harris. Could Parent Pay be used for payments? PC will progress and publicise it.	SA to liaise with RW
Q&A	No questions sent in	
AOCB	Question; on computer science. Check with IT department re Lazarus v Python? Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Exam Zoom evening to see update to exams.	RW to check with Computing

**Contact names for information: If you wish a query or comment to go to a particular person, please add their name to subject field in any e-mail into the dedicated Parent Council email address and this will be forwarded to them, thanks.**

**Chair - Sara Adam (SA)**

**Treasurer - John Aitchison (JA)**

**Shared Head Teacher - Campbell Hornell (HT-CH) -**

**Shared Head Teacher Acting - Alison Mitchell (HT-AM)**

**Ruth Watson - School Business Manager (RW)**

**Parent Council dedicated e-mail:**

**parentcouncil.lasswadehs@midlothian.education**

**Next Meeting date Tuesday 30th May 2023 19.00 (in person in school)**

### Dates for the session

- ~~▣ Tuesday 6 September 2022 (in-person)~~
- ~~▣ Monday 10th October 2022 (AGM) 19.00 (in-person)~~
- ~~▣ Wednesday 23rd November 2022 19.00 (via Zoom)~~
- ~~▣ Wednesday 18th January 2023 19.00 (via Zoom)~~
- ~~▣ Thursday 23rd March 2023 19.00 (in-person, assembly hall)~~
- ▣ Tuesday 30th May 2023 19.00 (in-person in room 114/115)