

MINUTES OF
PRESTON LODGE PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2017
AT PRESTON LODGE HIGH SCHOOL

Present Lynne Lewis, Parent Representative and Chair
Lynne Russell, Parent Representative and Vice Chair
Colin Yorkston, Parent Representative and Treasurer
Pamela Currie, Parent Representative
Judith McNeill, Parent Representative
Russell Devine, Parent Representative
Jean Harper, Parent Representative
Malcolm Bryden, Parent Representative
Nicky Stanage, Parent Representative
Stacey Graham, Co-opted Teacher representative
Cllr O'Donnell
Cllr Gilbert
Cllr Bruce
Gavin Clark, Head Teacher
Jacqui Dunlop, Clerk

2 members of the Parent Forum

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were intimated on behalf of Dawn Yorkston and Cllr Innes.

2. MINUTES OF 4 MAY 2017

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 4 May 2017 were a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 4 May 2017 BUT NOT ON THE AGENDA

a) Friends of Preston Lodge – it was agreed that the Parent Council should have a presence at the Friends of Preston Lodge event and those interested in helping should let Jacqui Dunlop know. Lynne Russell confirmed that she will be meeting with Julie Lowe on her return from holiday.

b) Credit Union – it was agreed that the Parent Council would set up an Account with the Credit Union in Prestonpans. Colin Yorkston agreed to find out where the Royal Bank of Scotland were sending the statements and how to transfer the account. (*Action Colin Yorkston*)

4. AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Gavin Clark reported that the issue with the Basketball Club has now been resolved and staff are supporting it.

5. EXAMINATION RESULTS

Gavin Clark circulated copies of the results data. The school has achieved record results in Highers. He noted that the National 5 data was not relevant as they were mostly pupils who had achieved National 4s sitting the National 5.

It was noted that there are a lot of drop outs in the Advance Highers and this resulted in the no award statistics. On the individual subject results, he noted that there is some significant investigation to do in a few subjects. There are no longer appeals but there is a clerical check with the school this year paying £1,800 towards this. It was noted that the letter to parents regarding the clerical checks was very confusing, but Gavin Clark noted that the school will identify pupils to be put forward for clerical checks.

Gavin Clark noted that there will be an analysis of factors regarding the mentoring programme but it did seem to have a positive effect and there was a correlation between results and attendance at both the mentoring groups and the revision classes. Gavin Clark noted that there is no statistical link on attainment on where a pupil lives, but free school meals data does have statistical evidence. Gavin Clark reported that the school will be encouraging families to sign up for free school meals, even if they do not intend to take the meals, but it does provide other entitlements, eg reduced trips etc. Fiona O'Donnell noted that due to the complications of Universal Credit there may be families that lose out.

Gavin Clark noted that the school has received £63,000 for the Pupil Equity Fund and there will be a discussion in school on how this should be used. There is also £100,000 attainment funding.

Last year the small group mentoring had 60 pupils signed up with 28 teachers, so everyone who wanted a place got one. The scheme was aimed at those with significant educational barriers, so in future if spaces are limited they would be prioritised. It was noted that it may disadvantage the pupils who are not taking part in the small group mentoring, as teachers may be less likely to put on wider revision classes if they are already committed to the small group mentoring class.

It was noted that the results do not include S6 data and Gavin Clark agreed to bring the Insight data to the next meeting which includes the S6 data. (*Action Gavin Clark*)

Gavin Clark agreed to find out when Curriculum for Excellence started, breakdown by year group for National 5s and also the overall A/B/C passes compared to previous years. (*Action Gavin Clark*)

5. CHARITABLE TRUST

The next meeting takes place on 4 October and there is a vacancy for a Parent Council Representative. It was agreed that Jean Harper would become a Trustee of the Charitable Trust.

The Friends of Preston Lodge event takes place on 26 September.

6. HEAD TEACHER REPORT

- a) Staffing – Yvonne Binks has now returned from Knox. Twelve new staff have been appointed and all are settling in well.
- b) Learning Update – a learning update will be issued to all parents and new classroom and corridor rules have been implemented. There has been a good start to the school year with no exclusions and there is a positive atmosphere in school.
- c) Timetables – the timetables have settled down but there are problems ongoing with the college timetables.
- d) Tracking – pupil tracking data is being worked on currently and every pupil will be having a conversation with their teacher on their expected final grade.
- e) Parents Evenings – there are two parent’s evenings coming up – S6 and the Curriculum Evening. It is hoped to include a market place during the Curriculum evening and it was suggested that S6s may be used for this. It was noted that the Curriculum Evenings are all quite similar every year, which may explain why some parents don’t attend. Pamela Currie suggested that topics such as study programmes and sleep were included in these. Gavin Clark noted that there is a Learning Festival taking place on 28 October which will cover these topics. Gavin Clark reported that the school are also looking at re-running the parents evening which included pupils teaching parents as this was very well received.
- f) Activities Week – the programme is being worked on, although the North of England Trip may not run. The S1 trip to Lagganlia will be launched next week and the cost will be £45 per pupil or £10 for those pupils who meet certain criteria. The intention is that every 1st year pupil will attend the trip.

There is a parent evening for those pupils who wish to attend the Borneo trip. The cost is expected to be £3,700 but pupils will be expected to fund raise for this.

The pipe band are currently in China and this trip is free as it is paid by the Chinese government.

Judith McNeill provided feedback on the Rugby Trip and Gavin Clark agreed to follow up on this and report back. (*Action Gavin Clark*)

7. LONGNIDDRY BUSES

It was noted that the position with the Longniddry Buses is the same as last year and there has been no communication with parents from East Lothian Council. There were concerns that pupils are missing lessons as the buses are full and the buses sometimes don’t turn up on a Friday afternoon. Concerns were also raised about the use of the double decker buses, with pupils standing, and the bus travelling at 60 mph on the dual carriageway and no seat belts. Lynne Lewis agreed to contact Andrew McLellan. (*Action Lynne Lewis*)

Date of Next Meeting : 5 October 2017