

Preston Lodge Parent Council Meeting 9.6.22

Present:

Apologies: Lynn Russell, Russell Devine, Claire Jamieson, Marie McMath, Malcolm Graham,

AGM

Chairpersons report

This is the end of my fourth year as Chair of the Parent Council at Preston Lodge HS and it's been positive to see that school experiences are beginning to return to normal after a couple of years of significant educational disruptions. I would like to thank all of the others who make up our group of representatives. The contribution that everyone makes to this discussion forum is invaluable in working together to help shape the development the school. Some of our representatives are moving on and our thanks go to them; Pam Currie, Russel Devine, Lynn Russell, and Jean Harper. They've brought many years of experience to our group and we thank them for their invaluable insight over their time on the Parent Council at PLHS.

I would also like to take time to thank Gavin Clark for his time and commitment to the school. Thanks also go to the Teacher Representative on our group, Sarah Lusk. Her input and participation within the group has been important to help share information about the school.

Over the course of this year, we have discussed a range of issues and there has been healthy debate on matters that have arisen. We have looked at topics and issues including;

- School responses to COVID-19 contexts
- The challenges of supporting learners in returning to face-to-face education
- The ways in which PLHS have supported and promoted the emotional health and well-being of children and young people

Over the year, we've welcomed a number of guest speakers to present to our Parent Council. An example of this included Derek, the School Librarian, who spoke to us around literacy and ways that young people are supported to engage with reading within the school. We thank all of

the various members of staff who have given their time to share with us their practice. The Parent Council find these sessions very useful and would hope that similar updates continue to be available.

The Parent Council would like to thank the young people, parents and staff who are continuing to navigate through the current education challenges. As a Parent Council, we will continue to provide a supporting role to for the future development of the school and the learners.

Our thanks also go to Jill Brown, who performs the role of Clerk for the Parent Council.

Judith McNeill, PLHS Parent Council Chair

Treasurers Report

Sasha reported that there is £331.68 in the bank account. There was a discussion around what this should be used for. It was decided that the money will be used for next year's fundraising and also for the ELP to purchase breakfast provisions. The signatories for this account will be Judith McNeill, Sasha Maguire and Siobhan Graham. The account may not be needed and if not the account will be closed and money given over the Preston Lodge Learning Foundation.

Election of Office Bearers

Judith McNeill was nominated for chair by Rachel Menzies and seconded by Cate Duff

Sasha Maguire was nominated for Treasurer by Judith McNeill and seconded Jean Harper

Siobhan Graham was nominated for vice chair by Judith McNeill and seconded by Jean Harper

Spending

Possible fundraising was discussed and how money should be spent. It was unclear whether the Parent council should be involved in the decision making about how the PLLF School Lottery money will be spent – Gavin will look into this.

Constitution

Because voting is seldom, if ever used, for decision-making at meetings all present, whether members or not, are able to participate in finalising decisions.

Meeting 9.6.22

Minutes from last meeting

These were agreed and there were no actions outstanding.

Safeguarding Review

There were 6 parents who came forward to speak to the Safeguarding Review panel. The panel visited over 4 days. The processes for dealing with Child Protection and Safeguarding in school were praised. The panel were really impressed by the positive connection between staff and students. They found calm and patient staff when going round the school. The report will be published in due course. There were over 200 responses from the parental survey.

Covid update

The school still has some staff and students wearing face coverings which is working well, and up to individuals. There are still a few student and staff absences, but there was very little absence through the SQA exams. The council have a good opportunity when the extension is built to provide equitable facilities for PL.

SQA update

Exams are complete and it was a very smooth process. Sarah Lusk's work was acknowledged by the SQA and any glitches were caused by the SQA. The Appeals process will be issued to students in due course.

Headteachers report

Staffing has been confirmed for next season, and NQT's have been allocated. The prom was a great event and the students were a delight. There is a small S6 of around 80 students, however this seems to be the norm now. Prize-giving nominations from outwith the school have been huge and the nominations will be issued soon. There will be an Aims and Values ceremony on 27 June for all students. Parentsportal has been delayed and will be launched soon. Timetables have been issued to new year groups and "school of" information will be issued tomorrow. Every S3 will achieve a Bronze Youth Achievement Award. Next Wednesday will be a fun event for the S3s. P7 parents' evening will be on 23 June. The Aspire programme will launch on Monday, involving 13 of the new S2s and they will spend every Monday at Edinburgh College and will receive a MCR pathways mentor.

School Improvement Plan

The parental survey will be sent out within the next two weeks. If anyone has any comments regarding this they should be sent to Gavin.

Charitable Trust

There is no update as the next meeting is next week. Peter Ford has stepped down as chair and Colin Yorkston has now taken up the position of chair.

Pupil Toilets and current state of repairs

The toilets are needing a refresh, and this has been communicated to FES, but we are not currently clear where things stand. The outside of the building is looking a bit tired and needs to be painted. There will be more wall decorations to be put up.

AOB

It was asked when pupils would be able to eat in the canteen again. It was anticipated that from August students will be able to eat here again.

It was asked where East Lothian was with regards to Empowered Learning. Lachlan will look into this and report back.

Date of next meeting TBC

