**Leith Academy Parent Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 15th September 2022 7pm**

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| **In attendance** | **Initials** | **In attendance** | **Initials** |
| Michael Irving (Head Teacher) | MI | Bryony Armstrong |  |
| Richard Foggo (Co-chair) | RF | Adam Kantsky |  |
| Helen Clifford (Co-chair) | HC | Helen Howe |  |
| Xanthe Bird (Treasurer) | XB | Ingrid Hellan |  |
| Hilary Brown (Co-clerk) | HB | Colin Thompson |  |
| Vicky Allan (Co-clerk) | VA | Nikki Dunne |  |
| Rodger Evans |  | Susan Morrison |  |
| Colette Murphy |  | Rhona Paterson |  |
| Lorna Martin |  | Lovel Hearn |  |
| Gordon Paterson |  | Mia Ehret |  |
| Edward Kinley |  | Ruby Denai |  |
| Monika Knitter |  | Erin Wallace |  |
| Rebekah McVitie |  | **Minutes** |  |
| Rachel Hein |  | Vicky Allan (Co-clerk) | VA |
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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Welcome and Introductions**  RF opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Introductions were made. |  |
| **2.** | **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**  The minutes were recognised as on the school website. See attached link below. |  |
| **3.** | **Financials**  £1000 approx current balance, according to XB. Money agreed to buy ties has been given, as well as money for prom. There has been a donation from the Rotary Club. |  |
| **4.** | **School toilets**  MI explained the current strategy re toilets – a return to the system that was there before Covid, because there had been significant damage done to the toilets. HC requested that the school and pupil council speak to discuss the concerns and if there was a way of getting a better system? What could be done to make it less difficult for the kids?  RF suggested there be a toilet update at the next meeting. Prefects gave various views and reflections on the issues around toilets. |  |
| **5.** | **Ukrainian pupils – how the school is managing and supporting**  MI explained that 100+ Ukrainian students have been allocated to the school – and these are not taking numbers beyond staffing capacity. Families are from MS Victoria. Students have doing great job buddying. There is Scottish Government funding of £5000 per student though this has not yet been seen. Some additional staff needed to cope – Interpreter and translator as well as someone would come in and do an extra class ESOL. RF suggested the PC would like to help by engaging with the council on behalf of the school. XF expressed concern that the language problem may be slowing down classes. | **Engage council re support for Ukrainians** |
| **6.** | **Head Teachers Update**  **End of last term -** Sports personality of the year was a highly successful event with the winner being Luke Gardner. Sports Day was also held outside and was a buzzing day. S6 Leaving even took place at the Scotsman. The P7 transition, involved a 3-day visit. The School show, Home to Leith, took place for the first time using the Sir Iain Mckellen seats. Evening of celebration was also back in person again. The school hosted the EIF show Muster Station – some students involved  **School Uniform-** The approach is back to basics school uniform, trying to keep the cost of dress to a minimum. Plus every first year has been bought a tie if they needed that. Donations of school uniform have taken place at the front of the school - thank you – and the school has also been working with Edinburgh uniform bank.  **Breakfast club** - This is back on and free to every youngster – need to encourage kids to use it. If kids come in late, there is also a breakfast bar.  **School show** – Home to Leith, first time in the school, in Sir Ian McKellen seats  **Vision school** - Leith Academy has become a Vision School which identifies schools doing good work Holocaust memorial  **Duke of Edinburgh restarting -** But there has been high demand from all, 74 notes of interest.  **Deposits for lockers abolished –** in light of cost of living  **Key dates on website -** Many of the key dates are up, including exam timetable dates and internal assessment dates. |  |
| **7.** | **Prefects report**  Prefects mentioned the problem with the revision resource Quizlet which has updated so flashcards are on premium. Is there a different resource we could move to? Or we could pay for premium? |  |
| **8.** | **Parents’ issues**  Queries included:  What is the next step if school does not reply to email? MI said this should not happen.  Some S4 parents asked why there was not more detail on tracking reports – showing actual level being hit by students. MI explained the next set of reports for that age group does have information on level. He flagged up that there was an event planned for 28th September How to Pass Your National Qualifications.  International student’s buddy has changed district, can she get a new one?  Any progress on Girl’s Football? MI said yes, momentum is building. |  |
| **9.** | **Any other business**  Constitution to be discussed on a future date and ideas welcomed  FG suggested a fundraising subgroup be set up  VA said anyone who has any great fundraising ideas should perhaps send to email address.  One parent asked if her theatre show, Rose, might be a good fundraiser, but the timeframe is very tight. Possibility it may just be put on for some of the students.  Dates for possible PC presence/involvement. S1 settling in evening, October 13th, P7 Parents Information Evening November 10th, Christmas show | **Set up fundraising subgroup**  **Have stall at Parent Info night etc** |
| **10.** | **Next meeting**  Thursday 23rd November 2022 7pm. May be subject to change. |  |