**Leith Academy Parent Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 26th January 2023 7pm**

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| **In attendance** | **Initials** | **In attendance** | **Initials** |
| Michael Irving (Head Teacher) | MI |  |  |
| Richard Foggo (Co-chair) | RF |  |  |
| Helen Clifford (Co-chair) | HC |  |  |
| Xanthe Bird (Treasurer) | XB |  |  |
| Hilary Brown (Co-clerk) | HB |  |  |
| Vicky Allan (Co-clerk) | VA |  |  |
| Katrina Mulligan |  |  |  |
| Edward Kinley |  |  |  |
| Jack Caldwell |  |  |  |
| Lucy Barnett |  |  |  |
| Alex Melichar |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Minutes** |  |
|  |  | 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 from last meeting approved**  |  |
| **3.** | **Prefects and students**Team running the school panto told us they had chosen Cinderella – and were looking for a donation to pay head-mics for leads (£300) and also costume set and props coming to a total £350. Richard suggested that it might be possible in future years to buy equipment. Treasurer asked about prom. This is due to be brought up at next meeting and is being planned. Prom has been booked and payment plans set up, going to the Sheraton on Lothian Road.General update: Toilets... from a pupil’s perspective has improved. They are open, easy to access, easier than was at start of year. Senior staff trying to monitor when able, this system appears to be working.Doing preparations for culture day at the moment. Got S6 hoodies, got a design and will be ordering imminently. Yearbook photos are in already.  |  |
| **4.** | **Toilets**MI: Continuing to make them a space that is accessible. Youngsters are not difficult about it – it's just they want to congregate in there. An appeal seems to be with temperature – the toilets are very warm. Locks on the girls toilets were just replaced. Open at all times, trying to keep them accessible.  |  |
| **5.** | **Treasurer** Clerks have decided not to take clerk’s fees – though future clerks can do. £1940 in the account. We need to do something about the account, which still does not have signatories for cheques.  | **Sort out account and signatory problem** |
| **6.** | **Decision on Cinderella**Donation of the full £350 approved by PC.  | **£350 approved for Cinderella** |
|  | **Head Teachers Update**Youngsters in Ireland. Holocaust memorial venture. Trips are back on, even in some cases international trips. Difference in terms of paper work especially if countries have a different Covid position. Trips to London planned, also sporting events.Duke of Edinburgh is back on the table again. School are trying to do it in a way that doesn’t present cost as a barrier. Youngsters in S3, S4 and S5 all involved due to interest. A team of staff are being trained for the first time with support from other colleagues in the City. MI has asked if James Miller and Rebecca Kelman can give us an update at next meeting.Mid-year assessments have all happened. Pathways and course choice all being processed, and some events have taken place.Great attendance for S2/S3 information evening. Industrial action is ongoing – not much update, not much movement. Next planned for 28th Feb/1st March.Pupils did some work doing cabin crew in plane, and Sips and Snacks.Family engagement took place to do with cooking, families together. It was for small numbers and home economics team were part of that.There was also an S1 family engagement session on technology. Planning on more targeted engagement with families.Christmas show, tickets sold out and it was amazing, and a testament to the young people.YPI £3000 award went to The Men of Leith’s Men’s Shed.Christmas service at the church took place in South Leith Parish Church.Adult education programme has started up again.Business brunch was on for the first time since Covid – all with an emphasis on green/sustainability. Six different businesses.Big Leith Giveway to take place 28th January, everything is absolutely free.Senior girls netball, under 16 quarter finalists in Scottish plate.Connor Anderson became the east district boxing champion last week. Ruby has made under 18 east of Scotland rugby squad. |  |
| **7.** | **Parent raised issues:** Water fountain not working. This has been raised with ‘Water logic’ the company we use, hopeful of an update and improvement soon.Question about why Leith Academy does just 6 Nat 5s while some do more. Suggestion that the school give information about how you can do an extra subject if you want. MI explained that if there was a move from 6 subjects to 7, we would be moving to a seven-period day. But there are other timetabling changes ahead anyway. National class teacher contact time is possibly being reviewed across Scotland and would require a change across all curriculum models in Edinburgh. Waiting to see what’s coming out from Scottish Govt.Co-chair recommended an article about how common 6, 7 and 8 are in the schools.  |  |
| **8.** | **Inclusion Subgroup Update**Mince pies and quiz event took place before Christmas and went well and was attended by 11 families. Hope to arrange another bigger cultural event in March to time with the Cultureday. £57 spent on food.  | **Group to plan further event in March** |
| **9.** | **Call for fundraising group -** One parent agreed to be part of the group. |  |
| **10.** | **AOCB**MI mentioned that summer P7 to S1 event will be a good time to collect.KF observed that the 23rd February council sets annual budget. Interested to know reactions as news comes out about this because there will be decisions made that will cut services. KF is also on technology GRBV audit committee of the council and would appreciate parents’ views on CGI.JC observed that funding for Ukrainian students was discussed last time. Council passed £8755 per pupil, for 102 but it has not filtered down yet. Co-chair queried if a letter from the parent council would be helpful in helping to speed things along. JC suggested waiting and seeing for time-being.In previous years the school asked depts to put forward bids as we approach end of financial year. Parent council can then decide what / if they can offer some support. Request to be put out and brought to next meeting. |  |
| **10.** | **Next meeting**Thursday 26th April 2023 7pm. May be subject to change.  |  |