**Leith Academy Parent Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 26th April 2023 at 7pm**

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| **In attendance** | **Initials** | **In attendance** | **Initials** |
| Michael Irving (Head Teacher) | MI | Rebekah McVitie | RMcV |
| Richard Foggo (Co-chair) | RF | Nikke Dunne | ND |
| Helen Clifford (Co-chair) | HC | Marianne Hopley | MH |
| Xanthe Bird (Treasurer) | XB | Jane Park | JP |
| Hilary Brown (Co-clerk) | HB | Lovel Hearn (Headboy) | LH |
| Vicky Allan (Co-clerk) | VA | Dawn Taylor-Dale | DT-D |
| James Miller | JM | Christine Treche | CT |
| Rachel Hein | RH | **Minutes** |  |
| Rachel Kelman | RK | Hilary Brown (Co-clerk) | HB |

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Welcome and Introductions**  HC opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Introductions were made. |  |
| **2.** | **Minutes from last meeting approved** -Matters arising. Water Logic investigating the pressure issue. MI pursuing so it’s ready for summer months.  Ukrainian funding. Money for recruiting staff has been forthcoming, but the £8K per student from the Council has not been forthcoming but this is not posing significant problems for the school. The ESOL teacher is in place and PSA support (Anastasia) – MI hopes to extend the duration of that support. 32 Ukrainian youngsters coming up from P7. 130 youngsters in school right now. |  |
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| **3.** | **Duke of Edinburgh**  Launched at Bronze Level only with 80 participants.  S3 – 19-20 May  S3/S4 – 2-3 June  S4/S5 16-17 June  They are also working with Bangholm Outdoor Centre so that there’s a 1/10 ratio of adult to pupil and an assessor. Huge shortage of assessors which means some schools may need to amalgamate their expeditions. It’s been a great experience for the young people to extend their experiences beyond ‘school, home, phone’! Parents agreed that it has pushed the young people outside their comfort zone. |  |
| **4.** | **Treasurer**  Xanthe produced a written report. We need receipts for anything we spend. Committee to meet with MI to agree how to progress things with in terms of rules and regulations. There is £1597.81 in the account. New LAPC Banner cost £148 (HB to be reimbursed). |  |
| **5.** | **Funding Requests**  LH (Head Boy) requested £200-£250 for Polaroid cameras for each table at the S6 Prom dinner. The S6s have already raised £600 for a DJ and other items for prom.  James (Modern Studies Teacher) told us about projects to develop a sustainable vegetable garden in one of the courtyards in the school.  Anne a PSA has asked for a £100 for another sustainability project of a vegetable garden in another courtyard to buy vegetable plants. She will involve some of the school youngsters to plant etc.  Sheila has asked for £200 for Breakfast Club – free and open to all children – staff help with it. There is also fruit and cereal bars at the front desk for hungry youngsters. To buy extra things for Breakfast Club, including  Jane Park is organising a trip to RHS at Ingliston on 22 June. The main cost is the coach and she is requesting support for this (Total cost is £300)  Proposed by Richard Foggo; Seconded Katrina Milligan. Passed unanimously. |  |
| **6.** | **Head Teachers Update**  January – the school held a targeted family engagement session to help them use technology better. Parent learning with child. Looking forward to more sessions eg with cooking.  The Big Leith Giveaway was a highly successful event helping tackle the Cost of Living Crisis.  Senior Phase parental information session went well. Excellent presentations from the Careers Adviser and Ben Stewart.  S6 Cinderella Production was very well done and highly successful.  DWF Law Programme is back up and running post-pandemic.  S3 transition evening went well.  The annual official Fire Alarm testing went well.  Purple Friday to raise awareness of our LGBTQ work went well. The school is applying for Silver Charter this year. Hoping to achieve that.  Coronation information shared.  Culture Day went very well – thanks to Ben Stewart.  S3 Parents Evening – first one in person after the pandemic - was very well received. MI will be asking for feedback on whether parents prefer online or in person parents evenings in 2023/24.  Industrial Action is over.  SQA Assessments are underway. On Tuesday 9 and 16 May S3s will be getting experience of the exam hall environment to help them acclimatise to exam conditions. The S4-S6 exam sitters are getting good responses from invigilators.  Language Heritage – there are now heritage languages in a variety of languages.  National Qualification Review led by Professor Louise Hayward is ongoing. LA has collated teacher views and MI has submitted collective views. Head Teachers are also submitting a collated response.  S2 National Science Success – a team came third in the National Final with a hydrogen challenge.  Bruno presented at the LGBTQ conference with Mr Stewart.  MI attended with modern studies students for the first FMQs with Humza Yousaf. There was repeated disruption relating to anti oil exploration protests. However, the young people from Leith Academy and other schools were allowed back into the gallery after the protesters had been cleared.  There have been rugby sessions with up and coming P7 youngsters.  S6 leavers had a great leaving day.  Easter revision was free and more youngsters than ever before (c300) participated over the week.  Toilets are still open!  Richard noted gratitude to MI and all the team for the work that they do, as represented by the above list. |  |
|  | **Student Union**  Bruno and Dawn introduced the Student Union, which is a group of students from across Edinburgh, for which Dawn is one of the reps. 15 of the 23 schools in Edinburgh are represented in the union, which is campaigning on various issues, including the fact that ipads are overly restricted in terms of what you can access.  The union is meeting with the EIS on 9 May. Followed by a meeting with the City of Edinburgh Council. They are going to present the findings of a survey of students to the Council.  Mr Miller the Modern Studies teacher agreed that the restrictions are often illogical.  MI explained that the restrictions relate to security, risk and data sharing.  They have also spoken about school lunches and various issues with quality and access. Cashless is not good for everyone. And the queue can take a while on some days (poorer weather). Applying for free school meals form doesn’t always work and then that’s a problem. |  |
| **7.** | **Engagement and Comms**  We are aware that we discuss what concerns the few people who attend the meetings. But we feel strongly we want to try and increase the numbers and diversity of the group of parents that we reach. There are circa 1000 children in the school. We want to reach more of them and ensure all parents’ concerns are able to be addressed via Parent Council.  We will continue to communicate via email and we will increase the number of languages we communicate in in order to try and improve our diversity.  We will aim to attend more future events in order to engage with and involve parents.  Digital flyer to be produced and shared on Twitter and at events (possibly a wallet card).  LAPC Committee to supply content for a one off text to all parents either for the AGM or for the first meeting of Session 23/24. |  |
| **9.** | **AOCB**  Could we do fundraising at the Evening of Celebration on 14 June? Possibly a raffle. KM suggested a generic letter for giving to local businesses to encourage them to give raffle prizes. Could we sell refreshments? We could have a table for refreshments at the canteen bit and sell tea and coffee or cake? KM can help in advance. Committee to send an email to request raffle prizes. |  |
| **10.** | **Next meeting - AGM**  Thursday 8th June 2023 7pm. In the Rugby Club. |  |
| **10.** | We are looking to offer S6 some curriculum dev for a whole variety of things – first aid, touch typing, BSL possibly (NB Duke of Edinburgh is extra curricular) |  |