**Leith Academy Parent Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 5th June at 7pm**

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| **Present** | **Initials** | **In attendance** | **Initials** |
| Mike Irving (Head Teacher) | MI | Anja Cradden | AC |
| Richard Foggo (Chair) | RF | Jane Park (Teaching Support) | JP |
| Tammy Hanson(Treasurer) | TH |  |  |
|  |  | Peter Yates | PY |
| Alex Nuth (Co-clerk) | AN | Lorna Martin | LM |
|  |  | Nikki Dunne | ND |
|  |  | Fiona Clandillan | FC |
| **Apologies:** Vicky Allan – Co-clerk  Head Pupils –Skye, Alfee, Alex and Pryia, |  |  |  |
| **Minutes: Alex**  (Co-clerk) |  |  |  |
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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Welcome and Introductions**  RF opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. |  |
| **2.** | **Minutes from last meeting:**  These were agreed to be an accurate record of the previous meeting on 23rd January 2024.  **Matters Arising** There were none  **carried forward to August 2025** MI to get a trip plan from staff for the 25/26 year, but at this stage it was noted that there might be other trips that had yet to be agreed / planned yet so the position could change | MI |
| **3.** | **Head teacher’s report**  **MI outlined the activities that had taken place since the last meeting including:**   * Exam leave and national assessment were complete. * The invigilator team supported 100 assessments and feed-back about the young people was very good. * The theme of progressive masculinity was ongoing * A session with S1 about growth mindsets has been held * Wider pathways – 4 graduations from Right to Work * Build your Future session about building and construction * S6 theatre show * Spring fling has become Summer fling * PEF impact- young people adversely affected by poverty – was noted to have been highlighted nationally * S1 parents evening has been very positive with a high turn out * Staff guidance had been issued about world conflict and tension. * No direct information had come to the School regarding the Supreme Court Judgements about the definition of a women * There has been fantastic result in the Scottish Maths competition (Maths Sans Frontiers) * S3 history trip * New timetable and S6 induction completed this week * The partner school from China had visited   Police Scotland had circulated a letter via the School to all parents regarding recent violence at Portobello Prom   * **Coming up:** * Tentative pupil China trip restarting in 2026 having been on hold since 2019 * Prom taking place on Friday 13th June. |  |
| **4.** | **Parent’s questions**  1) The Parent Council had issued a survey to parents about the School toilets. The feedback noted themes of hygiene, safety and the Supreme Court ruling. Suggestions from parents included construction of new toilets, renovation of toilets to match other new build facilities, increased supervision including permanent toilet monitor, enhanced cleaning, increased support for pupils with periods, engagement with pupil body to gain support for improved behaviour.  MI noted that there was no current option for new toilets or significant renovation. MI clarified that Leith Academy facilities were not in a poor enough condition to be considered for a refurbishment for aesthetic/building fabric reasons.  Issue with occupancy was raised given Leith Academy has grown in size. Specific issue with provision of accessible/disabled and gender neutral toilets. MI updated that the school are involved in a review with Edinburgh Council on toilet provision and that feedback would be provided.  MI noted that the School Leadership team monitored the toilets through the day – looking for damage, silly behaviour and moving young people on. It was noted that this involved a significant commitment from Senior Management and took them away from other priorities. MI indicated that hiring someone to be a permanent toilet monitor would not be possible for financial and also there is no appropriate role in current available staff categories (not a teacher or PSA, admin etc). This would be a facilities management team staff member which would not be well paid and would not have the authority to deal with challenging behaviour.  Facilities Management handled cleaning and locks and that was not an over night service so that could leave areas out-of-order longer.  MI indicated that he and his team were being as proactive as possible with the situation and were aware of the issues and concerns. They would continue to monitor and resolve issues as best they could.    Signing for, issuing and returning a key had been attempted previously and had not worked well, due to loss and misuse. Parents had expressed concerns about this system previously. Door passes for security were being considered.  It was noted that design and monitoring could not mitigate poor behaviour of a minority. It was also noted that there would always be a minority of young people who would be anxious/have additional support needs and may struggle with the general system. It was suggested that involving pupils in supporting culture change and reducing barriers may help. This issue was regularly discussed at Pupil Council . **S6 buddies did support the S1 pupils around facilities but this would be increased, with focus on toilets included on the S1 Transition days later in June.**  Currently the School uses accessible toilets as gender neutral. This supports not just trans pupils but also a range of other pupils including those with preference for single room toilets and those with anxiety. MI aware that students arriving in August who need accessible facilities. That could mean ending the use of these as toilets for all non-disabled pupils. MI has sought guidance from Edinburgh Council on this issue. Parents expressed concern about this especially given this might mean an issue for August. MI committed not to withdraw toilet facilities for trans and other pupils who need them.  Wear and tear was also to be considered in terms of facilities being closed more often than ideal. The impact of reduced quality of material used in maintaining the fabric of the building.  **The Parent Council would seek an urgent update from headteacher on outcome of any review and then write to Edinburgh Council outlining issues (including availability of gender neutral toilets in August) and positive options to address.**  It was noted that parents of new S1 students would bring concerns about toilets to the August meeting and the PC wanted to prepare for that discussion. Human Rights, periods and gender were all key areas that would stay on the PC agenda  The Parent Council would communicate to parent directly about the discussion.  2) PY asked for clarity around the newly introduced tracking reports. He noted that teachers had not been able to explain the wording when asked.  It was proposed that the phrasing of the headings be altered to be clearer.  Working level, progress = meeting/not meeting/exceeding and target level were all confusing.  **MI would investigate what wording was under the control of the School to amend.** | MI  RF  MI |
| **5** | **Toilet usage survey**   * See item 4 |  |
| **6** | **Funding request**  The Committee discussed whether to support the purchase of more charging ports with the remaining funds. This was agreed at a cost of £319.  The Parent Council asked the School to be mindful of overloading electrical power and the risk of fire. |  |
| **6** | **Treasurer’s Report**  The Treasurer noted that the balance was £326.06  The audit of the accounts was positive and the account would end the year at £7.06 |  |
| **7** | **Election**  The three key roles of the Parent Council were put forward for annual election.  Richard Foggo stood for the role of Chair/Conveyor, nominated by PY and was seconded by AN. It was noted that 25/26 would be his final year in the role and succession planning would be needed.  Alex Nuth was nominated for role of Clark by RF and was seconded by PY  Tammy Hanson stood for re-election , nominated by RH to the role of Treasurer and was seconded by LM |  |
| **8** | **AOCB**  There was none |  |
| **9** | **Date of next meeting**  Thursday 28th August 2025 at 7pm |  |