

Gleniffer High School  
**Parent Council**

**Subject:** General Parent Council Meeting No. 0558

**Date:** 5/03/18 7.00pm-9.00pm      **Minutes taken by:** Jackie Kydd

**Venue:** Gleniffer High School      **Date Issued:**

**Present:**

Lesley Binning	Parent Member
Alastair McGhee	Parent member
Lorraine Carslaw	Parent Member
Iain McKenzie	Parent Member
Caroline Young	Parent Member
Lesley Gibson	Parent Member
Jackie Kydd	Parent Member
Fiona Fairbrother	Parent Member
George Walker	Parent Member
Georgina Kent	Parent Member
Carolann Davidson	Parent Member

Lisa Chalmers      Head Teacher

Cllr McCartin      Local Councillor

**Apologies**

Margaret McCartney	Parent Member
Sandra OHare	Parent Member
Kevin Jose	Parent Member
Stuart Sinclair	Parent Member
Dorothy McCann	Parent Member
John Phillips	Parent Member
Karen Anderson	Parent Member
Ciara Phillips	Head Girl
Robbie Campbell	Head Boy
Nicola Crawford	Teacher
Margie Walker	Teacher
Cllr Montgomery	Local Councillor
Cllr Cameron	Local Councillor

### **Distribution List:**

Peter MacLeod	Director of Children's Services
Steven Quinn	Assistant Director (Education)
Stephen Burns	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Marie McGurk	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Lorraine Cameron	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Eddie Devine	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Paul Mack	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Kevin Montgomery	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Alison Warnock	Acting Head Teacher, Bushes Primary School
Hilary Paterson	Head Teacher, Heriot Primary School
Graeme McLean	Head Teacher, Langcraigs Primary School
Claire MacGregor Duncan	Head Teacher, Lochfield Primary School
Marie-Claire Temple	Head Teacher, Brediland Primary School

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

LB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received as above.

#### **3. Comments/Approval of previous Minutes - 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Proposed by: Iain McKenzie  
Seconded: Fiona Fairbrother

#### **4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

None.

#### **5. Parent Council Liaison Meeting 8th March 2018**

Following the cancellation of the previous date for the Parent Council Liaison Meeting new date of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March secured. Lesley Binning will attend to represent Gleniffer but other members of the parent council are welcome to attend. The meeting commences at 7pm and is held in the Council Chambers. If anyone planning to attend let Lesley know in advance and she is happy to arrange to meet. Lesley will feed back at next Parent Council meeting.

## 6. Parental Engagement

There had been good discussion at meeting in February around the parental engagement survey that was in development. Lesley Gibson had populated proposed questions onto Survey Monkey which were discussed in detail with changes agreed. It was agreed that LG would update the questions with the feedback that had been received. The survey would be live by Monday 12th March, using Facebook, Twitter and a link would be emailed to parents, and would close on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March (last day of term prior to Easter holiday).

All parent council members encouraged to share the survey on social media platforms. Initial results would be available for the Parent Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

## 7. **Teacher's Report**

Due to unforeseen circumstances no teachers were present.

## 8. **Head Teacher's Report**

### **Contents of Report**

1. Staffing update.
2. Calendar Items
3. PEF/SAC Update
4. Other items

#### **1. Staffing**

Adverts have closed for a Teacher of Home Economics (Permanent), Teacher of Business Studies (permanent) and two Teachers of English (Temporary). These posts are all due to start in August.

We have requested NQTs in Home Economics, Music, PE and RMPS for next session.

An advert will go out for teacher of Art & Design soon, as well as some other vacancies, which will arise because of retirements.

I expect to interview Home Economics and Business Studies on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## **2. Calendar**

The careers inputs from business and SDS workshops on Foundation Apprenticeships were a welcome addition to the S4 Parents' Evening and gave parents and pupils the opportunity to speak to others about post 16 destinations.

The final parent focus group took place on 8<sup>th</sup> February (presentation). The findings have been presented to Principal Teachers for comment and will be collated with comments for the parent forum. This will be put on the school website and feature in the Spring Newsletter. Any Parent Council information for the spring newsletter should be sent to me by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Learning & Teaching was the main focus of the in-service day in February with staff presenting workshops on a range of strategies and resources. Teachers signed up for three workshops, which they attended on the day.

We started litter picks after the holiday weekend with five separate groups going out in all. We covered Durrockstock Park and the lane beside the school. Pupils enjoyed being out and about and the reception from members of the community was positive.

The Hearty Lives Group opened their room on 19<sup>th</sup> February which gives pupils somewhere to go two lunchtimes a week and meet with the peer mentors, getting support as required.

The Malawi 2018 group attended the Malawi Youth Congress on 20<sup>th</sup> February at Hampden Park. Miss Aitken presented workshops on culture alongside our friend Enock Bamusi. The young people attended a variety of workshops and heard from a range of speakers. They also had a personalised message from the First Minister, who was disappointed she couldn't attend.

I presented alongside Mrs McCann and Ms Paterson (Heriot Pr) at a PEF session on 21<sup>st</sup> February. We were talking about the additional Transition Teacher we recruited to support the work of Ms Macleod.

Furniture has been purchased for the library courtesy of the PTA. A comfy reading area has been created in the library for pupils. Some S3 pupils have been developing their flat pack skills, building bookcases from IKEA!

Mr Marshallsay and I delivered a study skills workshop to S4 pupils. They were tasked with learning aspects of the Highway Code using different revision techniques. We also talked about organisation and planning for study. Mr Marshallsay is making the presentation available via the Gleniffer Employ Twitter Feed. We are also looking at how to make better use of the school website.

S1 pupils are currently hearing about prominent figures who identify with the LGBT community. Pupils are learning about people who are well known in a specific area e.g. sport, music, sciences through school subjects. We now have a LGBT group, which meets on a weekly basis and is supported by Miss Gillies.

## **3. Pupil Equity Fund**

Gleniffer High School has been allocated £98 400 for session 2018-19, which is an increase on the 2017-18 funding. Staff consultation sessions will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Texts will be sent to parents for parent

consultation on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Pupil groups for consultation have been identified. This is also likely to take place next week. Presentation of spend 2017-18 and planned commitments for 2018-19 shared with PC members.

## Parent Focus Group Feedback

**Feedback**

<b>You Said</b>	<b>We Did/ Will Do</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to improve the options process.</li> <li>We should have more input from SUs or relating to careers earlier in the school.</li> <li>SI Parents' Evening can be very daunting for first time parents.</li> <li>Pupils who are not part of the Q&amp;S cluster miss out on transition events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We introduced personalised options interviews involving parents for SI, SI and SI.</li> <li>We are reviewing the role of PT Employability to link more with Pupil Equity Fund.</li> <li>We are introducing an SI Parents Information Evening early in the school session.</li> <li>We are awaiting information on all pupils coming from out with the Q&amp;S cluster. We will ensure they get the appropriate information and will build this into the calendar for next session.</li> </ul>

**Feedback**

<b>You Said</b>	<b>We Did/ Will Do</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff are inconsistent in their use of Show My Homework.</li> <li>SI pupils struggle to manage homework when they start secondary school.</li> <li>Pupils who have more than one teacher for a subject tend to get more homework.</li> <li>There is limited equipment for left-handed pupils.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We ran training for all staff in basic and advanced use of Show My Homework. We reinforced the need for consistency amongst staff.</li> <li>We are introducing study skills as part of SI curriculum.</li> <li>This has been fed back to departments to address.</li> <li>This has been fed back to departments to address. We will also look to gather information about this at primary transition meetings.</li> </ul>

**Feedback**

<b>You Said</b>	<b>We Did/ Will Do</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classwork stops too early at the end of term.</li> <li>Pupils being shown DVDs in class don't get to opt out, they may not always be in line with family values/ personal opinions.</li> <li>Methodologies can be different within one department.</li> <li>Maths transition can cause pupils to miss out on topics because of progression within primary and where secondary pick-up.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This has been raised as a matter of concern with all Principal Teachers. Staff will be reminded about the need to keep pupils focused and on task toward the end of term.</li> <li>This has been fed back to departments to consider the best way to allow pupils to opt out. Staff are also being urged to consider the frequency of DVDs in class.</li> <li>Teaching and learning is a standing item on departmental agendas.</li> <li>Transition will be discussed with Cluster Head Teachers.</li> </ul>

**General Comments**

- Overall parents and carers are very happy with Genifer High School.
- Range of extra-curricular activities and fun experiences is good for pupils.
- Overall parents think their children are happy to come to school.
- Staff shortages are having a negative impact on learning and experience.
- Speed of response to phone calls could be quicker by some staff.
- Seems to be a number of pupils not participating in PE.
- The quality of pastoral support for young people and their families is very good.
- Range of STEM activities is very good.
- The new approach to options interviews is very positive.

## 9. Head Girl/Head Boy Report

Head Boy and Head Girl were unavailable to attend

## 10. Any Other Business

No items raised. The next meeting will be 16 April 2018.

