

1. APOLOGIES

Attendees

Tracy Mitchell - Chair
Karen Vidler – DHT Langholm Primary
Adam Barker – DHT Langholm Academy
Iona Davidson – Treasurer
Kathryn Rome – Parent
Karen Wilson – School Support Manager

Lauren McLean – Cluster Headteacher
Kate Millar – DHT Langholm Academy
Aileen Grant – Secretary
Sarah Phillips – Parent
Claire Kingstree – Parent
Colin Cox - Parent

Apologies

Kevin McCartney – Parent
Neil Imrie – Parent
Sarah Graham – Vice Chair

2. NOTES OF LAST MEETING

Agreed and accepted

3. ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

Langholm Primary Road Safety update – Denis Male enquiring about additional fencing to join to existing barrier on Galaside to new ones on school side of road.

4. UPDATE REPORTS – HEAD AND DEPUTE HEADS

(a) School Fund Constitutions and Auditors – K Wilson

- Need auditor to check Compliance. Tracy Mitchell agreed to take on this role.
- Karen distributed school fun constitution for both Langholm Primary and Secondary for people to look over in their own time.
- New software coming in from Council
- School fund tends to be used for trips, coffee morning etc.
- Need to use procurement framework

(b) School Fund Bank Account – K Wilson

- Now going to be charges for all transactions. Not sure of alternatives
- Primary Parent Partnership use the Cumberland but they are not offering any new accounts to be opened.
- Can pay in via Post Office with RBS

ACTION – any thoughts or ideas as well as working smarter please contact Karen

(c) School Improvement Cycle & Management Restructure – L McLean

- Cycle runs from May - April

Behaviour

- Tough in terms 1 & 2
- Volunteers from staff to be part of working group
- Term 3 has been good so far. Hoping we have turned a corner.
- Mobile phone policy has been updated
- Looking at uniform next. Need support from parents.

Raising Aspirations

- 55% of current S6 applying for university this year (has been at 20-30% previously)

- Trying to offer visitors/further opportunities
- Trip to Rome in 2026 is a possibility
- Regular trips to London and skiing

Quality Assurance

- Observations took place during place across cluster
- Visit from the Local Authority on March 20th
- Will triangulate results
- Langholm Primary last inspected in 2012
- Working with Moffat (in similar situation). Will have mini inspections in Term 4 to help each other prepare

Management Restructure

- Patrick Callaghan (new HT at Canonbie) met with Parent Council last month
- John Thin and ANO also visited
- Staff planning meeting for the cluster has taken place already
- There will be a Principal Teacher at Canonbie instead of a DHT
- Patrick has met both staff and young people already.
- Canonbie links with Langholm schools will be looked into to see what is possible.
- Moving forward there will be a 2-18 parent council for Langholm with Canonbie separate.

(d) Behaviour/Mobile Phone/Uniform consultation

Behaviour

- Now have clear boundaries
- Expected things to get worse before better – which seems to have been the case
- Term 3 much more positive
- Communications side of things still work in progress
- Toilets. Altered things for boys toilets which seems to be helping

Mobile Phone

- 70% of parents agreed to minor changes
- Had 90 responses
- 26% pupils said to keep restrictions
- YP need to be responsible with their phones

Uniform

- Consultation by the end of term
- No consequence for YP if no uniform
- Benefits of having a uniform include Safeguarding/Collective Safety
- It was raised how expensive crested jumpers are
- YP need to feel comfortable

(e) Senior Phase/SQA priorities – K Millar

- Prelim results overall as expected
- Lunchtime/after school sessions happening for pupils
- Working closely with YP
- Staff aiming to have courses finished by Easter
- During study leave YP tend to come in in recent years which is positive
- Encouragement to come in and use expertise
- Some subjects have 2nd prelim before Easter
- Assignment/coursework goes away March/April
- SQA exams – additional support letters have gone out
- Exam timetables going out on Thurs this week
- First exams are on April 28th – therefore earlier study leave
- Will be 2 leavers services this year. One for S5/6 plus one for S4
- S2 option choices – currently narrowing down

- S3/4/5 options have gone out
- Once all in KM will start sorting timetables
- This year there will be an aligned timetable across D&G
- Digital options for D&G and the Ayrshires
- Edinburgh College also able to offer courses

(f) Staffing update – L McLean

- Comms recently went out to Academy parents
- Science – Mr Newall (from NWCC) is a temporary arrangement.
- German – Edinburgh College offering MFL; digital approach for MFL maybe necessary
- Short of secondary teachers across the board everywhere
- Currently an advert for a Broad General Education teacher (BGE) is out. A qualified primary teacher can teach up to S3.
- Enterprise instead of German ATM. Using a Martin Lewis resource currently. Doing Creative Enterprise (by Day Dream Believer next block)
- Refresh on some IT equipment next financial year hopefully (not from Council just savings from the school)

(g) Funding – came up in discussions on night

- Could explore funding applications for IT equipment.
- Nursery are looking for some funding for a sun shade. Circa £8k
- Anything else on a wishlist?

ACTION – SLT take to meeting next week

(h) Achievement of a Level Tracking and Monitoring – K Vidler

- Lots of different groupings to look at against data

5. MATTERS RAISED BY PARENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Nothing raised

6. AOB

- Thanks came in from Ali Nicol for Christmas Cake competition input
- Alison Hodgkiss, School Counsellor (currently 1 day a week) wants to develop a wider offer for YP wellbeing. Including discussion, access, group work. Wondering if there was any funding available to support.

ACTION – L McLean request to Alison that a proposal to be developed.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Mon 19th May, 6.30 start at Langholm Academy