



Langholm Academy Cluster - Parent Council Meeting & AGM

Meeting date: 04/10/21

Meeting time: 630pm – 8pm

Present:

- Colin Cox (Chair)
- Mrs McLean-Gill (Headteacher)
- Harry Stevens (Vice Chair)
- Kate Smith (teacher & parent)
- Tracy Little
- Helen Goodfellow
- Tracey Goodfellow
- Emma Robb (parent)
- Kate Millar (teacher & parent)
- Carol Wilson (teacher & parent)
- Mrs Vidler (teacher)
- Liesje Turner (parent)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. **Approval of the Annual Report** - Presentation by Colin Cox
Colin talked through PowerPoint presentation
Colin asked for committee to accept the notes and presentation as a record of the year.
ALL AGREED
 2. **Annual Accounts** – Tracey Little
Little activity through the bank.
£1000 given to school to help with website development.
Discussion about the annual funding from the Council.
Colin asked for approval of the annual accounts **ALL AGREED**
 3. **Appointment of Reviewer of Accounts**
Suggestion that Claire Kingstree do this. **ALL AGREED**
 4. **Proposed Amendments to the Constitution**
None submitted
 5. **Any Resolutions submitted by Parent Forum members**
None submitted
 6. **Election of Members**
Agreed that membership should remain open to all.
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BUSINESS MEETING

1. Election of Office Bearers

Colin Cox – Chair

Harry Stevens – Vice Chair

Tracy Little – Treasurer

Liesje Turner – Secretary

2. Standards of Quality Report - Lauren McLean-Gill

Headlines:

- Report extended to be a 2 year time frame due to COVID
- Talked through the report
- Focus on stakeholder survey results – decided not to go out and survey again as still want to deliver on 2020 survey responses. Do not wish to over-survey parents.
- Updated mobile phone policy to be initiated after Oct holidays.
- External stakeholders were also engaged in the survey – Langholm Initiative, Stevenson Trust etc.
- Senior phase survey to be shared.
- Action to be taken to raise the profile of Parent Council
- Request to raise awareness of the communication app **ACTION ALL**
- Sway newsletters now up and running
- Excellent results in SQA – national data will be out in February 2022 which compares us against other schools
- Both nurseries graded as very good by the Care Inspectorate
- Introduced new subjects – Psychology
- 2 nursery managers in post
- DYW Developing Young Workforce – clear programme for primary and secondary schools
- Reminder of GIRFEC

What next:

- HMI will start inspections in 2021/22 – not had one for 11 years so academy likely to receive an inspection.
- Delivering School Improvement Plan
- Address mental health – and wellbeing

3. School Improvement Plan - Lauren McLean-Gill

Talked through a summary.

Headlines:

- Good pastoral care

- Keep good practice re different ways of working
- Second closure in January – saw a deterioration in the engagement with homeworking
- Have undertaken diagnostic assessments since – and reporting 20% dip in attainment levels expected. Plans being developed on how to bridge the gaps. This is in-keeping with other D&G schools
- Positive reports of in-school engagement and young person focus
- Need to tackle over reliance on mobile phones and provide support through counsellor and specialist school provision
- Focus on physical health as well as mental health
- £71k pupil equity funding been received from Scottish Government – free school meal criteria. Can be to improve wellbeing and/or close attainment gap
- ‘Restart and Recovery’ has been allocated on a per pupil basis
- Increase of 28 teachers for D&G. 0.5 contract (2.5days) has been allocated to the cluster
- Another tough year anticipated but a good start.

Colin asked what help parents can give.

ACTION ALL Request for support re mobile phone policy – S1 to S3 in particular. Fall out is that people are feeling left out and isolated. Non-negotiable is the use of phones in social areas.

Very pleased that the residentials are going ahead with PGL. Risk assessment processes allowing outdoor trips.

Loch Eil trip going ahead.

4. SQA update (Kate Millar)

5. Pupil assessment and closing the attainment gap (Carol Wilson/Karen Vidler)

Positive parent feedback on Sumdog.

6. Covid-19 response & preparedness (Colin Cox & Lauren McLean-Gill)

Outbreak in S2,3,4 – challenging but not the 75 cases as reported by some.

Encouraged outdoor eating, not to sit face to face.

Re-iterate importance of using the lateral flow tests.

Approx 90% cases picked up through LFT not because of symptoms.

Keep using LFT please **ACTION ALL**

Continue to ask all to use masks, sanitiser and distance. Hoping vaccine programme will help as winter periods starts.

Positive feedback about how proactive parents have been to doing their bit.

Question about the uptake of the vaccine. LMcG advised a good uptake but that some unable to have it due to having recently had Covid.

7. AOB

- Comms - suggested items for next meetings include comms lead for Parent Council. Asking for suggestions as to who might provide that. **ACTION ALL**
- Planners – will planners be issued? LMcG advised that Teams will take the place of planners.
- Christmas dance – will there be one? Steering S6 planning committee to look at a Summer Ball so that can sure to be safe. Fundraising starts on Friday 8th Oct – S6 boys leg waxing. Unlikely that there will be a Christmas event due to current guidance.
- Canonbie Primary Parent Council Office Bearers – Harry advised that he will no longer be able to fulfil the role of Chair at Canonbie as he will no longer meet criteria as his child is moving to academy. Treasurer at Canonbie in same position. Harry will be writing out to parents to seek new office bearers after October holidays.

Summary of Actions

1. Raise awareness and promote the communications app
2. Support for implementation of mobile phone policy.
3. Keep using LFT
4. Suggestions as to who might take a lead on comms for the parent council

Appended Documents



Parent Council
Report Langholm CI



Parent Council
Langholm Primary R