

Minutes of Lockerbie Academy Parent Council held on
Wednesday 05 October 2016 in the school conference room

1. Present: B Asher A Clark C Muirhead
 M MacPherson A Carruthers F Stewart
 R Murray A Lockerbie A Hodgson
 S Muir J Gordon S Thompson
 R Bowker J Little G McMillan

Apologies: F Naysmith T Wright L Taylor

As this was the first meeting since the AGM Chairperson, R Murray welcomed all present and asked that we all introduce ourselves

2. Minutes of previous meetings

Were read and approved

3. Matters Arising

Draining works are completed on football pitch.

Amey will replace rotting timbers at amphitheater area with bricks during October break.

4. Health and Wellbeing

Mrs J Little PT Pupil Support addressed the meeting regarding Health and Wellbeing.

Each register class has one period a week donated to Personal and Social Education helping pupils prepare for their life ahead. The school is hoping that this will now be called Learning for Life.

The school has decided to re-vamp the course and would like the PC to be involved by taking the time to review the questionnaire that eventually will be sent out to all parent/carers. It was agreed that the members of PC would overlook the questionnaire and report back at our meeting on the 2 November. Copies would also be sent out to members not present.

Health and Wellbeing – parent audit

We are currently reviewing how we teach Personal, Social and Health Educations (PSHE) as part of Curriculum for Excellence. As well as being integrated across all subjects as a responsibility for all teaching staff, Lockerbie Academy has a designated period (Thursday 2) when the whole school engages in this element of health and well-being. The PTPS team are proposing to change the name to **Learning for Life**

The significant aspects of learning experienced in these periods include:

Mental, Emotional Social and Physical Wellbeing

Planning for Choice and change

Substance misuse

Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood.

The young people are taught age appropriate subjects the focus is to ensure progression.

| Views on PSHE Education | Strongly agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't Know |
|--|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| Young people value PSHE | | | | | |
| PSHE is a time to give personal views and opinions. | | | | | |
| PSHE education could make a real difference to the life of my child | | | | | |
| Lockerbie Academy is doing well in preparing my child for the future. | | | | | |
| LA teaches my child about rights and responsibilities | | | | | |
| LA teaches my child how to value themselves and gives them opportunities to contribute to the life of the school and the community | | | | | |
| Lockerbie Academy teaches my child how to stay safe and how to cope in an emergency | | | | | |
| LA gives my child information and opportunities to learn about such things as drugs and alcohol | | | | | |
| LA teaches my child to respect people from different religions and backgrounds | | | | | |
| LA helps my child to develop positive relationships with peers and adults | | | | | |
| LA teaches my child how to understand their feelings and how to manage stressful situations | | | | | |
| LA teaches my child the emotional and physical impact of sexual relationships and sexual health | | | | | |
| I think the following themes should be taught in PSHE: | | | | | |
| Do you have a skill in any of the above areas which you would like to come in to school and share? | | | | | |

5. Mrs R Bowker, PT Pupil Support, responsible for Religious Observance, addressed the committee. She wanted to take the opportunity to give us a rundown on what the school delivers for Religious Observance.

When issuing the guidelines for RO schools were told what to do but not how to deliver.

In the past 3 years assemblies have had a more religious theme. During 2016/17 it is intended to explore the school values **Compassion, Respect, Equality, Ambition, Teamwork, Effort**. Parents have the right to withdraw their son or daughter from this.

The aims of Religious Observance in Dumfries and Galloway policy 2016

- To promote the spiritual development of all member of the school community.
- To express and celebrate the shared values of the school community.

Key messages from D&G updated policy

- Religious observance is about community acts which aim to promote spiritual development to all members of the school community and express and celebrate the shared values of the school community.
- Religious observance should provide opportunities for developing a deeper understanding of the dignity and worth of each individual within the school community.
- All pupils and staff should be able to participate in religious observance, without compromise to their personal faith stances. In a faith school, worship can be delivered as part of religious observance.
- It is acceptable to refer to religious observance using alternative terminology that is meaningful to the school community, such as 'Time for Reflection'.

The Scottish Government Guidance 2011

- In recognition of Scotland's Christian heritage, schools are encouraged to use the rich resources of this tradition when planning religious observance. Many school communities contain pupils and staff from faiths other than Christianity or with no faith commitment. This should be taken fully into account in supporting spiritual development. It is of central importance that all pupils and staff can participate with integrity in forms of religious observance without compromise to their personal faith stances."
- "Every school should provide opportunities for religious observance at least six times in a school year, in addition to traditional celebrations central to the life of the school community, and preferably with greater frequency."
- "Religious observance needs to take place sufficiently frequently to have an impact on the spiritual development of the school community"

6. Finance

Bank balance: £1,749.98.

Any further monies to be given to the school to will wait till cost of signage for school minibus is established.

R Murray to source signage and advise PC accordingly.

A Clark suggested there could be a fund raising opportunity with the signage, if we allowed pupils to have their name/signature on the minibus for a fee.

7. Bus Problems

Some Parents have been emailing the Rector complaining about problems with the 383 bus, Annan/Brydekirk/Eaglesfield/Lockerbie. The bus is very busy and more often than not pupils have to stand most if not all of the journey. The vast numbers of pupils are out with the catchment for Lockerbie Academy. It is therefore parental choice and parental responsibility to get them to school. Where parents make this choice they are paying for their child to travel on this bus along with members of the general public. It appears the bus company is not providing a big enough bus to allow for all passengers to be seated. The law permits 13 people to be standing on public buses. It has been noted that the bus running at 08.00 carrying school pupils is always full but bus running at 08.30 is running almost empty. Councillor Thompson has agreed to investigate this with the council and get back to the Rector and R Murray.

8. School Improvement Plan

This has now been completed and submitted to Education Offices. It is hoped that the 2017 School Plan will be progressed sooner and we should expect an earlier request for our input.

9. Co-opted members

It was agreed to continue with co-opted members.

2 members of school staff will be sought.

R Murray will contact local Community Police Officer; M MacPherson will provide him with PC Irons email address.

School Chaplain position will wait till S Stoddart's replacement is in post.

10. AOCB

- a. Suggestion that sub groups be formed for eg fundraising etc. A number of parents showed interest in helping with fundraising but didn't want to be a committee member. Some were happy to be involved in both. After discussion it was suggested that Fund Raising group could meet Half hour prior to PC meetings.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 2 November 2016 at 6.00pm.