

Leith Academy Parent Council

Minutes of AGM Meeting held on 29 November 2016

In attendance	Initials	In attendance	Initials
Jack Simpson (Head teacher)	JMS	Laura Brown (Joint Chair)	LB
Trisha Emblem (Joint Chair)	TE	Fiona Fitzgerald (Treasurer)	FF
Colin Brown (Co Chair)	CB	Rodger Evans	RE
Hilary Brown	HB	Marion Donaldson	MD
Janice Aubeeluck	JA	Hilary Marsh	HM
Catherine Sheehy	CS	James Walker (Head Boy)	JM
Gill Pereira (Drama Teacher)	GP	Marion Donaldson (Councillor)	MD
Apologies		Minutes	
Anna Bowman		Victoria Mitchell (Secretary)	VM
Nele Finsterbusch			

Item	Notes	Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions LB opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Introductions were made.	
2.	Apologies Noted Above	
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising The Minutes from meeting on 05 September 2016 were accepted as an accurate record.	
4.	Pupil Council James informed PC they introduced the Year's Drive last year and have started it again this year through assemblies, posters, talks, etc. This is to discover what Students and teachers think need fixed and improved. They compiled a survey and chose 5. This included litter recycling, respect for the school building, disabled access, LBT awareness and 1 other. They have received litter picks and they will start a weekly programme with tutor/PSE groups where they will pick up litter for the community. They have 2 new S1 members. They have a further 3 assemblies to come and will hopefully recruit more. LB asked Pupil Council for help with Xmas fair. Amy Liston putting up art/new displays. Thinking of ideas regarding old	

	<p>artwork, maybe put on an exhibition or find out if they can be sold.</p> <p>Model United Nations, takes place at George Watson's College. May be something that might require a donation from the parent council for future participants. To discuss with Mr Connor.</p>	
5.	<p>School Show GP advised Billy Elliot rehearsals started. Show is on 21-23 June 2017. Looking for help/volunteers to be involved with show. Needs 60 tutus and 16 fans. Email to parents in January asking for help. Costumes needed for end of March. Requested a money donation from the parent council of £200/£300.</p>	TE
6.	<p>Finances Please see attached spreadsheet from Laura Brown/Fiona Fitzgerald. Trouble with address. Fiona will go in to bank and have the details changed. Received £984.13 from council. Prom committee requested a donation of approx. £200 which was agreed along with £300 for Billy Elliot. Also, Donation forms will be sent out to various departments so teachers can request a donation.</p>	FF
7.	<p>Other Fundraising/Profile Raising Ideas Xmas fair. Text to be sent out to parents and added to website with date and info. Donations requested and stalls advertised for hire on Gumtree etc. Tables set up/areas agreed upon. Raffle tickets to be sold, tombola, silent auction, entertainment, refreshments, rolls, food etc. School open from 9.15am on Saturday. Flyers have been put up, delivered and sent out.</p> <p>Mind map designed by TE with PC money making ideas/profile raising ideas. Last day of school S6 barbecue perhaps, to be added.</p>	TE TE
8.	<p>Community Links Funds Funding runs from Monday 12th December to Monday 27th February. Think of ideas to apply for funding and send them to the Parent Council email address. Send out a request for donation form. To discuss at next meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>Head Teacher's Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsored Walk – successful event; some £10,000 raised. • Youth Philanthropy Initiative – Social Subjects staff working with S3 pupils towards presentation on 16 December. Cllr Donaldson offered to be on judging panel. • China trip – another successful visit, with more time spent by pupils in our partner school, Tianjin No1 High School, helping cement relations. • Non-uniform days, 30 September - £682 raised and split between ITP Support and the Sick Kids (30 September); £714 raised for Children in Need (18 November). • Speed Careers Event, 1 November – Many thanks to Parents Council for once again organising this with contributions from parents and friends of the school. 50+ pupils attended, the best turnout yet. 	

- Act of Remembrance, 11 November – Annual service took place co-ordinated by prefects working with the School Chaplain
- Mock Court Trials – Another successful input from LA pupils. Martha Barr won ‘Best Pursuer Solicitor’
- 20mph signage – School specific signage will be removed when the entire area becomes a 20mph zone wef 28 February
- P7 Parents’ Information Evening, 7 November – relatively good turnout with tours of the school led by prefects and a general meeting
- Inspire USA – brilliant experience for the pupils and teacher who spent election time in Florida and Washington; visit covered by *TESS*
- Auschwitz visit – Two S6 pupils visited the former concentration camp on 8 September with the Holocaust Education Trust. They will be talking about their experiences with S2 RME classes.
- Senior Phase Parent Consultations – Mixed experience re attendance between the two meetings following the piloting of an online booking system. More publicity and reminders will be needed next time.
- Class Act – S5 pupils worked with professionals from the Traverse Theatre and saw their plays performed at the Traverse on 23 September.
- x1 Prince’s Trust group – Pupils who were involved in the Gretna commemorations in 2015 won a Prince’s Trust Celebrate Success Award and are through to the national final in London in the spring.

Education Governance Review

JMS spoke of this government review and how parents are asked to contribute to the consultation.

“The Education Governance Review is about how education is run in Scotland. If you are working with children and young people in any capacity, you can have your say as part of the Review. You can also help others to take part and give their views, including children and young people and parents and carers.

“The starting point for the Scottish Government is we have a good education system, with good nurseries and schools and good early years practitioners and teachers. But it’s also true that Scottish education does not deliver the same outcomes for all children, particularly children from the poorest backgrounds. The Review is concerned with how Scottish education can deliver excellence and equity –meaning to raise standards in education for all children and young people and to close the educational attainment gap.

“The Review is interested in some significant issues and challenges - like giving more power to schools about what and how they teach, devolving decision making from Local Authorities to head teachers and schools, changing the way funding is allocated, developing more community-led learning particularly in remote and rural settings. There is an idea for new education regions.

	<p>“There are a number of key questions posed by the Review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What services and support should be delivered by schools? • How can children, parents, communities, employers, colleges, universities and others play a stronger role in school life? What actions should be taken to support this? • How can the governance arrangements support more community-led early learning and childcare provision? • How can effective collaboration amongst teachers and practitioners be further encouraged and incentivised? • How could the accountability arrangements for education be improved?” <p><u>Leith Academy Examination Data 2016</u></p> <p>JMS took the meeting through a number of analyses of pupil performance in 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S3 Attainment at Third Level and beyond • Improving Attainment for All S4/S5/S6 • Percentage of S4 pupils attaining literacy and numeracy (SCQF levels 4/5) • S4/S5/S6 Attainment Versus Virtual Comparator using complementary tariff scores, by SIMD • Wider Achievement <p>There is work still to be done in better reporting Third Level attainment, especially in literacy. A continuing focus on the lowest 20% and on pupils in SIMD 1-3 will be required. There may be help to implement new practical approaches through monies from the Pupil Equity Fund which the Scottish Government is devolving directly to schools wef April 2017.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>FLAG Meeting HR reported improvement in the menu + kitchens. Offering meal deals etc. Not well advertised but that will be improved upon. There may be Plasma TVs fitted which will display bulletins etc. Pupils will get an input. Rubbish and mess is a problem. The cafeteria will be branded and food related artwork will be displayed. A Pupil questionnaire will be sent out to name the cafeteria with a prize for the winner.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>AOCB None</p>	
	<p>Date for next Meeting Wednesday 01 February 2017 at 7pm</p>	