



Lornshill Academy Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 16th January 2020

Present:

Helen McNaught (HMcN), Linsey Ferguson (LF), Laura Shaw, (LS), Will Hensman (WH), Christine McGregor (CMcG), Audrey Pirie (AP), Fiona Hughes (FH)

Tom Black (TB), Ewan Murray (EM), Daniel Scruton (DS),

Apologies

Gillian Goodwin, Michael Payne, Pamela Cowan, , Gaynor Westland, Kirsty Swanson

Welcome

HMc opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing Mr Murray and Mr Scruton who have been invited to talk about Home Learning and Parental Engagement at Lornshill.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate account.

PC Updates

- Lorraine Sanda has been appointed as Chief Education Officer, following Anne Person's retirement.
- The School Estate Policy for 2020 – 2024 was submitted to Clacks Council before Christmas. It's proposed there will be a consultation on Catchment Areas for Clackmannan.
- There has been positive feedback for the new online Parents' Night Appointment booking system and layout of Parent's evening.
- Support for History exams will be in place during the In-service day on 1st May.

School/HT Updates

- There will be a change in the approach to the Leadership team which will begin in the Summer Term.
- There has been a big push on wearing uniform, behaviour and time-keeping.
- TB has agreed to take part in a new initiative with Glasgow University and Professor Chris Chapman – Providing Effective Change. It will scrutinise procedures and what is happening in school.

Progress App

- There has been low parental engagement with Progress to date.
- The School has met with parents at the recent Parents evening to review it's use and request feedback.
- Parents Evenings will continue to be used to promote Progress to parents.
- Parents are encouraged to share information on Progress with Pupils.
- School is hoping Progress will become a failsafe method for giving Parents updates of pupil progress
- Faculty Heads now taking the lead on Progress to insure it's updated and there's a consistent approach across teachers

Alignment of the School Day (also part of Budget Update)

- Transformational change with the 3 Clacks secondaries aligning timetables from Break to the end of the day so that subject options can be shared and accommodated.
- Using mini buses for travel to other schools
- Lornshill would potentially need to change start and finish times, for example; Mondays would start/finish at 8.40/3.35.

Budget Update

- HMC and the other 2 secondary PC chairs and HTs met with Lorraine Sanda on 16/1/2020
- This year there will be a different approach to the Budget Consultation process.
- The Council is hoping there will be more Parental Engagement and involvement in decisions made about education
- The agenda will transform Service delivery to bring about 3 types of savings:
 - Efficiency savings eg. not replacing retired staff
 - Policy savings eg. approval of brown bin charges
 - Transformational savings – using innovation to change delivery by introducing new initiatives eg. timetable alignment in secondaries
- The Council are proposing a consultation, potentially the week before Easter for parents from 3 secondaries/clusters. There will be a 'workshop' to gather ideas from parents as to how Clacks schools will look in the next 10 years

Home Learning Draft Policy Review

- Mr Scruton and Mr Murray presented the proposed Policy
- The focus is to improve the quality, frequency and types of home learning tasks for pupils in S1 and S2.
- There will be 2 angles :
 - **How can parents/carers be involved in child's learning**
 - **Making Home Learning useful**
- The PC were asked to give feedback on the ongoing homework practices in various faculties (examples of homework exercises were provided), on the draft Home Learning Policy and the Home Learning Guidelines.
- Mr Murray confirmed the school would not be using 'Show my Homework' to notify parents when homework is issued, however the PC requested alternatives be considered.

Treasurer's Update

- No change to previous balance
- £2449.72 balance.
- Still waiting on wish list.

AOB

None

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 5th March 2020.