

St Margaret's Academy Parent Council

Monday 22nd January 2024

1. Attendance and Apologies

Apologies: Kirsty Sharma, Shazia Imran, Monica Allison, Claire Roxburgh, Louise Callaghan

Attendees: Lorna Boyd, Lynn Thomson, Stuart Young-Murray, Mandy Taylor, Kirstin Shemilt, Christine Clark, Jilly Burns, Fiona Ferguson, Stephen McCulloch, Isla Wright (HT), Paddy Conway (DHT), Anne Crookston (DHT), Corrie Boyd (DHT), Mr Martin Dobie (Church Rep).

2. Opening Prayer (Mr Dobie)

3. Action Points

- I) Satchel 1 subgroup- volunteers requested to user test app for communication between parents and teachers. Lyn Thomson, Jilly Burns, Stuart Young-Murray and Mandy Taylor and Fiona Ferguson have volunteered. **IW to be in touch with more information**
- II) Lidl Policy – school working group on Positive Relationships Policy. Also looking at merits system and central system for celebrating success. Linked around celebrating school values and across school house system. Survey for pupils to be launched to ask them what would be their reward system.

Have paused 1st year going to Lidl and going to review how things go.

- III) School homework policy – hope to have update by February. **IW to follow up**
- IV) School, PEF and Participatory Budget update- request from HT to purchase new chair/tables for the atrium as these are showing signs of wear. Price to be confirmed. School is also considering purchasing a paper school introduction pamphlet for S1s. This could be paid from the Head Teachers Fund.

School receives £102,000 for the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) fund. PEF at St Mags is mainly spent on staffing (attendance monitor), numeracy and literacy resources or to mitigate lost learning (Covid), e.g. Reading Wise programme. Other needs are Health & Wellbeing.

- V) Parent Council fundraising – Mr Hopkins will come to the next meeting. He is consulting teachers and wants to consult parents on school trips. Priorities shared are perhaps 1) staging and sound system (c £15000), 2) digital devices

ACTION: Fundraising Group – Lorna, Lynn, Fiona, Kirstin, who will arrange to meet before the next parent council meeting

4. Hall access – access to the dance hall has been restricted due to prelims. Prelim moved to April, tables out in the hall and access to mats is difficult. Could they use another hall for

their practical? 70% of exam is practical. HT will speak to Miss Strike to make adjustment for next year. Will investigate additional classtime to support where possible. **IW to report back**

5. Groupcall/SPAM issues – be aware that some GroupCall emails go to a SPAM filter at times. Parents might need to add school as a safe sender. **IW to contact IT to check this is not wider issue**
6. Lunchtime clubs – request about how they work? How can kids get involved if in different breaks. Often aimed at different year groups so need to match to your time and availability. School will look at club availability to ensure fairness across the class groups.
7. Attendance update – priority for the school and also for West Lothian. Authority wide focus on attendance. School has attendance officer, which is working really well. This year there is a seconded member of staff to look at attendance across secondary schools. Headline figure is that attendance is 84%. S1 and S2 very good. S6 and S4 could be improvement. Impact of non attendance means the number of days off school - 80% is 40 days off school. Measures taken is employing an attendance officer and ensuring accurate attendance records are taken. Have a member of staff dedicated to working with kids under 50% attendance. Head of House look at any trends or particular individuals where support might be needed. Really about unauthorised attendance. Heads of House to discuss with Young People.

Messaging

Increase in the level of Groupcall messaging to increase attendance
School has focused on S6 leaving during periods

8. Head Teacher Report (see attached separate report) – no questions. PC happy with HT report.
9. VSE Report – (see attached separate report) – very positive report. Mrs Wright will bring a briefing on ways of reporting to a future meeting.
10. Curriculum conversations – Mr Conway asked for feedback. PC feel current curriculum is working well.
11. Pathways to success – course choice – happy with progress so far
12. AOB
New school lunch menu seems to be going well.
13. Closing prayer (Mr Dobie)