

Leith Academy Parent Council
Minutes of AGM Meeting held on 01 February 2017

In attendance	Initials	In attendance	Initials
Jack Simpson (Headteacher)	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	Grant Bulloch	GB
Victoria Griffiths	VG	Hilary Marsh	HM
Catherine Sheehy	CS	Katrina Sellar	KS
Jenna Hamill (Drama Teacher)	JH	Tracy Rendall	TR
Gordon Munro	GM	Anna Bowman	AB
Nele Finsterbush	NF	Sonia Kumari	SK
Apologies		Minutes	
Penny Radway		Victoria Mitchell (Clerk)	VM

Item	Notes	Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions LB opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. No introductions were needed.	
2.	Apologies Noted Above	
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising The Minutes from the meeting on 29 November 2016 were accepted as an accurate record.	
4.	Pupil Council James/Poppy unable to attend. Treasurer FF/LB will raise cheque for £200 to use for S6 prom. A donation for a barbecue for the S6 leavers on Friday 28th April will be discussed.	FF/LB
5.	School Show Parent council treasurer FF/LB will raise cheque for £300 for Billy Elliot. Help is needed for painting the set. AB & HB offered to help. 20 x 40cm pink feather paddle fans will be made by CS. 75 white tutus are still required as the person who was going to make them has pulled out, may buy on ebay. Get a couple of trial ones first. FF will do some research. Helpers are required for raffle ticket sales. Staff/Parent dancers are required. Advertising sponsors are needed for the show's programme.	FF/LB AB/HB

	Email to parents to ask for assistance with these items.	TE
6.	<p>Finances</p> <p>Please see attached spreadsheet from LB/FF. Trouble with address, the bank has still not rectified this. May use the schools address. Xmas Fair was a great success and £1000 was raised. More notice will be needed for the next one and more helpers. As agreed above, the Prom committee will receive a cheque for £200. Also, as agreed a cheque for £300 for Billy Elliot. Balance is now £2,832.41. A copy of the Donation form has been sent to JMS who will send this out to various departments so teachers can request a donation. Suggestions on how to spend the funds were: Fix library computers, JMS will check if the repairs are covered by a contract with CGI. Maybe fix fitness equipment in the Gym - might be too expensive. Concrete table tennis table - JMS will canvas the pupils. Maybe add plasma screens in the cafeteria - Ben Stewart looking in to that for FLAG (will find out next week). Paint the Cafeteria - JMS will check. As discussed above funds for a S6 barbecue. JMS suggested something extracurricular/Pupil Council ideas.</p>	<p>JMS</p> <p>JMS</p> <p>JMS</p> <p>JMS</p>
7.	<p>Other Fundraising/Profile Raising Ideas</p> <p>Mind map with PC money making ideas/profile raising ideas has been updated to include last day of school S6 barbecue.</p> <p>No new ideas at present.</p>	
8.	<p>Community Links Funds</p> <p>Funding Monday 27th February. Potential applicants are required to meet the fund organisers before submitting an application. JMS has already sent out a request for donation form to teachers.</p>	
9.	<p>Head Teacher's Update</p> <p>Staffing – JMS reported that Sue Cook, DHT, and Lewis Paterson, DHT at Trinity Academy, have taken up a reciprocal secondment which can last up to 23 months. Mr Paterson started at LA on 23 January.</p> <p>Pupil news – Pupils who took part in last October's trip China gave an impressive presentation on 2 December to some 555 delegates at the Scotland China Education Network (SCEN) summit at the EICC.</p> <p>In the second Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) finals, held at LA on 16 December a number of S3 pupils gave presentations to a panel of judges (including Ben McPherson MSP and Cllr Marion Donaldson). The winning group secured £3000 for Simpson's Special Babies. The pupils are to visit the unit to see what the money will go towards.</p> <p>S5 pupils who campaigned in the US presidential election as part of the Inspire USA project have had a visit to school from DFM and Education Secretary, John Swinney, and have also had tea at the Scottish Parliament with FM, Nicola Sturgeon. Ms Sturgeon was prevailed upon to</p>	

	<p>record a good luck message for all LA pupils about to embark on prelims and this was uploaded onto the school's Twitter account. Teacher Nadia Steele has had her reflections of the US experience published in the <i>TESS</i>.</p> <p>Edinburgh Leisure – JMS confirmed that EL is to take over responsibility for the school's sporting facilities (after 6pm weekdays, weekends and holidays). Initial meetings have been held but there are no practical details as yet agreed. The changeover date has been delayed from 20 February. School-arranged events will continue to take precedence.</p> <p>SQA changes – JMS highlighted changes to National Qualifications wef session 2017-18 following on from Mr Swinney's recent announcements to abolish mandatory assessments. This will lead to National 5s only being gained through a final exam and the discontinuation of National 4 as a fall-back for pupils who have attained three National 5 units and completed a National 4 Added Value Unit (AVU). There are concerns in the teaching community at the SQA's interpretation of the implications of Mr Swinney's announcement, itself following pressure from teaching unions re workload. The concerns revolve around workload associated with this approach as well as for borderline pupils who may find themselves not gaining full certification. Edinburgh HTs have raised the issue with the Authority which, it is hoped, can raise it at a national level.</p> <p>Pupil Equity Fund – JMS informed the meeting of the roll-out of this Scottish Government initiative, costing £120 million <i>per annum</i> over the next five years. The thrust is to close the poverty-related attainment gap and allocations are based on Free Meal Entitlement (FME) criteria although in reality on the number of pupils who actually register for free meals. This led to discussion on how registration might be encouraged and increased. LA's share of the Fund is £96,000 for 2017-18. JMS is due to attend a national event at Murrayfield on 3 February to learn more about the criteria for spending. He is also part of a CEC group looking at the practicalities in terms of HR and procurement. There exists evidence from a variety of sources (Pupil Premium use in England; Educational Endowment Fund website) of initiatives which have been successful at addressing the issue of poverty vs attainment. Schools are expected by Education Scotland to implement approaches that will show evidence of impact at the end.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>FLAG Meeting</p> <p>Waiting for plasma TV questionnaire to come back, as discussed above. This would advertise the meals and specials. There was a Christmas dinner and a Burns Supper. Meals have improved and there have been some great new ideas. There are also more choices. Offering meal deals etc. Pupils will get an input. The Pupil questionnaire will be back soon which includes a competition to name the cafeteria with a prize for the winner. Also the cafeteria will be branded and food related artwork will be displayed. Painting may be funded by PC if allowed by the Council. There will be a meeting once the questionnaires are back after the February break. Parents to test pupils' meals to check for improvement.</p>	<p>NF/HM</p>

11.	AOCB VIKS - charity for children interested in medicine. Extended/alternative extended time table for June - JMS to speak to Gill Pereira and check old booklet. Parent Council offered help.	JMS
12.	Date for next Meeting Tuesday 25 April 2017 at 7pm	