

minutes of meeting held on: 12 November 2014**Leith Academy Parent Council****Minutes of Meeting held on 12 November 2014**

In attendance	Initials	In attendance	Initials
Jack Simpson, Head Teacher	JMS	Gale MacLeod	GMcL
Trisha Emblem, Chair	TS	Penny Radway	PR
Anna Bowman	AB	Hilary Brown	HB
Sheila Ralston	SR	Maire Johnston	MJ
Rodger Evans	RE	Victoria Griffiths	VG
Katrina Sellar	KS	Grant Bulloch	GB
Hilary Marsh	HM	Colin Brown	CB
Laura Brown	LB	India Murray	IM
Oscar Shirlaw	OS	Michelle Whitelaw	MW
Apologies		Minutes	
Gordon Munro		Bridget Linton	BL
Fiona Rennie			
Fiona Fitzgerald			

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1.	Introductions	

2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Noted above.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2013 – were accepted as an accurate record.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · After school club information has been updated. · Social Subjects sent a thank you for the Parent Council donation of £350 · Supported Study timetable has been added to the school website 	
5.	<p>School Catering</p> <p>HM has been in touch with Moira Ross, the school catering Facilities Manager and Pauline Pryde, Catering Performance Officer at the City. Unfortunately no one was available to attend the Parent Council, or indeed to meet in the evening at all which was disappointing. They did ask that we outline our concerns by email which HM then did. Previous discussions have highlighted issues with the school meal provision, including: vegetarian options; quality of the pasta dish, and ‘chef’s choice’ being listed rather than an actual meal on far too many occasions. The Leith Academy kitchen supervisor has responded that there was not much take up for the vegetarian option so it was stopped (this should always be available) and seemed to feel that there was no issue with the Pasta King dish. Pupils report that pasta is often the only item left for them toward the end of service. Menus are seldom provided in advance; quality and presentation are both poor. Even staples such as bread, salad and fruit do not meet the required standard.</p> <p>SR pointed out that we have tried to improve the service before and met a brick wall. What they offer generally sounds acceptable but in actuality is dire. Pupils would accept less choice if only the quality were better. MJ suggested it may be a training issue.</p> <p>Going forward it must be ascertained whether they are actually meeting their Service Level Agreement and Healthy Eating guidelines. SR suggested that we use a questionnaire to canvas opinion from S1-S6 pupils and staff to provide evidence of the shortfalls in the service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · HM and HB will now invite Pauline Pryde and Moira Ross to attend the next Parent Council Meeting, together with the local councillors. · AB and HM will visit the school next Monday and Thursday to see the standard of catering for themselves. · AB will take this issue to the next Neighbourhood meeting to assess how many other schools face the same problem. 	

		HM/HB
		HM/AB
		AB/HM
6.	<p>China Trip</p> <p>India Murray and Michelle Whitelaw presented on ‘Our Fantastic Trip’ and thanked the Parent Council for their donation. They visited the Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall and Tianjin No 1 High School where they exchanged experiences of school life with their peers and were stunned at their level of ability in spoken English. It is aimed to have another trip to China in two years’ time – hopefully pupils will be put up in the school accommodation next time, thus enabling them to stay for longer. It is also hoped that the Chinese pupils will be able to visit Scotland.</p>	
7.	<p>Pupil Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Still trying to get more members to join via school assemblies. They currently have 10-20 pupils and would like more – however they don’t want to force people by just voting for class reps as this would alter the dynamic. · The mural remains their main focus, for which paint is still to be obtained. · They are also planning this year’s Christmas Service. 	MW/OS
8.	<p>Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme</p> <p>Ant Mayer, a new member of staff who was very involved with D of E at Trinity Academy is now taking it forward at Leith Academy, for which he has completed additional First Aid training.</p> <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Qualifying expedition for seniors working towards their Bronze award. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Recruit new S3 pupils after Christmas to do their training and qualifying expedition thereafter. · Parent Council will pay for another member of staff to do the D of E training course at Bangholm. · Pupils can commence D of E at any stage in school and news of the club starting soon will be promoted via the bulletin. 	
9.	<p>Head Teacher's Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sponsored Walk on 11 September has raised £15.5 – 16K and JMS recorded his thanks to those who took part and their sponsors. The largest amount raised by one pupil was approximately £300. Pupils will now suggest charities they would like to support (one each at Local, National and International level) and a vote will be taken. · Jeans for Genes day raised £700+ · Children in Need day on Friday – pupils can wear onesies. · Independence Referendum – senior students took part in the Big Big Debate at the Hydro in Glasgow. Two LA pupils were on BBC Newsround on the day after the vote. · Staff raised £254 at their recent Macmillan Coffee Morning. · Staffing – Sheila Ralston was thanked for her work as PT Health from which she is now stepping down as she commences her phased retiral. Home Economics has now been joined up with PE in a Health & Wellbeing Faculty, with Lorna Dewar as PT. RMPS has been joined up in an enlarged Social Subjects Faculty with Nadia Steele as PT. · Edinburgh Budget Challenge – those present were encouraged to use the facility on the Council website which enables them to calculate savings they feel could be made and to then put their suggestions forward. TE will promote this with other parents via the mailing list. · Edinburgh Budget Proposals – there are 20 options for Children & Families of which 5 will have a direct impact on schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ø Reduction in Education Welfare Officers from 18 to 16 Ø Reduction in long term absence budget for secondary schools from 20 days to 30 days. Ø Plans to maximise use of schools with the Community Access to Schools Initiative which it is hoped will raise income by £700K. Ø Savings in the instrumental music service Ø Active Schools Coordinators are currently employed on a cluster basis. This would change to a neighbourhood basis and, in turn, the neighbourhoods would reduce from 5 to 4, reducing their number from 23.7 to 20 FTE. · In all there would be a 0.7% cut in funding to schools, with a commitment to try and avoid any direct impact. The Council welcomes parents/carers' views via the website. 	<p>All present</p> <p>TE</p>

10.	<p>Speed Careers Event</p> <p>The next event will take place on 26 November commencing at 3.45 pm in the Resource Centre, affording time to log onto the My World Of Work website first. There are 15 names on the list of careers to discuss. Pupil numbers attending are yet to be ascertained, but the aim is that they will move around in groups of 3-4; have time to visit every adult and still be able to pose extra questions to those parents whose careers they are most interested in. A warning bell will ring about 1 minute before each move. Fiona Rennie will put details in the bulletin; House Heads will encourage their S5s to attend and there will be posters around the school.</p> <p>Helpers on the day are welcome.</p>	
11.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · RE advised of an opportunity for pupils next year to spend a day in the Scottish Parliament and get experience of legislation, speech writing etc. This will be promoted to S3 English and Modern Studies pupils and they can then contact RE by email at evanshay@tiscali.co.uk. · SR requested a repeat of last year's donation to the Breakfast Club. This is very well attended and hosts 20-30 pupils daily. Rag Bag clothes recycling and a donation from the Sponsored Walk provide further funds. A donation of £200 was agreed. · School Toilets <p>MW reported that she felt the school toilets have improved since the previous Parent Council meeting. HM was concerned that the toilets are locked during lessons and that pupils might worry about gaining access to them. JMS advised that pupils requiring facilities during this time can collect the key from the Welfare Auxiliary, whose office is close to the toilets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Library Access at Lunchtime - JMS clarified that this facility is normally open at lunch, except on those few occasions when the librarian is unavailable. · Mock Court – PR reported on the recent win for a group of LA pupils who had been working with Mr Thomson in English. We were the youngest team entered and won the competition – beating state and public schools alike. It is hoped that the Sheriff Crowe will now be able to come to an S3 assembly. 	
12.	<p>Date of Next Meeting – 7.00pm on Wednesday, 4 February 2015</p>	