

West Calder High School



Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 6 December 2016

Minutes

Present	C Devoy, A Fong, I McLeod, E Laird, L Spencer, J Sinclair, A Hannah, F Wilson, B Martin, D McMaster (WLC), H Shankland, L Grubb, A Wardlaw, R Lawton, A Lyall, G Hunter
Apologies	K Haspolat, A Smith, S Pryde, D Roe

Agenda Item	Action Points	Action
Previous Minutes	Agreed. Proposed by B M and seconded by RL. FW asked if minutes could be proposed and seconded as accurate electronically so that they are far more current when they are posted on the website. This was agreed.	
Prelims	LG explained the rationale behind changing the procedures for Timed Formal Assessments (previously known as Prelims). Pupils will still be assessed but there will be no break in the pace of learning and teaching. Timed Formal Assessments will now either take place in class time or, in the case of large subjects such as English, Maths, Sciences etc, in the assembly hall. Pupils will all still receive a "dry run" of the exam experience. Following discussion D McMaster stated that she would still like to see a formal exam timetable for pupils and parents and that she and LG will meet to discuss further.	LG
Curriculum Structure	Discussion followed re the recent curriculum structure review. HS will issue FAQs in order to keep parents informed of the process. HS stressed that there is a real need to change the curriculum model to enable what's best for pupils and what's best for attainment to be delivered. The PC are generally not keen on dropping from 8 subjects to 6 Nationals in S4. HS stated that the senior phase (S4-S6) should now be seen as a 3 year course and not 3 separate stages. Flexibility will be considered on an individual basis for pupils who may not be able to choose all their first options.	HS
Parental Engagement	Questionnaires were issued by PC members at the 2 recent senior phase parents' nights. FW will collate and issue an analysis. It was agreed to issue the questionnaire to all parents at the start of the new term.	PC
Governance Review Questionnaire	AL informed the PC that these questionnaires can be completed individually. FW will send out the main bullet points to the PC and LG issued a summary of the paper the questionnaire was based on.	FW
AOB	<p><u>Digital Devices</u> – BM asked if the PC would be able to raise funds in order to purchase a laptop/netbook for each pupil. LG informed the PC that pupils are encouraged to use their own digital devices and where a pupil is unable to do so they can borrow a netbook to use. There is some issue with pupils accessing inappropriate content but this can only happen if they use their own mobile data and not go through the school AAL wifi. It was agreed that conversations need to be had with pupils (at home and in school) about the responsible and appropriate use of devices.</p> <p><u>Senior Prom</u> – The decision not to hold a senior prom has been disappointing to some pupils. LG explained the reasons for making that decision and apologised for the upset caused. Senior pupils had made arrangements to hold a private function at Livingston Stadium but following information received Police Scotland cancelled the event. Staging a Senior Pantomime had been suggested but as there was a lack of commitment from pupils this idea was also cancelled. LG has met with all S5 and S6 pupils and explained the reasons for making these decisions. LG stated categorically that this current S5 are in no way considered a "bad year group".</p>	
DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 8 February • Thursday 20 April • Monday 19 June • Tuesday 29 August (AGM) 	