



Strathaven Academy Parent Council
Tuesday 19th March 2024 @ 7.00pm

Attendance: Jack Campbell (Chair), Jo Tunney (Vice Chair), Waheeda Huq (Head Teacher), Iain Fleming (Depute Head Teacher), Kirstin Kinniburgh, Lyndsay Rae, Mr Brown (Head of Faculty for Science), Paula Hamilton (Acting Depute Head Teacher), Catriona Webber, Carlyne Mitchell, Amanda Minns, Christine Hall, PTA members: Gail Mercer, Wendy Tilston, Karen Kerr, Mehnaz Asif

Apologies: Gillian Baker, Cheryl McMorris, Aqsa Ghani, Emma Hall, Becky Howie, Giovanna McKenna

1 Minutes of Meeting 6th Feb 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2 Matters Arising not Covered as Agenda Items.

1 School Travel Plan – Speed Survey 29th Feb 2024.

The speed survey took place on Thursday, 29th February. Our S3 Eco elective pupils were on patrol on Crawford Street with two members of SLC staff from the transport team. No cars were speeding during the monitoring period; however, one or two were very close! Pupils discussed the traffic around the school with the SLC staff and additional signage was agreed.

The SLC team will return after the Easter break to plan the launch of the Park and Stride Initiative and School Travel Plan with the Eco group. The aim is to launch with pupils when the new timetable begins on 13th May 2024.

2 Football Pitch Costs

The school would like to offer our sincere thanks to Provost Margaret Cooper and Grant Law (Strathaven Dynamos) for their help in reducing the fees for pitch bookings. A reduced rate of £60 +VAT (usually £140+VAT) and a set of keys to access the changing rooms will apply. We really appreciate the support from the club and hope this partnership will continue.

3 S1/S3 Jotters Unmarked

P Hamilton had been asked to follow-up concerns over unmarked jotters. P Hamilton has discussed this concern with staff and is satisfied that the matter has been properly dealt with.

4 Satchel One – Update on Pupil Numbers

I Fleming was asked for an update on the numbers of pupils accessing Satchel One. He reported that 435 pupils have now signed up for Satchel 1. This equates to 339 families across the school.

There were some concerns expressed by a couple of parent/carers regarding the number of platforms upon which information was being shared. I Fleming acknowledged this and stated that there is now a clearer vision from the Council on which platforms will be used. He hopes to have full pupil and parent/carer sign-up to ParentsPortal and Satchel: One before phasing out the other platforms. He agreed that there have been some initial teething problems with Satchel: One, however the school is working with the provider to resolve these issues.

3 Headteacher's Report

Staffing

We are currently working on the school timetable for session 2024/25. We have a staffing allocation of 69.8 FTE (3.2 FTE down on this year).

Mrs Louise Watson (English) leaves us this week to start her maternity leave. Anne Tennent, who has worked in the kitchen since 2009, is retiring at the end of the month. On behalf of the school, we'd like to wish Louise and Anne all the very best. The PTPS advert is now open, with a closing date of Thursday, 28th March 2024.

Senior Phase

Pupils and staff are working very hard in preparation for SQA examinations. We are supporting pupils with a vast array of lunchtime and after-school supported study opportunities. Our S6 pupils have been actively supporting staff by running study sessions.

On Thursday, 29th February 2024, we had over 50 S4/5/6 pupils and parent/carers attend our Senior Phase tracking evening.

Parents/carers and pupils had the opportunity to meet with a member of staff to discuss the targets that they should set themselves and how the information that has been shared with them can be used to help the pupil prepare for their upcoming SQA exams. Individual meetings provided an opportunity to discuss progress in subjects so far and work with home to help the individual pupil plan how to use their time appropriately.

The timetable for Easter School has been shared with parents/carers and we look forward to seeing our young people for the final push to the finish line.

House Council

Pupils engaged in a scoping discussion with regards to aligning the school day for all SLC secondary schools. The feedback from pupils and staff will be submitted to the Local Authority for committee in April. Depending on the outcome of the committee meeting, there may be a wider consultation with all stakeholders.

Manchester City vs Copenhagen

Our S1 and S2 trip to Manchester City vs Copenhagen in the UEFA Champions League last week was a massive success. Pupils visited Anfield Stadium for an impressive behind-the-scenes tour. Pupils were then bussed over to the match in Manchester. Pupils

arrived back in Strathaven after a long day just after 2:30am. Mr McMillan, Mrs Kane, Miss McGinlay and Mr Fleming were delighted to report that the pupils were a credit to themselves and the school from the moment they stepped onto the bus. They received positive comments about their behaviour from the bus drivers, Liverpool tour guides and Manchester City supporters.

Scottish Parliament Trip

In Modern Studies, our S1s have been learning about politics and democracy in Scotland, and last week some of them had the chance to visit the Scottish Parliament. Pupils were excited to see inside the parliament building, and they had the chance to watch First Minister's Questions from the public gallery. After First Minister's Questions, pupils had the opportunity to meet two of their local MSPs, Màiri McAllan and Brian Whittle. The pupils asked their MSPs a range of intriguing questions and even took the opportunity to challenge the representatives over local issues. Pupils raised issues to do with traffic and the Common Green within Strathaven, and one of our S6s even raised concerns over potential cuts to library provision across SLC. They certainly caught the attention of the MSPs, and both have agreed to visit the school to continue the discussions. The MSPs and parliament staff were very impressed by Strathaven pupils; they were a credit to themselves and the school.

Pupil Success

On Tuesday, 5th March, Emma (5LE) won the Scottish Women's Premier League (SWPL) Player of the Month award. At 16 years old, Emma is the youngest person to win the award.

Comic Relief Fundraising and Sports Day

The Charities and House Captains electives joined forces to organise Red Nose Day events. S1 and S2 pupils participated in sporting events throughout the day.

COS2 Event

Staff and pupils took part in the SLC COS2 (Conference of Schools 2) event last month. The members of the Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability delivered excellent presentations. They also ran a diverse range of workshops about their chosen themes. SLC welcomed around 250 S1-S3 pupils, with the aim of empowering them to lead better lives through adopting simple actions to care for the planet.

Battle of the Bands

Up-and-coming Instrumental Music Service (IMS) celebrations include:

- South Lanarkshire Instrumental Music Service hosts the inaugural live Young Musician of the Year in Low Parks Museum on **Wednesday, 27th March**
- the Instrumental Music Service Primary Play Day takes place at Hamilton Town House on **Tuesday, 14th May**
- the Instrumental Music Service showcase takes place at Hamilton Town House on **Tuesday, 11th June**

School Trips

The SLC, Cost of the School Day policy will be launched next week, after which we will invite a group of parents/carers to meet with SLT to plan our school strategy.

4 Learning and Teaching Consultation

P Hamilton outlined the plans for Learning and Teaching in session 2024-25. Groups then discussed the following prompt questions relating to the topic.

1. When you think back to your own experience, what made a memorable lesson?
2. Were there particular characteristics or features of lessons which have stayed with you/made a difference?
3. Think about your child's experience; how does their teaching and learning experience differ from yours?
4. What would you expect to see in the first fifteen minutes of a lesson to maximise learning time?
5. What do you think are the five most important features of effective learning and teaching?

Members of the SLT who led the discussions noted the feedback and will share the findings as part of the information gathering on this initiative.

In addition to the discussions during this meeting, there are two parent/carer focus groups in school at which parent/carers are providing feedback.

5 Equalities Consultation

Mr Brown outlined plans for the Equalities collaborative. He asked the group to consider the Equalities mission statement. Mr Brown thanked the groups for their responses and offered to share his collated feedback.

6 AOCB

Easter School

J Campbell wished to extend his thanks to the teachers who have generously given up their time in the holidays to provide supported study opportunities.

PTA offered to buy cakes and coffee for teachers who are providing the sessions.

Final Meeting of session 2023-24

This will take place on Tuesday 4th June. Positions of Chairperson, Secretary to be filled for next session.

7 Dates of next meetings:

Tuesday 4th June 2024 @ 7pm