

West Lothian Parent Forum

Minutes of Online Meeting

Wed 3rd February 2022

Attendees:

Derek Cornwall (Chair), Bathgate Academy

Greg Welsh, West Lothian Education Services (Interim Head ELC and Primary)

Lisamaria Purdie, West Lothian Education Services (Education Officer)

Douglas Maxwell, Linlithgow Academy

Ruth Blair, Whitburn Academy

Stephanie Bahge, Mid Calder Primary

Christine Dickson, St Ninian's Primary

Lisa Constanza, St. Mary's Primary

Pip Shields, Kirknewton Primary

Linda Hoskins, East Calder Primary

Topics

1. Apologies

Received from Gaynor Eagleson (West Calder High School), Catrina Hatch, (Interim Head Secondary)

2. Minutes & Matters arising

No matters arising and minutes were approved

3. Chair's Update

a) West Lothian Parent Forum (WLPF) update

Derek stated that our WLPF web page was now live which shows our mission statement, our aims and our ask. The page also showcases examples of excellent practice around the schools, and link to our minutes of meeting and dates of our parent forum meetings. WLPF sends its appreciation to Colin Baxter, West Lothian Council for all the assistance provided in getting our web page active and the link to our web page is below:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/wl-parent-forum>

Derek also informed members that he had been asked by Julie Ross from Education Services to produce a short video explaining why it was important that schools continue to teach skills development and this has now been completed

b) NPFS West Lothian Representative

Derek advised members that the main themes going around was the focus on school uniforms across the Councils, the continuance of face coverings for pupils and the reduced class contact time by teachers by 90 minutes per week from August 2022 to facilitate teacher's access to extended professional learning and collaborative planning opportunities.

Discussions were also going around the NPFS group members on the amount paid to parent council clerks. This ranged from £300 per year or £60 per meeting to £30 per meeting in Falkirk to £60 per month in South Lanarkshire.

c) Regional Improvement Collaborative update

Derek highlighted that Lisa Baxter was WLC main contact with the group and there was a group meeting to be held next week on 10th February 2022. One of the aspects being currently worked upon is the creation of an Inspirational Hub where Council members within the collaborative can view examples of best practice.

d) Future Education Executive Papers update

Derek explained that he attended the Education Executive, Education Quality Assurance and the Education Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel meetings as the WLPF representative and the link to these papers could be viewed by any members of the parent forum throughout the year. Any specific concerns can be raised with Derek to make comment at these meetings on behalf of the parent forum.

Derek also stated that the agenda items being discussed at these meeting were also a great source for inclusion within local parent council agendas where more details can be ascertained with your own schools.

4. WLPF Nomination for Education Executive meetings

Derek advised that due to local elections in May 2022, a nomination from our group was required to attend the Education Executive and other meetings from May 2022. It is also a Council standing order to secure nomination in advance of each local government election and the group representative can be the Chair or other nominated person with the WL parent forum. The group agreed for Derek to continue in his role of WLPF representative to attend these meeting and Derek would advise Karen McMahon of this decision.

Derek confirmed with Karen McMahon also that West Lothian Parent Forum was our new group name from the Parent Council Representative Association that had been used in the past.

5. Around the Schools

Linda Hoskins from East Calder Primary school stated that they had created a day in your life video that explained to parents what activities and routines were happening within the school.

Pip Shields from Kirknewton Primary school suggested sub groups to look at sustainability, health and wellbeing and emails with the head teacher or face to face interactions.

Ruth Blair from Whitburn Academy suggested bargaining skills in having class representatives and bring a Parent to class.

Christine Dickson from St Ninian's Primary stated having Parent Representatives.

Derek advised members that this standing agenda item was to be used to promote and share any work being carried out by parent councils or any initiatives within the school that could be used or would benefit the wider West Lothian school environment. Any examples either from ELC/Primary or Secondary school could also be displayed on the West Lothian Parent Forum web site as a showcase to promote best practices across the school/parent platform. Members to contact Derek with details should they wish their initiatives placed on the WL Parent Forum website.

6. Education Services

a) Primary Attainment

Greg Welsh presented and explained a report that went to WL Education PDSP around Primary Attainment within West Lothian schools. Further information on the report can be viewed in the links below:

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=50983>

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=50984>

b) Latest Covid 19 Mitigation Measures all schools update

Greg stated to members on the latest guidance being issued and the mitigation measures being adopted across all school premises. These include staggered timetables, use of Indoor PE facility, parent councils being allowed back into schools, and undertaking of school trips can resume.

c) Exam latest senior phase update

Greg advised members that a further set of guidance was being issued by the SQA on w/c 7th March 2022 which would entail revision support measures across subjects.

7. A.O.C.B

Derek stated that Bathgate Academy staff and pupils were actively reviewing their Parent Involvement Matters video which was created in 2018 and that this was being shown at school induction days across the primary feeder schools to promote parental involvement in their child's educational journey.

8. Date of Next meeting

Thursday 26th May 2022, at 7pm Online Meeting