



## DUNBAR PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 1 April 2009 at 7.30p.m.

**Present:** Morag Readman (Chair) - Haven p.m.  
Sarah Duguid - Lighthouse  
Susan Anderson – Woodlands  
Sam Ball P1a  
Shona Ronan P1c  
Sarah Watt (Vice) P1e  
Susan Mowatt P2a  
Emma Hexley P2d  
Sarah Everard P3a  
Jenny McGlinchey P3c  
Kirsten Pearson; Sarah Fletcher P4a  
Isla Paterson P4c  
Rob Barley P6a  
Lorna Allan P6c  
Helen Muir  
Rhonda Elliot, Communications Committee  
Marie Prior After School Club  
Cllr. Jacquie Bell

**Apologies:** Sue Guy; Judy Newton; Elaine Stewart; Susan Love; Deborah Piner;  
Cllr. Paul McLennan; Cath McPhillips, Anna Wyatt, Karen Brougham, Wendy  
Kellock, Bernie Daff, Lorraine Laird, Laura Allan, Lynn Carter, Dee Davison.

		Action
<p>Morag welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed all the new faces that were here after the recruitment drive at Parents Evening. Thanks to Anne-Marie Napier, who was involved with the recruitment drive. Morag also thanked Sarah Watt who kindly agreed to take the minutes in Margaret Brown's absence.</p>		
1	<p><b><u>Minutes of Last Meeting:</u></b> <u>Sandersons Wynd visit:</u> Sarah Watt &amp; Dee Davison had visited Sandersons Wynd and were impressed by the building, stating there were some interesting points that came up; one of the main points being they never had enough time for the transfer of schools. They confirmed Fiona Waddell HT of Sandersons Wynd would welcome any more questions nearer the time. <u>Dog Fouling:</u> Dog fouling was again brought up. A Dog-Watch is to be launched in May to help ID fouling dogs. It was noted that any culprit should be reported to Community PC giving a description if the offender is not known. Lamp-post signs can be erected in particularly bad areas, but these areas need to be recognised, again contact Community PC. <u>Homecoming Event:</u> The Homecoming Event on 8<sup>th</sup> May is well in hand, a decision will be made on a cluster bid for funding at a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The Minutes were taken as read.</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Treasurers Report:</u></b> Isla confirmed she was just getting to grips with the books having only had them a few weeks. She confirmed that the February statement gave a balance of £8,600, but following the Read-a-thon the balance should now stand at approximately £13,000. Suggestions were made to buy smoothie-makers and Borders Books had come to the School, each class having an opportunity to come and select books for their classroom. It was approximated this came to £2,500. <u>Charitable Status:</u> Initial advice had been that it was not worth our while obtaining Charitable Status, but nobody anticipated the volume of funds we were going to be handling. We will look again into registering as a Charity, as this has its benefits e.g disclosure checks would be free for Parent Council related applications.</p>	IP
3	<p><b><u>Head Teacher's Report:</u></b> Helen opened by congratulating the Parent</p>	

	<p>Council on the superb efforts for the Read-a-thon. <u>Staff:</u> Mrs Langdon is to take a Career Break, Mrs Gilfillan has agreed to work full-time in Lighthouse until summer, and Mrs McPheat will work in P2 with Mrs Hall until the end of term. Mrs Crooks will be returning next year after taking a year out and Mrs Johnston has confirmed that she will not be returning. It is anticipated we will have 3 NQT's for 2009/10 Session, this will be confirmed when roll is finalised and given the NQT's pass their exams! Cycling Proficiencies had been questioned as there was no test at the end, but the cyclists are assessed as they go. P7 have been involved this year because they missed it last year, next year it will just be P6. <u>Attendance &amp; Punctuality:</u> there were 44 children late on Monday (30/3/09) and 28 late on Tuesday (31/3/09), the senior management are trying to crack down on punctuality as Group Call starts after Easter. Children should be in line at the bell not just through the gate. Fifteen teachers had enjoyed a day in Lochend Woods training as John Muir Leaders for the John Muir Discovery Award; this will also contribute in using the outdoors for Curriculum for Excellence. P5 have undertaken a project for the Discovery Award. <u>Civic week:</u> The Gala Queen is Chloe Young and her attendants Amy Valentine and Rebecca Aitchison. The Cross-Country team had been competing today and came first in the tournament. Rob Barley asked Helen about the current status of the Group Call system. Helen replied in a positive manner.</p>	
4	<p><b><u>New School:</u></b> There is to be a further Public meeting on 2/4/09 in the School. Will Collin again had framed an impressive argument outlining that the design changes were disproportionate to the School Roll. Various matters had arisen with the new design e.g. badminton courts, but apparently they can only be bought in 2's, there were a few points to be looked at before the meeting. Concerns were raised regarding the short term view, we are currently in a recession, what if the roll picks up again when the economy does? Council seem fairly confident in their decisions but it needs to be explained. A possibility could be further rooms can be added later when the Developer has paid his fee. This could potentially cause pressure in the school if construction is to take place once in house. The changes in the design have an approximated value of £700,000-£800,000. The Courier had reported a Compulsory Purchase Order had been obtained against the Land Owner, the Council confirmed that negotiations are still ongoing with the Developer and that the negotiations will continue in tandem with the CPO. Councillor Bell advised that the Council was hopeful they would not have to act on the CPO which could potentially mean an 18 month delay. Scottish Government are already aware of the situation and of the urgency, they could possibly speed the CPO through.</p>	

<p>5</p>	<p><b><u>Sub-Committee Reports:</u></b></p> <p>After the recent success of the Read-a-thon a new sub-committee is to be formed for the Library. The total raised was £8,190, £2,500 had been spent on books for all the classrooms, £700 had been spent on Junior Library Electric Tagging and there are plans for furniture, pin boards and books. Most of the current books will be going due to the age and state of them. A Library meeting will take place on 2/4/09 at 11.30am. The majority of the rest of the money will be spent on restocking the library. Books for children with additional support needs was raised, this avenue has not yet been explored. If this is to be a yearly event we can renew stock including the non-fiction. Janet reported that she had received a few comments about the £20 threshold draw, reducing the threshold may be considered for next year. All major prizes were funded through sponsors and Easter Eggs were paid for by PC. Also next year we will be quicker in getting sponsors, perhaps get some authors to the school and include reading in class in the reading time. It was agreed that the Eggs may be a possible incentive for next year.</p> <p><u>Fund-raising:</u> The Easter Party had been cancelled as there were only 27 tickets sold, refunds will be given at the School Office. Work was well underway in the organisation of the Summer Fair so far. It was agreed there would be no Ladies Night this year, this would be made a Bi-Annual event.</p> <p><u>Communications:</u> A Nursery Poster had been drafted, but it was suggested that the name of the child of rep should be included. This would be sent round as a template and put in the PC folder at the office. Sarah confirmed that the duties for a Class Rep pack should be ready for next year, and the website is moving slowly. Sarah appealed for help in this area, it was suggested they approach Graham Smith (Niffy) at Lothian Computers, they also appealed for Graphic Designers.</p> <p><u>Quality:</u> they had little to report, the constitution was due to be reviewed. It was re-emphasised that the school operates an open door policy. <u>School Milk</u> Articles had been read on the issue of whole milk or semi-skimmed. After the inspection of another School, a recommendation had been given to move to semi-skimmed, a letter was sent to parents of P1-P7 informing of the change and that there was just as high a calcium and vitamin content as whole, but with less fat. Parents can phone and request full-fat milk if they wish. Government has different directives for Nurseries. Initially the Nursery was also moved to semi-skimmed, but they have now reverted back to full-fat for all drinking, cooking, cereals, shakes etc. It was brought up that PC could perhaps buy cool boxes. HG will get costs.</p>	<p>SD</p> <p>HG</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b><u>Any Other Business:</u></b> Although Paul McLennan had sent his</p>	

	<p>apologises he had raised an issue with Helen Gillanders regarding the new Community Centre. There is a further meeting on 4/5/09 and it was suggested that someone from the School go. Helen will go, but suggest a PC member also attend, and perhaps someone from After School Club. <u>Cluster meeting</u>; at the recent PC Cluster meeting Dunbar Primary were held up as holding good practise for Healthy Snack. <u>YouTube Access</u>: a concern was raised about Children having access to YouTube via School Computers. The Authority is being careful with the access issues; there are many ICT issues to be weighed up.</p>	HG
7	<p>The next meeting will be Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009. No further business, the meeting closed at 9pm</p>	