



DUNBAR PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 4 November 2009 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Morag Readman (Chair), Louise Tait – Haven AM
Stephanie Gilmartin – Haven PM
Sue Anderson – Woodlands AM;
Heather Kilfara, Liz Young – Lighthouse AM
Gillian Ferguson – Lighthouse PM`
Kirsty Parkin – Harbour/Seashore PM
Helen Clark P1A; Sarah Duguid, Karen Brougham P1B; Deborah Piner P1C;
Fiona Smith P1D
Sarah Watt (Vice-Chair) P2A; Dee Davison P2B; Samantha Ball,
Marie Savage P2C; Jackie Gourlay P2D
Laura Bullen P3C; Emma Hexley P3D
Kirsten Pearson P5A; Bernadette Daff P5B
Sarah Laing, Gayle Pacitti P7A; Andy Napier P7B

Other Attendees: Helen Gillanders H.T.; Gordon McKenzie, Depute Head
Gary Muirhead, Parent; Tanya Thompson, Parent;
Cllr. P. McLennan;
Rhonda Elliot; Communications Sub-committee.

Apologies: Janet McDougall Welch; Anna Wyatt; Elspeth Richards; Sheena Richards;
Jenny mcGlinchey; Lynn Fenn; Cath McPhillips; Lorna Allan; Susan Bald;
Cllr. J. Bell; Diane King; Susan Mowatt; Liz Adamson

		Action
1	<p>Minutes of last meeting: (Matters arising): (a) Morag asked for volunteers to represent P.C. on the committee for the <u>New Community Centre</u>. Samantha and Steve Anderson will act as representatives.</p> <p>(b) <u>"Have your Say"</u>: Authority holding a Workshop at Hallhill Healthy Living Centre on 1 December. Deborah will attend but others were welcome to accompany.</p>	<p>SB/SA</p> <p>DP</p>
2	<p>Treasurer's Report: Andy intimated that the "Ladies Night" had been another great success and had raised the sum of £2,500 which will go directly to the school. The same committee planned to arrange next year's "Ladies' Night" and the date will be announced as soon as possible.</p> <p><u>Support for York Trips:</u> The question was raised as to whether the P.C. should make a contribution towards this trip (and perhaps others such as School Camp). It was felt that this may set a precedent. The general feeling was that it might be better to encourage the pupils to help raise funds towards these trips perhaps through sponsorship etc. Morag said that this year's P5 stages were already organising fund-raising events to assist with next year's York trips. Helen also explained that parents were given notice of such trips well in advance. She also said that next year's York trips had been brought forward to February to avoid any extra costs which might be incurred through the price of tickets for rail travel. The rail companies were unable to advise ticket pricing before March.</p>	
3	<p>Head Teacher's Report: <u>Staffing:</u> Helen said that Anne White will be retiring in December after nearly 40 years of teaching, 31 spent at Dunbar Primary. L. McPheat and L. Hall will jobshare. L. Barley will continue in Learning Support.</p> <p>School had been visited by 9 <u>Swedish Head Teachers & Inspectors</u> on a self-evaluation visit. They had especially commented on the warmth and friendliness of the school.</p> <p>Congratulations to 10 P7 pupils who had reached the final of the <u>Enterprise Inventors Challenge</u>.</p> <p>A questionnaire on <u>Homework</u> will be sent out to parents. Helen expressed her view that homework should have a real and meaningful purpose.</p> <p>Gordon had been meeting with Derek Simpson, DGS, to discuss forging <u>closer links with the Secondary School</u>.</p> <p>P7 pupils had been issued with their <u>Snr. Student badges</u>.</p> <p>Pupils are being <u>trained on the School Website</u>.</p> <p>Helen also referred to the P1-3 and P4-7 Christmas parties. On these days it would be helpful if the remainder of the children had packed lunches.</p>	

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3.	<p><u>Head Teacher's Report cont'd.</u> <u>Closing the whole school</u> at the same time on the last day of term i.e. 22 December was being considered. If this proved suitable to Wraparound school will close at 2.50p.m. Suggestions that the <u>new school was to be re-named</u> were inaccurate. It was reported that the numbers of children in the Nursery requiring changing due to "soiling " was on the increase. This was having an impact in the Nursery classes and anything parents could do to alleviate the situation would be very helpful. Pam Clark has organised help and advice from the Health Visitor Service, if parents requested support.</p>	HG
4.	<p><u>New School: Response to Public Meeting:</u> Morag reported that this meeting had been very well attended by parents. Unfortunately, the Authority had not arranged for Minutes to be taken. However, Morag and others had written up notes on the meeting which the Authority had agreed were an accurate reflection of said meeting and these had been distributed. It was felt that most parents were comfortable with the current arrangements. The Community Council had also reported that they fully supported the erection of the larger school but appreciated that whilst the current arrangements were not ideal they were adequate. Tanya Thompson said that she felt that a large number of parents were very unhappy with the situation and that the Authority was "dragging its feet" with regard to arranging meetings with the developer. Time was of the essence. Cllr. McLennan disputed this point and explained that he personally had been in contact with the developer 3 times over the last few weeks. The Authority could not place itself in a situation of financial risk and negotiations were ongoing. It was generally felt that it was essential that a school of whatever nature be built in time for 2011 - with the prospect of extension if necessary. Pressure should be kept on the Authority. It was also confirmed that the school build was <u>not</u> a PP Partnership. Morag said that, once she had the opportunity, the notes will be condensed and sent out to parents.</p>	
5./		

		Action
5.	<p>Development of Plan for 2009/10: Morag had pulled together all the responses from the October Workshop. It had become obvious that many of the things listed could only be done by the school and Morag had met with Helen to discuss these. The balance would need to be addressed by the P.C. and this could only be done by people volunteering to take part in sub-committees and also ensuring that information is passed on to parents. Unfortunately, some of the notes from the workshop had been delayed and, as a result, Morag had only been able to complete the Action Plan the previous evening. Consequently the P.C. as a whole had not had a lot of time to digest the contents but it was agreed that, once this had been done, names of volunteers be submitted to Morag or Rhonda.</p> <p>Communication between school and parents remained the biggest requirement. Whilst it is impossible to impart information on everything the suggestion was made that a Parent Handbook/Guide might be a useful vehicle to help parents. To this end the P.C. was asked to consider, between now and Christmas, any questions/points they felt should be included with a view to the Handbook/Guide being issued in June.</p> <p>A special plea was made for someone to take over the fund-raising committee. This would allow Morag to concentrate on her other duties as Chair.</p> <p>“What happens in the Dining Hall” was also an area of interest. A working group will be established to visit the Dining Hall on parents’ behalf.</p> <p>Morag and Rhonda reminded everyone that responses on the Budget Consultation need to be submitted by 12 December.</p>	<p></p> <p>PC</p> <p>PC</p> <p>?</p> <p>PC</p>
6.	<p>Any Other Business: (i) <u>Road Crossing Patrol:</u> Cover doesn’t correspond with Nursery times. Paul will investigate.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Intake in 2010:</u> Was this expected to be larger than anticipated and what arrangements have been made to accommodate? Helen said that on information currently available the school was in a position to accommodate the anticipated intake comfortably.</p> <p>(iii) <u>Kirsty Parker</u> distributed a <u>draft pro-forma for classroom reps.</u> and asked for comments.</p> <p>(iv) Dee gave an update on what was happening with the <u>Garden Club</u> and made a plea for volunteers to shift several tons of material on Friday 13 October in the afternoon. This was being delivered by Lafarge and would need to be moved into the garden area.</p> <p>(v) Dee also referred to the <u>Bronwyn Fund</u> and asked for approval to sell raffle tickets at the Parent Consultation Evenings. This was agreed.</p> <p>(vi)/</p>	<p>PMcL</p> <p>PC</p>

6.	<p>Any Other Business cont'd:</p> <p>(vi) <u>School Calendars</u> will also be sold on Parent Consultation Evenings and any assistance would be helpful.</p> <p>(vii) On "<u>Children in Need</u>" day -(20 November)- there will be a sale of baking in the school by the P.C. Donations warmly welcomed.</p> <p>(viii) As part of their fund-raising for the York trips P5 will be holding a Ceilidh in the school on Friday 27 November.</p>	<p>PC</p> <p>PC</p>
	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15p.m. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 3 December 2009 at 7.30p.m.</p>	