



DUNBAR PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 8 February 2010 in Dunbar Primary School at
7.30p.m.

Present: Heather Kilfara/Liz Young – Lighthouse; Susan Mowatt – Woodlands a.m.;
Claire Truswell- Woodlands p.m.; Pippa Johnston - Harbour/Seashore a.m.; Janet
McDougall Welch – Harbour/Seashore p.m.
Elsbeth Richards P2B; Marie Savage P2C;
Sheena Richards/Jackie Gourlay P2D
Liz Todd/Mark Patterson P3A; Kirsten Welsh P3B; Lauren Bullen P3C
Jenny McGlinchey P4C;
Kirsten Pearson P5A; Susan Love/Bernadette Daff P5B; Isla Paterson P5C
Lynn Fenn P6A
Sarah Laing/Gayle Pacitti P7A; Anne Marie Napier (Andy) P7B;
Lorna Allan P7C

Apologies: Helen McLachlan; Helen Clark; Sarah Duguid; Dee Davison; Samantha Ball;
Cllr. Jacqui Bell

Other Attendees: Helen Gillanders HT (Chair); Cllr. Paul McLennan; Rachel Hall, Teacher
Rep.; Jayne Gray P.T.

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	<p>Helen welcomed everyone. She explained that both Morag and Sarah were unable to attend so she would be chairing the meeting. She introduced Rachel Hall, Teacher Representative and also Jayne Gray, Principal Teacher.</p>	
<p>1</p>	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting & matters arising:</u> <u>New School:</u> The new school was moving ahead. It had been decided not to delay any longer. The Developer's contribution still had to be agreed. Another meeting with him had been arranged for Friday 12 February 2010. Work will commence at the end of February. The same arrangements regarding Health & Safety will apply as for when the new road was being constructed. Any concerns should be raised with Helen.</p> <p><u>Volunteers:</u> Parents were needed to escort pupils to and from swimming lessons on Thursdays. Also, assistance with the preparation of Healthy Snack was required.</p> <p>Minutes were taken as read.</p>	
<p>2</p>	<p><u>Head Teachers' Report:</u> Before giving her report Helen invited Jayne Gray P.T. to give her presentation on the "Homework Survey" which she had been working on. Jayne spoke about the results which showed that there was no clear cut answer as to how homework should be implemented. Pupils at the lower end of the school seemed happier with it than those in P4-7 but all agreed that there should be homework. Staff and Parents had also been included in the survey. However, there had been a rather poor response from parents. Jayne gave some examples of how other schools dealt with homework. It was necessary to link the new Curriculum of Excellence with homework with emphasis on the transfer of skills. School will give out some ideas but hoped that parents will also make some suggestions. It will be next session before implementation.</p> <p>Helen thanked Jayne for her comprehensive and interesting report and also for the time she had spent on it. At this point Jayne left the meeting.</p> <p>Helen then proceeded:-</p> <p>(i) <u>Cursive Writing Programme:</u> This was going well in P1 and some work was also being done in Nursery. Learning needed to begin at the early stages where children had not already learned letter formations. It was school's intention to hold an overall Cursive Writing Class for parents in the near future.</p> <p>(ii)/</p>	

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2	<p><u>Head Teacher's Report cont'd.</u></p> <p><u>(ii) Curriculum of Excellence:</u> This had been launched to parents. There will be a meeting in the afternoon of 23 March. An evening one will also be offered as well as "open" mornings in June to allow parents to see the Curriculum of Excellence in operation.</p> <p><u>(iii) Write At home Project:</u> Pilot has been a great success and is being rolled out to whole of P4. Parents will receive invitation during 2 weeks in May.</p> <p><u>(iv) In Service Day: 22 February:</u> Staff will be concentrating on "Writing" for Curriculum for Excellence.</p> <p><u>(v) Extra In Service Day:</u> It was proposed to have this added to the end of the Summer break.</p> <p><u>(vi) Accelerated Reader Programme:</u> P5 and P6 were being targeted at the moment. This involved reading a book and completing online quizzes.</p> <p><u>(vii) Fund Raising:</u> Collection for RNLI had raised £475; Sporty Clothes and whole school aerobics will take place on Friday 12 February in aid of Haiti.</p> <p><u>(viii)</u> Helen will be doing a school uniform check after the mid-term break. She also asked parents to remember to check the condition of their child's indoor shoes.</p>	
4	<p><u>Report on Dining Hall Visit:</u> Marie had visited the Dining Hall along with Helen C. and Bernadette and Marie reported on their findings. The dining hall had proved to be a pleasant and friendly environment for the pupils. The pupils found the Dining Hall Supervisors very approachable and helpful – particularly for the P1 and P2 children. (More volunteers in this area would be appreciated.)</p> <p>The reps had also spoken with the Kitchen staff and Karen, the Acting Head Cook, had explained how the meal rota worked and the pattern of the most popular dishes.</p> <p>Overall the reps. felt that the Dining Hall was a nice, friendly place and the children seemed very happy.</p> <p>It was suggested that this report should be included in the Parents' Guide which is being drawn up.</p> <p>Helen agreed to pass on their comments to the Dining Hall Staff.</p>	HG

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5	<p><u>Treasurer's Report:</u> Isla reported that the balance stood at £7,300. There was £1000 left from the first "Read-a-thon" and donations for "Read-a-thon 2010" had been received in the sum of £520.</p> <p>Helen will ask Staff for suggestions on spending.</p>	HG
6	<p>"Read-a-thon 2010":- Janet explained how "Read-a-thon" worked and said that it would commence on 5 March 2010. Parents will receive a package prior to this detailing arrangements. Funds this year will go to stocking the library for the new school.</p> <p>It was hoped to use the results of Morag's Read-a-thon impact study to help secure a single-sponsorship by a large company for next year's Read-a-thon.</p> <p>Helen thanked Janet and her team for all their efforts.</p>	MR
7	<p><u>School Fair:</u> First meeting had been held last week. Consensus was that the priority will be to have many more helpers on the day of the Fair – 12 June. Rachel agreed to approach Staff for assistance too.</p> <p>List of requirements will be drawn up.</p>	RH
8	<p><u>Planning for Parents' Guide:</u> Helen asked that any "start of the year" ideas should be submitted as soon as possible. Class Reps. also agreed to approach parents on this matter.</p>	All
9	<p><u>Any other business:-</u> <u>Community based management of schools.</u> This was just a proposal at present. Janet had attended the Cluster Meeting where it had been intimated that it was unlikely to be discussed until possibly December.</p> <p><u>Additional In-service Day –</u> This had already been discussed.</p>	
10	<p><u>Next Meeting:</u> Next meeting will take place on Tuesday 16 March 2010 at 7.30p.m.</p>	

