

DUNBAR PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting Held On: MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2018 at John Muir Campus

Present:

Helen Schoen (Chair)
Helen Faulds (Co-Vice Chair)
Helen Gillanders
Jaclyn Eeles
Susan Brennan
Kirsty Mackenzie
Suzanne Crosby
Julie Adams
Debbie Hadden
Stephanie Davidson
Sharon Brown
Siobhan Thomas
Fiona Houghton
Jackie Irvine
Julie Adams
Laura Turney
Jo Demer
Gail Wallace
Hazel Baptie

Apologies

Jaime Calder
Emma Buglass

1. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Helen Schoen (Chair) opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The minutes from the previous meeting (January) were agreed by Helen Faulds and Hazel Baptie.

2. UPDATE FROM CHAIR

- A new system for paying for school expenses eg lunches and trips is being piloted at an East Lothian School with a view to it being rolled out across the region. We have been told there will be no cuts to school crossing patrols following the E. Lothian budget consultation but it is understood the cost of school lunches will increase to £2 at some point.
- **Playground Pod:** Gail passed on information regarding the large shed that will be in place at John Muir Campus (bought in conjunction with Round Table and Parent Council). This will be used for 'loose parts' enabling pupils to play with natural and recycled materials. It is hoped this will equip children to learn to deal with some risk. This will be supported by East Lothian Council who will have a 'loose parts' officer (teaching Teachers and Playground Supervisors). The cost of this was covered by Zero Waste's donation and was match funded by the school. There is £500 still to raise to cover costs. Easter Fun Day will aim to raise some money towards that goal.

- **Shelters:** Helen G will get feedback from teachers and staff on how the shelters at John Muir Campus and Lochend Campus are being used. They are proving very popular with pupils and were also used for The Cove for their end of term party.
- **School Fair:** Helen S is happy to lead but a committee is still required (please contact Helen if you would like to volunteer). Various questions and suggestions were put forward; Bouncy Castle manned by Army Cadets (Jackie I will give contact number to Helen S); whether to have traders as there is a licensing cost of £140; where and if to have sit down teas; whether to have a 'theme'. Helen G will ask ECO committee about plant stall. These ideas and many more will be discussed at a separate School Fair Meeting which will be held on Tuesday March 27 at Hallhill at 7.30pm and will be discussed further at the next meeting. *Helen S – I don't know if you wanted further information added here or to add recommendations from your School Fund meeting at the next meeting.*
- **Parent Council Thank You Event:** This will be held in the garden at John Muir Campus (at the end of term – date tbc). Invites to include, B Green, Lottery, Round Table, Mentors and Zero Waste.

3. REPORT FROM HEAD TEACHER

- **Mid Term Update:** Helen gave a power point presentation which is attached to the minutes and is on the website.
- **PEF Funding:** From PEF funding Helen would like to continue with a Literacy Support teacher and look at getting another Support Teacher for P4-P7 pupils to assist with Mathematics. She would also like to create a Nurture Room at John Muir Campus and investigate the possibility of a behaviour support base there also. There is also a bid in to the Area Partnership to fund a Family Support Worker. This will be discussed at the next meeting and any ideas/suggestions are welcome from the Parent Council. Jaclyn will contact Dunbar Grammar School to discuss more S6/7 students coming to assist at Dunbar Primary.
- **Jo Legge (DHT):** A request was put forward by Jo for £250 for chalk boards and planters for John Muir Campus – this was agreed unanimously by the Parent Council.
- **P1 Parent Information Booklet:** Helen will discuss the requested additions to the P1 Parent booklet with Debbie.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Road Safety:** Siobhan will contact the three relevant Councillors by letter about road safety as there have been 3 potential accidents recently.
- **P7 Leavers:** Helen S explained that the current P7 leaver's gift from the Parent Council is a T-shirt with a class photo on it (taken by Richard Taylor, Youth Worker). The approximate cost to the Parent Council every year for the t-shirts and printing is £850. This is to be reviewed as it is felt this money could be put back in to school resources each year instead.

- **P7 Leavers (Cont'd):** Jaclyn (DHT based at Lochend Campus) shared information and costs regarding P7 gifts/events already in place and funded by the school. Every year, the school funds:

* P7 autograph book with DPS logo on the front (£1.08 per child)

*P7 leaver's performance (musical/assembly). We are aware that some schools ask parents/carers to pay for a ticket to this event (often £1/£2 per ticket) which helps to pay for the cost of the script & license (approximately £100). However we believe this should be free and accessible to all parents/carers as it is their child's last performance in primary school.

P7 Leavers Dance – paying for the DJ and some snacks so that every child in the year group can attend and celebrate their time at DPS together in their final few days of primary school (approximately £150-£200 each year)

Jaclyn also acknowledged that questions had been raised in the past regarding P7 leaver's hoodies. She shared an overview of P1 - P7 trips/events and their total cost to parents each year. Primary 7s go to Camp, The Scottish Parliament, The Risk Factory and a Cluster Spring Fling Disco. This has a total cost of £289. The next year group by cost is Primary 5 with a total of £42. We spoke with other schools in East Lothian Council last session regarding hoodies and they said parents paid approximately £19 for a good quality hoody. Jaclyn explained that the SMT and P7 teachers had lengthy discussions regarding hoodies; however they decided this was too much money to add on to the already high cost of Primary 7. We feel strongly that any leaver's gifts/events should be funded and accessible to all Primary 7 children so every child in the year group is included and is not left out due to the cost.

After a discussion surrounding the various leavers gifts on offer and whether the t-shirts were worthwhile or not, the parent council unanimously voted in favour of funding the leavers dance (£200 each year) instead of funding t-shirts. P7 pupils will not receive leavers t-shirt, however a professional year stage photo is always offered to parents if they wish to purchase this. Helen S also asked Jaclyn to speak with Richard and see if he could perhaps continue to take the unique class photos and we could share them on the website for parents to access.

- **Parent Charities Committee:** Siobhan volunteered to be part of this committee.
- **Parent Council Banking:** It was agreed to move the bank from the Co-operative to Bank of Scotland.
- **Stop, Drop and Hop:** Helen G will add information to the next Newsletter.

5. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS (7-9pm) at John Muir Campus Library

- Monday 23rd April 2018
- Monday 14th May 2018
- Monday 18th June 2018

Signature of Chair: Date: