

EAST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Chair: Mrs Ailsa Swinburne
Treasurer: Mr Fraser Macrae
Clerk: Mrs Lucilla Mackenzie

Minutes of East Linton Primary School Parent Council held in the Primary School on Monday 14th January 2013 at 7.30pm

Present: Ailsa Swinburne, Fraser Macrae, Lucilla Mackenzie, Rebecca Devon, Allison Cosgrove, Susan Kerr, Kevin McCarthy, Joan Bell, Donna Tsang, Nancy Bell, Marion Hamilton-Smith, Jeannie Barber, Jill Stewart, Pauline Gilmour, Beth Vokurka, Madeleine Hewlett, Gill Gardner, Julie Ross

- 1. Welcome to Members** – Ailsa Swinburne welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Kevin McCarthy as the new P3/4 Rep taking over from Jenny Paterson who has stood down after giving many years of support to the Parent Council.

Apologies: Apologies have been received from Karen Murray, Chris Rhodes, Kay Henderson, Michael Veitch, Winifred Govan, Gill Watson and Mo Tait.

- 2. Approval of Minutes of last Meeting**

- a. Playground Development** – In his absence Chris Rhodes had sent Lucilla Mackenzie an email confirming he is still waiting for a quote in regards to the bases for the school tyres.

- 3. Matters Arising**

- a. Active Schools Dunbar Primary Cluster** – Nancy Bell brought up the fact that quite a few of these activities cannot be joined by East Linton children as they start too early for us to get to. GG said that the Dance Classes in East Linton had not received the numbers to go ahead and will pass on concerns to Gareth Hill. The decisions of where and when are looked into and depends on demand, funds, coaches available, school halls available, etc. They are open to ideas so it was suggested that we should find out what people in East Linton would like. It was suggested that the Pupil Council could poll everyone.
- b. Friday Morning Timetable** – It has been reported that Friday mornings seemed to be focused on play. GG confirmed that on Friday mornings there is school assembly first thing and golden time at 12.00 which are both very important for the children, however, the rest of the day is focused on teaching. PG also confirmed that show and tell is managed well and is teaching the children about listening and talking. Sometimes topics are given and children are given guidance as to what to bring, however, the comfort factor for some is taken into consideration.
- c. Disappearing Footballs** – to be discussed during 5.d. Playground Development.

- 4. Correspondence**

- a. ELPCAM Meeting Dates and Attendance** - At present no-one from EL Parent Council attends. Jeannie Barber said she would be willing to go along, but could there be a backup for when she cannot attend? AS to attend on Thursday 17th Jan. FM reported it is a forum for parent council representatives to exchange ideas, it is informal and a good platform to be involved. Training is offered through this. The meetings are to be beginning of March, middle of April and beginning of May.
- b. NPFS Newsletter** – LM mentioned the National Parent Forum for Scotland email which was circulated on the 14th Jan looking for any interesting items on parental involvement from the school, inspiring school/family projects, creative CfE delivery which could be shared in the NPFS Newsletter coming out in February. Deadline Friday 18th Jan.

5. Additional Agenda Items

- a. **Garden Planters up-date** - Beth Vorkurka queried whether there were any photos of the planters she could have and an update on their use. Gill Gardener confirmed she would email photos and info to BV.
- b. **Dunbar Cluster Science Week** – Since Miss Baxter moved on BV queried whether the Science Week would happen again this year, week commencing 11th March. GG confirmed she is waiting for further information to take to the staff. BV said that some parents have volunteered to help again like last year. Rebecca Devon said she would like to be involved again. It was felt that it would be disappointing not to have Science Week again this year. BV to send email to GG.
- c. **Update on Playground Resurfacing** – No further update as yet. Allison Cosgrove said she would look into it. **Action: AC**
- d. **Playground Development** – AS referred to the new Haddington Campus beside Neilson Park. The grounds provide an excellent space which we could get ideas from. What would suit our playground? Simple seating, courtyard areas to provide a focal point, sandpits, painting on the playground to help inspire children to invent play. GG pointed out the difficulties with children wanting to play football with footballs disappearing over walls into neighbouring gardens and unfortunately not being thrown back. Breaking up the playground into separate areas was suggested. Rebecca Devon has documents with ideas that were discussed last year which Donna Tsang agreed with and confirmed that the PC held off last year due to works being done to the football pitches and tennis courts in Memorial Park which the school would have benefited from but nothing progressed so far. Feedback had been obtained from pupils and an outdoor class room grant had been put in but was turned down. An email was received by the Parent Council at the beginning of January in regard to "Support from the Start" which listed Funding Opportunities. Info available from LM (Clerk). GG reported that Heather Gray is coming for four days in March to share her expertise with the whole school. She will encourage and help to gather ideas and can give advice. Ranger coming to replant the back corner with Willow. RD and BV can do funding applications. Subgroup to be created, RD, KMcC agreed to be involved. AC suggested getting in touch with the East Lothian Educational Trust. All-in-all positive feedback.
- e. **Christmas Market Feedback** – Feedback received was that it quite a lot of work with unfortunately not much profit, however, worth it to be taking part in such a successful community event. It was felt that Santa could have sold twice the amount of tickets and if we did it again next year there should be a numbered ticket system with perhaps two Santas in two shifts as the demand was very high. There was some concern as to where the books had been supplied from (Book People) as the authors are cut out, however, on the other hand the books are cheap and it is felt that we should be encouraging reading so that is more important. Other suggestions were to buy box sets or use Banana Books. £184 taken on the night with £102 spent on books, sweets, gifts for elves and voucher for Santa so profit of £82 in total.
- f. **Ladies Night Feedback** – Numbers were down on recent years with it being a rather wet and sleety evening. 70 through the door with £220 made in table fees, £94 on raffle, £2.50 on bar, £13 on mulled wine. Bar sales were disappointing so should consider BYOB next year or look at pricing. Total takings were £640 with spending of £150 leaving a profit of £480. It was felt that the pub quiz at Preston Kirk that night didn't help and that in future we should check with the Minister for events on there. Dunbar had their shopping night on the same evening as well. It was suggested that there are a number of Ladies night shopping evening in East Lothian and perhaps we should come up with something else. Ideas to follow in item i. Fundraising Ideas.
- g. **Council Apology** – It was felt that there was an over reaction to the incident. A great day was had in school on the day with high attendance figures.
- h. **East Lothian Foodbank** – AS had heard about it from the Girl Guides and Rainbows. Once it gets up and running in East Lothian officially it is something we could look into. AS has registered for email updates. JS to keep an eye on Facebook.

i. Fundraising Ideas – Ideas put forward:

- i. Quiz Night – popular before, however, already a quiz night in the Linton once a month;
- ii. Beetle Drive;
- iii. The House That Jack Built;
- iv. Children’s Night – positive feedback but to confirm theme – Talent Show was suggested, but it would need to be vetted beforehand and it was felt that there could be a lot of hurt feelings – a possibility though;
- v. Ceilidh – there were none this year at the end of November. People don’t feel so pressurised to spend money except on themselves (bar). The idea was raised of changing the Ladies Night to a Ceilidh and possibly moving the date to end Oct/beg Nov. Someone should liaise with the Church/Gala Committee, etc to check dates.
- vi. May Fair – Agreed May Fair should go ahead this year. Date chosen of Saturday 11th May, 11am – 2pm. LM to book school. Toy stall, raffle, tombola, pick a lolly stick, café, home baking, obstacle course, bouncy castle, face painting. Someone mentioned a “Sponge the Teacher” stall? **Action: LM**
- vii. Arts & Crafts Afternoon;
- viii. John Rennie Day – Afternoon of constructing things with k’nex;
- ix. Bingo;
- x. Children’s Disco – no bar to make money;
- xi. Enterprise Event – give the children £1/£2 and they must do something with the money to generate money, ie. Car washing, cake making, etc. MH-S mentioned a school class room fund. The PC helped to fund it by giving the children £5 each, they then returned the £5 and kept the profit. Should perhaps restrict this to the older children and do later in the year;
- xii. Race Night – betting on pre-recorded horse and pig races - positive feedback – worth trying as good fun;
- xiii. Wine Tasting – no;
- xiv. Packing Bags in Supermarket – very long waiting lists, needs to be booked a year in advance, query over success when not doing it for a specific charity;
- xv. Talent Show;

j. Parent Helpers – Email should be sent out again.

k. Community Hall Update – In KM’s absence LM read out an email from KM – No-one came forward to be Chairperson at the last meeting so three people have volunteered to chair the next three meetings and the job will be advertised as a paid post. This means the hall is safe for the next three months. KM will be attending the hall meeting on Monday (tonight) so will report back at next meeting.

l. New Facebook Guardian – KMCC offered to take over the role. It was discussed and felt it was a useful tool on top of the main Blog as it was a helpful tool to promote PC activities.

6. Head Teacher’s Report

- GG reported that unfortunately the Janitor is retiring due to ill health and asked whether it would be suitable to ask for donations from family for a gift as he has been with the school for such a long time – all were in favour. It was also agreed how fortunate we were to have Bobby just now.
- Mr Jamie Baptie will be giving cover to P2/3 and P5/6.
- One student will be joining the school this term, a PGDE student in P4/5 who will have supervised full responsibility for just over a week.
- A drama student working on their PhD has been secured for drama with eco/sustainable feel.
- Julie Ross has been accepted to the Number Academy to train the other teachers in number strategies (MR Tracker) from nursery upwards. Excellent for assessing individual children and groups. Funding has been provided to cover her being out of school. This is a great opportunity for the school and ties into maths learning to create fluency with numbers throughout the school.

- The Nursery Care Commission Report has come back and is available to view in the Nursery. The Report came back with good feedback in all areas. Congratulations to Ms Gilfillan and Mrs Dickson.
- Diary of events from January to March will be coming out with the class newsletter this week.
- Parent Consultation "save the date" letter will be coming out soon to help parents plan so that they are able to come.
- The website has been tidied up but everything is still there and PC members have been asked to spread the word to comment on children's posts as it means a lot to them, especially when the items they post can sometimes take time to create. The children are always encouraged by comments.
- Panto – it will be a busy week for the children involved and teachers will be giving homework as usual. It would be fantastic for it to be done, but it's not essential if time runs out.
- Great news - the school has been given the status of a Fairtrade School for another year.
- Lynton Centre – some of the children visited the Lynton Centre before Christmas and performed some songs and there was a visit from Santa. They had raised £610 which they took with them. A lovely letter of thanks was received this week detailing the things they will be doing with the money, including being able to get the dishwasher fixed, as well as mobility, treats, memory therapy. Everyone delighted. The children all spent time chatting afterwards over a cup of tea.
- All P4 – P7 will be taking part in a production of Treasure Island that Charades Theatre Production company are bringing to the Community Hall. The children will be taught songs and dance and it is part of their active learning. Save the date will come out for Monday 18th March.

7. Treasurer's Report and 50/50 Club Draw

The 50/50 Club brought in £108 in December which means £27 for each winner. Winners drawn are: 41 (Gavin Duncan) and 93 (Alison Barker). 50/50 numbers have gone up to 104 members and it was carried that three numbers will be drawn from now on. AS to put up a blog about the 50/50.

Action AS

Balance in bank is £1,962 – PC should start to think what it could be used to go towards. The playground and reading are both still very important areas. GG very pleased with book status, but more are still needed. On World Book day it may be suggested that everyone donates a book. Kindles were suggested, but at present it isn't feasible as the Council can't support the technology behind them.

8. Date of next Meeting – Tuesday 19th February 2013 at 7.30pm