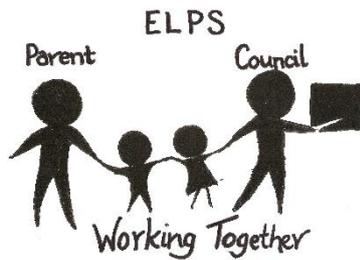


# East Linton Primary School



Draft Minutes of Parent Council Meeting of 5 December 2017.

Present: Tasim Martin-Berg (Chair), Brian Whitson, Nancy Bell, Trace Ward, Fionnuala O'Donovan, Fiona O'Sullivan, Ros Lowrie, Tallulah Fry, Bea Taylor, Gill Coghlan, Julie Ross.

Attending: Gill Gardner (Head Teacher), Allison Cosgrove (Clerk).

Apologies had been received from Jenny Paterson, Sarah-Jane Thomson, Jan Gerlings

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.
2. Matters arising not on the agenda – Tasim was still to follow up with Sarah-Jane.

### 3. Actions from the previous meeting

Brian reported that signatories on the account were still to be finalized. He had downloaded information on Charitable Status from the SPTC website, noting that the constitution needed to reflect what was requested, and the application process would take about 3-4 months. He had looked at the constitution for Ormiston PC and would distribute this information to everyone before the next meeting

*Action – **Brian***

*Website – This was still in progress*

*Drama and Music Ideas – for next meeting*

*Action – **Fionnuala/Fiona***

### 4. Headteacher Report

Gill reported on the following items:-

*Consultation document on the Education (S) Bill – Gill explained the terms of the Bill, describing it as huge proposed changes. She gave an example of staffing, and how vacancies would now be dealt with by Head Teachers instead of redeployed staff as had been done before. She explained that there would be Regional Collaboratives or “hubs”, with East Lothian, Edinburgh, Fife, Scottish Borders and Midlothian in one hub, taking on the Education Authority support roles currently carried out by separate local authorities. The Bill proposed to change the way school governance was managed.*

Gill clarified the role of the teaching unions and the General Teaching Council.

Members felt this was an important matter and the 9 January meeting should be mainly devoted to putting together a response.

*(Post-Meeting Note – Subsequently, it was discovered that the Local Authority was holding a briefing for parents on the Bill on 9 January. It was agreed therefore to postpone the next meeting date to Tuesday 16 January to allow members to attend this briefing)*

Gill noted that the School was now on Twitter.

She advised of recent school visits – to the Museum of Scotland, the Risk Factory, Edinburgh Castle and the Scottish Parliament, where they had met Iain Gray MSP, and observed a Parliamentary debate. The Community Warden had been to speak to P7 about community safety.

The Nursery had taken part in a Church service and had a singsong with the Playgroup, and the Choir would be singing in the Church.

Gill also gave an update on staff training and development. She advised that the trial on National Assessments had been very challenging.

#### 5. Chair's Report

Tasim advised that the Parental Engagement Strategy was an outstanding item to be discussed, once the consultation on the Education (S) Bill had been completed.

#### 6. Financial Report

The Draw was won by numbers 50, 17 and 13. No other financial matters as the Bank Statement had not yet arrived.

#### 7. Class Reps Reports:

*Nursery* – questions were asked about long term absence and the availability of supply cover. Some parents had also queried the Christian ethos of the school and whether this should be limited to one religion. It was also felt that the autumn parents evening was too soon. Gill would respond by email and Fionnuala would circulate.

*Action – Gill*

Tasim agreed to find links about Parent council for Nursery Parents *Action – Tasim*

*P1* – Some concerns had been raised about supervision in the playground.

*P3 Rep* – Read, Write, Ink has made an amazing difference with good feedback, and children engaging with the programme.

*P4* – questions had been raised on the Homework policy, the Eco-School and parking on yellow lines near the School. An email would be sent to parents.

*P6* – Parents would like notification of P7 camp costs earlier in the year, in order to plan ahead and rather than receiving the notification so near to Christmas.

*P7* – the class was organizing end of term activities, including Year Books.

There was discussion about the above, in terms of potential action points. For example some of the points were considered to be feedback that was noted. Some things have already been sent out to parents and can be found on the school website e.g. the homework policy. Some things we can ask our children about e.g. the eco policy. Supervision in the playground is managed by the school, and is also being addressed for the future by the Parent Council investigation into charitable status which will allow PVG checks to be carried out more easily, which may in turn lead to the possibility of recruiting parent support for playground times. Gill emphasised her open door policy as Headteacher and that any parent/s or carer/s with any queries or issues relating to their child and the school community should approach her.

#### 8. Playground Update

Trace advised that Liz Dorrian had reported on the site available for the playground, and the requirements were being updated. There was a discussion on the footpath and the ownership of the ground.

9. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 16 January 2018, 7pm (*amended from earlier date of 9 January to allow attendance at consultation event at Brunton Hall on 9 January*).