

East Linton Primary School – Parent Council
General Meeting
28th January 2021, 7pm online

Present: Lyn Jardine (Chair), Gill Gardner (Head Teacher), Margaret McKay (Principal Teacher/P6), Ruth Peck (Teacher P2/3), Laura Hutchinson (Teacher), Miss Lockhart (Teacher), Stacy Walker (Teacher), Jane Perkins (Treasurer), Kirsteen Roberts (P7), Madeleine Hewlett (P6), Robin Boyle (P6), Dawn Perdue (P6).

Apologies: Becca Bell (P1), Leigh Pleasance (P5). Tara Wright (P2/3) has asked to be removed from the distribution list as she is not participating in the Parent Council this year.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lyn Jardine welcomed the P6 parents Robin, Dawn and Madeleine and asked them to confirm their continuing involvement to either Gill Gardner or Lyn so they could be added to the distribution list. A replacement will be sought for Tara Wright who represented covered P2/3.

2. Declarations of Interests

None

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2020 were approved.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2020 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Chair's Update

Lyn Jardine reported on the East Lothian Parent Councils meetings. A common technical issue prevented her attending the last meeting but she will join a meeting of the chairs of the Parent Councils next week and feedback any relevant information.

Lyn Jardine reported on the East Linton Growing Local Food and Sustaining Nature Group. Lots of responses were received from the Community Gardens survey and the report will be completed shortly. Gill Gardner informed the meeting that prior to lockdown the school was working towards becoming a pilot school for local food promotion with plans for regular very locally source meals. A meeting was held with East Lothian Council procurement to look at using local producers for school meals. This will be high on the agenda when lockdown is lifted with the aim of highlighting the importance of using locally grown produce and promoting the school as a large part of the local community.

6. Finance Report and Funding Requests

Current balance at 31/12/2020 was £3,126.96 with £613 due in 50/50 cheques and c.£560 due to the school for the Christmas party food and P7 camp deposits (awaiting invoice from school to pay against). So in practice balance is c£1,900. In the absence of online banking access payments will be held over until lockdown is lifted.

50/50 draw numbers for completed months were:

Nov 2020 - 7, 30, 41
Dec 2020 - 15, 29, 82

7. Head Teacher's Update

7.1 Staffing

The advertisement for the post of 1 day a week cover to allow Miss Walker to complete NQT was not successful in attracting a suitable candidate. Ruth Peck and Gill Gardner are covering whilst a suitable candidate is sought.

7.2 Education Strategy/Plans

Gill Gardner reported that a pause has been placed on working parties for now. Teachers have completed planning for the term. Lucy Hutchinson reported on the work being carried out focussing on moderation which is an Education Scotland term now called the Learning, Teaching and Assessment model. Evidence is being gathered to create a digital tool which can be used to define how every stage of the education cycle is delivered in East Linton Primary. Once complete it will be open for contributions from parents and pupils.

7.3 School Estates Review Update

East Lothian Council were unsuccessful in their latest bid to secure funding for a new school. An ongoing review of the learning estates in East Lothian confirmed that the school is not sustainable, not fit for purpose going forward and is top of the list being discussed for replacement. East Lothian Council will soon issue a survey regarding the school and it is important that everyone responds.

7.4 Other Matters

Gill Gardner raised the issue of visibility of the parent council. She agreed to load the minutes from the last meetings and the list of class representatives to Edubuzz until Lyn Gardner and Anne Hunter receive the requested training from East Lothian Council. Lyn Jardine will set up a Twitter account. Gill Gardner reported that P5 requested an online quiz, bingo or treasure hunt.

8. Lockdown Arrangements

8.1 Remote Learning feedback

Gill Gardner recognised that parents and staff are finding things harder this time. There have been up to 24 pupils attending the hub. One attendee at nursery requires two members of staff and a variation has been received from the Care Inspectorate to allow P1/2 to interact with the nursery attendee. Classes are split P1-3, 4&5 and 6&7 with staff on rota coming in to supervise and help with on-line learning, playing and making it fun. Parents are being informed when staff is in the hub as they are not then available for children at home.

The number of children engaging with online learning is as high as the previous lockdown in terms of numbers participating but less learning is being shared back to staff. There is an appreciation that parents have other responsibilities and will do what they can do. Teachers have contacted everyone to confirm they are safe and well and to offer any support required. Teachers are learning many new skills in order to deliver recorded videos, flip grids (where teachers face appears in the corner) and live sessions. Anne Lockhart commented on the difficulty of teaching online where feedback from pupils is not the same as in the classroom so it

is difficult to assess if the content is too easy or too challenging and learning can't be tweaked to suit at the time. It was recognised that one size doesn't fit all with some parents wanting lots of learning and others not so much. P4 have indicated that sometimes it's too much and there is no consensus in the order in which everyone wants to do things. Madeleine Hewlett fed back that she likes the grid in morning and live lessons catch up with teachers and class mates. It was reported that the teachers miss the children and enjoy seeing them on screen and the importance of the children regularly seeing each other and their teacher was recognised. Pupils have fed back that they love being with their family more but miss friends, teachers, school and playing. The importance of a mixture of lessons was discussed where it's not all screen time but some of the learning could take place outdoors.

Lyn Jardine reflected that she had no sense of how other P2/3 parents were or how much the school is interacting with parents. Gill Gardner confirmed that parents are calling the school if they are not sure what they are doing is right. This can also flag up if children are struggling or pushing themselves too hard and if a 1-1 meeting is required to provide re-assurance. Calls are being made if pupils are not visible and real resources are being distributed where required.

8.2 PC profile during Lockdown

Lyn Jardine advised that it will likely be some time before Anne and her can get training on putting minutes etc on the Edubuzz site. Gill Gardener agreed that the school could update in the meantime. After a brief discussion it was agreed to trial a twitter account for the PC to ensure there was cross posting of parents and school news etc. Lyn Jardine to coordinate.

9. Fundraising Priorities

Kirsteen Roberts reported that due to lockdown the group have not met but have considered producing a recipe book. Gill Gardner agreed to set this as a high priority task in school. Kirsteen will confirm further details to Gill but it was suggested that categories could include Healthy Eating, Baking and Family Meals. Printing and collection of money for any book or PDF version produced are to be considered.

Dawn Perdue raised the possibility of creating a magazine type booklet. Gill Gardner confirmed it was under consideration to produce a keepsake of what was done during lockdown that would become part of school history and would be something pupils could be proud of.

Lyn Jardine agreed to investigate running an online quiz as a fundraiser. Kirsteen and Madeleine volunteered to help with setting questions.

10. AOB

Margaret Mackay thanked Gill Gardner for her excellent communications to both staff and parents and for the support provided to teachers when required. Lyn Jardine recognised that both staff and parents are all doing a sterling job. Gill Gardner reported that term ends next week and that plans are in place for a number of possible scenarios in anticipation of the next Government review.

11. Next meeting

Thursday 11th March 7pm – 8.30pm – online via Google meet