

East Linton Primary School – Parent Council  
General Meeting  
7<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 7pm online

**Present:** Lyn Jardine (Chair), Gill Gardner (Head Teacher), Margaret McKay (Principal Teacher/P7), Deborah Stitt (P1), Kirsten Snodgrass (P2), Neil Morland (P3), Kathryn Neill (P5)

Anne Hunter (minutes)

**Apologies:** Becca Bell (P2), Evie Thomas (P4), Leigh Pleasance (P6), Innes Jardine (Treasurer)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kirsten Snodgrass introduced herself as a P2 rep who will share the position with Becca Bell.

2. Declarations of Interests

Lyn Jardine declared the fact that she works for the local MSP Paul McLennan.

3. Apologies and Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September were approved with the correction of Margaret McKay now teaching P7 haven taken the class forward from P6.

Matters Arising

Margaret McKay highlighted that the school were hoping to update the website and that she had received analytics from Dave Gilmore who is setting up training for herself and Mrs Lockhart-Ross. She suggested that Lyn Jardine and Anne Hunter join that training. Prior to that Lyn Jardine will chase login details for Anne Hunter.

4. Finance Report

This item is carried forward. The Treasurer is not present and only picked up the books tonight.

5. Funding Requests

Margaret McKay reported that P7 were studying the Jacobites and that Aaron Johnston had offered a tour of the battle site at Prestonpans with re-enactors in period dress. The trip will be according to COVID guidelines, it will be outside and parent helpers will meet there. The cost would be £200 including transport. Gill Gardner reported that the school are under instruction from East Lothian Council not to pass costs on to parents in the current climate. The funding was agreed however concern was expressed as to whether there would be sufficient funds to cover all school trips and it was agreed to look at them in relation to the current climate when each request is submitted. Gill Gardner confirmed that the school is taking advantage of online offerings from venues such as Dynamic Earth, The Zoo and the Museum of Flight and that there is also a school fund which could be used. Lyn Jardine will discuss with other Parent Council Chairs and East Lothian Council to ensure that Parent bodies are included in decision making.

6. Chair's Update

Gill Gardner reported a two week delay to the Learning Estate Consultation website going active and confirmed to share the link with all parents as soon as possible. Everyone will be encouraged to contribute. Lyn Jardine expressed concern that the drop in session for East Linton

Primary was 12<sup>th</sup> October with no sight of the consultation as yet. It was recognised that although this is stage two in a four stage process which is not due to complete until Autumn next year the timescales are not ideal for the school which has seen an planned extension aborted. Neil Morland expressed concern that capital funding to East Lothian for school buildings is lower than that received by neighbouring regions and expressed hope that the consultation might improve the applications for funding. Lyn Jardine highlighted that the community view is also important and committed to make contact with the Community Council. Lyn Jardine also reported on the decision by senior management of East Lothian Council not to progress overnight accommodation trips for young people. The decision was taken without consultation with parent bodies and there is no clarity on when it will be reviewed. Gill Gardner confirmed that P7 will have the same adventure week that the previous P7 enjoyed. It will take place in March and will be based in school with daily activities such as climbing or canoeing.

## 7. Head Teacher's Update

Gill Gardner expressed her thanks for the agreement to fund the P7 trip to Prestonpans. She reported a staggering response to the East Lothian Horizons work to bring a refugee family to East Lothian with funds raised currently around £2000. Sponsorship has come from as far afield as Canada. Educational work using age appropriate books and stories are helping pupils to understand the issues involved and to learn how to welcome new arrivals.

The school is very busy. With no supply teachers available and two teachers off today Gill Gardner enjoyed some time with P2. Interviews were carried out for the nursery support worker role but unfortunately the preferred candidate was snapped up closer to home. Cover by nursery staff is possible at the moment due to low numbers.

A new janitor, Mr Barry Mattinson who has a background in construction starts on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Mrs Nicki Munro has been appointed as the new admin assistant and will take over from Audrey Dowling in November. An advertisement will be placed on 8<sup>th</sup> October for maternity cover for Mrs Lockhart Ross who for health reasons will have to shield from 28 weeks. She will work from home until Christmas on updates to the school website in addition to working with her replacement and interacting with pupils online.

The Behaviour Policy was discussed and Gill Gardner clarified that it needs to reflect East Linton Primary and to make sense to everyone. She agreed to take away the feedback from Kathryn Neil and others around the structure of the document, clarification of jargon and acronyms for the benefit of parents, removal of repetition and contradictions between the text and the graphic. It was agreed to refer to 'our learners' throughout this and other policy documents. Margaret McKay asked whether it felt like a positive policy and the response was that it does, that encouraging positive behaviour was a good thing and that a lot of work had obviously gone into it. The pause time between individual steps was felt to be a good thing. It was agreed to remove references to disappointment and to rename it as Positive Behaviour Policy. An updated version will be circulated.

The relationship with Behaviour Policy and East Lothian Bullying Policy was discussed and it was agreed cross referencing should also be applied. There was a general discussion on how bullying was dealt with and the expectation of pupils and parents to see someone being "punished". Gill Gardner reported that she has been working directly with pupils and they now understand that they don't want their individual conversations with her to take place in public so it wouldn't be appropriate to expect to see her speak to someone else. She also confirmed

that parents are informed that issues have been dealt with and reassured that there have been consequences even if they can't see what they are.

It was agreed that regular reviews of these policies would be needed so they could be kept up to date with latest terminology.

Gill Gardner suggested that the Feedback Policy might not make much sense at the moment without access to school work and agreed to arrange a session for pupils to explain what it means to them, how they receive it and how they take it forward.

Margaret McKay reported on the Islam project from last year where P6 worked with Catherine Wheels. A film has been made which will be shared with the pupils involved and then made available to parents on Google Classrooms. It will also be shown before the children's film at the next Pix in the Stix on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Margaret McKay expressed her opinion that the breadth and depth of the learning during the project will be life long and also her intention to ensure the film is shared as widely as possible. She will arrange for P7 to attend the next Parent Council meeting to talk about the film in addition to their progress in Leadership. It is hoped this project can be showcased across East Lothian and possibly beyond.

8. Fundraising

No update.

9. AOB

Lyn Jardine reported that through her work with Paul McLennan she is aware of road safety concerns relating to speeding in many 20mph zones in East Lothian and gave examples of North Berwick Primary, Belhaven Road in Dunbar and Drylaw Terrace in East Linton. She raised the question of whether parents and staff are concerned about this. Kathryn Neil reported regular problems on the High Street with speeding and would like to the Police carrying out regular speed checks. She also reported that children didn't feel safe crossing the road and it was restricting their enjoyment of the park. It was felt that although the 20mph limit is enforceable it is not being enforced. Anne Hunter reported that the community council planned to purchase a new speed reactive sign as they had been shown to be effective in slowing traffic. This would be moveable and could be placed at various sites in the village. The difficulty in exiting School Road due to inconsiderate parking was also highlighted. Gill Gardner suggested that road safety could be included as a focus in school and that pupils could work on banners for each entrance to the village.

Lyn Jardine reported that Network Rail is engaged in examination of the imposed planning constraints in order to work out a start date for construction of the new station. They have committed to engagement with the School and the Parent Council during the next stages.

10. Next meeting

**Thursday 18/11/2021 – 7pm – online via Google meet**

11. Future meeting dates

- 16th Dec
- 27th Jan
- 10th Mar
- 28th Apr – Neil Morland has agreed to chair
- 9<sup>th</sup> June - AGM