

East Linton Primary School – Parent Council
General Meeting
9th September 2021, 7pm online

Present: Lyn Jardine (Chair), Gill Gardner (Head Teacher), Margaret McKay (Principal Teacher/P6), Innes Jardine (Treasurer), Deborah Stitt (P1), Becca Bell (P2), Neil Morland (P3), Evie Thomas (P4), Kathryn Neill (P5), Leigh Pleasance (P6)

Anne Hunter (minutes)

Apologies: Vera Hoban (Dunpender Community Council)

1. Welcome and Introductions

General Introductions were made for the benefit of new members.

2. Declarations of Interests

None

3. Apologies and Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2021 were approved. Lyn Jardine expressed thanks to Heather McDonald for producing the minutes.

Matters Arising

Lyn Jardine informed the meeting that East Linton Station plans had been approved with a number of conditions imposed relating to light and noise pollution and safety on site during the construction phase. It is felt that the station is a positive for East Linton.

Lyn Jardine is waiting on a response from David Gilmour on training concerning the school website. She has been granted access to it, Anne Hunter has not.

Communication between parents within year groups has been set up using a variety of WhatsApp and Facebook groups. Take up will be monitored and changes made where required.

Gill Gardener has shared the School Improvement Plan on the website and via Google classrooms.

4. Finance Report

The balance at 31/08/2021 was £ 2673.65 with an available balance of approx. £2400 after issued cheques have been cashed. Innes Jardine confirmed that the full handover was not complete and that he is due to complete training for the role.

50/50 draw numbers for completed months were:

May - 43, 49, 53

June - 6, 29, 99

July - 17, 60, 79

August - 24, 28, 40

5. Funding Requests

Gill Gardner outlined the following funding requests which were all agreed.

- £200 for non-fiction books for P3/4
- £155 for clipboards for each class to be used during Outdoor Learning
- £326 for P7 to work with Columba 1400 on values based leadership. P7 will report progress to the Parent Council.

6. Chair's Update

Lyn Jardine reported that the East Lothian wide group is starting up again. She will circulate details of available online training on topics such as the role of the Parent Council.

Lyn Jardine requested a steer from the meeting on the potential for a new school or extension. Gill Gardener confirmed there has been no information from the council regarding this and Lyn Jardine has heard nothing from Norman Hampshire. The outcome of the survey of school estates across East Lothian is not known. Gill Gardener will follow this up with Neil Craig-Collins. It was agreed that a subgroup comprising Gill Gardner, Lyn Jardine, Deborah Stitt and Neil Morland will be formed to ensure the school voice is heard by East Lothian Council.

7. Head Teacher's Update

Gill Gardner requested that members read the circulated Outdoor Learning Policy and Behaviour Policy documents prior to the next meeting. She reported on the improvement work carried out over the summer to the P7 classroom and toilet, the P3 and nursery classrooms which were all painted and had new flooring. The interior courtyard wall was repaired and initial work carried out on the roof which will be continued in the October holiday.

Pupils have settled in quickly after the break and are back in the lunch hall. P7 pupils are again working with their P1 buddies. P7 have had PE inside although the focus is still on being outside where possible. Teachers are still wearing masks and are now back in the staffroom. There is still a focus on hand washing and sanitising and regular touch-point cleaning is still being carried out. Only one prearranged essential visitor is allowed per day. Processes put in place during COVID which have been shown to result in more time in the classroom and a calmer school will be retained eg. less movement about the school with one person going to the toilet at a time and milk being delivered to the classroom.

With respect to nursery staffing they are one support worker short but with low numbers it is manageable. Two new nursery nurses joined the three existing staff and they are all working shifts to cover 8am-6pm. The post will be re-advertised. An appointee to the auxiliary role pulled out during the holiday. Mrs King, who was appointed playground supervisor has agreed to also cover the auxiliary role. Two members of staff, Bobby Myers and Audrey Dowling, are retiring. A new Janitor has been appointed and the Admin Assistant role will be advertised. Gill Gardner confirmed that pupils were contributing to year books and artwork to be presented at special outdoor assemblies to celebrate the contribution made to the school by Bobby and Audrey. It was agreed that the Parent Council will contribute £100 of East Lothian vouchers as a gift. Any further contributions by parents will be organised by the individual year groups.

Gill Gardner reported that this is the last year where the government will fund French. P5 will learn German. Outdoor learning is continuing. Margaret McKay will have one day a week out of

class to focus on family engagement and involvement. Nursery is settling into a new system of nature/nurture outside.

The school is working towards an Eco-Schools Green Flag award and have been learning about UN global sustainability goals and climate action week. Ruth Peck (P2/3) is doing a sponsored walk in aid of East Lothian Horizons who aim to welcome and support families fleeing from conflict zones. Gill Gardner reported that what it means to be a refugee was being addressed through an intergenerational group which was also studying UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Deborah Stitt fed back positively on the pack which was sent home following a good P1 literacy and numeracy session.

8. Fundraising

Evie Thomas is completing the front cover of the recipe book which was collated and sent to printer before the summer break. Prices will be agreed with Lyn Jardine and Gill Gardner before an initial print run of 100 copies. Gill Gardner will seek publicity for this via The Courier.

It was agreed to postpone further fundraising until next year.

9. AOB

Kirsteen Roberts has resigned and Maddie Hewlett is no longer available.

Becca Bell reported that there is a concern from the P2 mums that the breakfast club may close due to only one person attending. Gill Gardner has spoken to the organisers but nothing can be done.

The potential to recycle uniforms in the school was discussed but there is no storage available and Zero Waste carry out this function.

Lyn Jardine will circulate dates for future meetings at six-weekly intervals.

10. Next meeting

Thursday 07/10/2021 – 7pm – online via Google meet