

Haddington Primary School PTA Meeting

Monday 29th August 2022 6.30pm

Upper Campus

Attendees: Willie French (HT), Louise Arnold, Shona Walker (staff members) Rhian Matthews, Martin Jones, Sam Bidder (Treasurer), Alex Brown Swan, Mandy McGowan, Philli Thorne, Ema Spatenkova, Katie Small, Caroline Libberton, Charlotte Brunton, Lyn Hamilton, Morven Atkinson

TO BE NOTED: there were others in attendance, but names/emails weren't noted.

Apologies: Kirsty McLeod (staff member), Ciorstaidh Wilson, Debbie Aikman

Introduction

Willie French opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first in school meeting of parents since before covid. He reiterated that PTA and Parent Council were a very important and integral part of the school. Unfortunately, the school currently has no PC due to resignations so an appeal is being made for anyone who would like to be a member of this to come forward. More information will be sent out by the school in the forthcoming weeks. The school are aiming to have two open mornings a term for parents to come in to see their child(ren)'s learning.

PTA Roles

Due to the PTA only being re-established this term since before covid there is a need for roles to be filled. There are vacancies for Chair, Vice-Chair (or two Co-Chairs), Secretary, Social Media operator. The post of Treasurer has already been filled by Sam Bidder, Morven Atkinson proposed this motion and it was seconded by Philli Thorne. Ema Spatenkova volunteered to fill the role of Secretary, this was seconded by Lyn Hamilton. Lyn Hamilton volunteered to be admin of the Facebook group and also our social media 'guru', seconded by Shona Walker. Thank you to all who offered themselves for these roles.

We are still outstanding for Chair and/or Vice-Chairs/Co-Chairs, a discussion between parents after was about perhaps changing the name of these to something more 'friendly', such as 'lead' or 'facilitator' to indicate that the role was not as time consuming as it perhaps appeared! If anyone would like to volunteer themselves for this, please do email to show interest. More information on the role can also be offered before committing.

Treasurer's Report

Morven reported that Andrew Murray, outgoing Treasurer, had relayed the account balances briefly to her. Himself and Sam are still to have a full handover. The balance currently stands at **£15,726.48**. Of this, there is still outstanding outgoings of approximately **£1,645** and a ring-fenced amount of **~£11,000** of Cash for Kids money. Therefore, the balance is currently **£3,000** approximately.

Sam shared that his thoughts would be for perhaps the PTA to apply for Charitable Status however this could be a lengthy process therefore more research will need to be done. Caroline Libberton added that she thought perhaps SCIO might be an easier pathway so both of these will be considered. There are grants available to PTAs but these often have a stipulation that the PTA must be a registered charity but Caroline indicated that there are often grants that don't require this too.

[Action - Morven to speak to Bev Skirrow for more advice](#)

Spending

It was agreed that the Cash for Kids money, albeit a great amount, was not going to go far with playground renovations therefore perhaps we should be aiming to have a focus on the playground for any fundraising we do have this year.

This would be done jointly with Lyn and also across both campuses therefore we need to audit what would need/want to be done and a plan made on how this would be executed. We agreed that we need to be tapping into any source of funding/task forces where possible and potentially look at having open mornings over a few Saturdays where parents could come in to help with the playground. It was agreed that the plans needed to be maintainable and sustainable but that there is an urgent need to have the Upper Campus playground more stimulating and interesting for all the children. It wasn't discussed as much, but there was agreement that the Lower Campus would also benefit from some playground renovations.

Events run by the PTA

Taking a fresh view on events and how we approach this took most of the meeting. Shona Walker suggested surveying the pupils on what events they would like to have run by the PTA and their thoughts on past events too. Their views would also be sought at the Pupil Council.

Philli Thorne suggested a Donut Sale, perhaps around Hallowe'en. Krispy Kreme allow PTAs to purchase donuts at 50p each and these are then sold in school, with profits going to the PTA.

Co-op and Tesco both have community funding available, so this is another area to be researched and followed up on.

Sam to check with Andrew Murray about accessing Easy Fundraising. There is an existing account but no one is sure as to who manages this and where the money is going.

Shona stated that the P7s will be putting on an End of Year show again this year and perhaps tickets could be sold and donations taken for this.

It was agreed that there is a need to have some adult socials and family socials too throughout the year to allow the parents/carers to get to know each other as well.

Cash for Kids

Lyn Hamilton shared with the group the amazing effort Nancy and her troupe managed in just 10 days, last October. Radio Forth ran a competition where a shortlist of schools had 10 days to raise as much money as they possibly could. Lyn put a proposal together whereby the money was being raised to make the Upper Campus playground more inclusive and inspirational for learning. It was to be colourful, educational and accessible.

Nancy managed to raise **£8225.53** in 10 days. She unlocked a further **£250** prize as the top PR person and because she won with the most money raised this meant in total, Nancy raised an amazing **£11,275.53!!**

Cash for Kids released £500 of this to go towards the P7 leavers party last year, as Nancy was part of this group therefore this P7 would not reap the benefits of the newly revamped playground when it eventually is renovated.

Lyn needs a working party to help her, there is planning to be done as well as costing etc. It is imagined that further fundraising will need to be undertaken in order for the playground to be completed. This is something we hope to have up and running in the near future to get the ball rolling.

Rough diary of events (to be confirmed!)

Nursery event	October	
(Morven to liaise with Sally Murray re nursery event before confirming)		
P1 Disco	October	
P2	P2 and P3 may also be a disco but not	
P3	sure whether to run similar date to Nursery/P1	
P4	??	
P5	potentially 27 th October	Hallowe'en Disco
P6	February	Movie Night
P7	June	Leavers Day & Party
Pub Quiz	November	Rugby Club?
Family Ceilidh	January	Venue?
Summer Fayre	May	Upper Campus playground

These events may change in what is offered depending on what the pupils' questionnaires say and what the Pupil Council report on.

No meeting date was confirmed for our next meeting but proposing **Tuesday 27th September** at **6.30pm**. This is only 4 weeks away and normally we'd meet in 6 weeks time, however we need to firm up events calendar and meeting dates for the year.

In the meantime, we will need to hit the ground running in organising Lower Campus discos with a small working party – all volunteers welcome!