

Minutes of the meeting
Humbie Parent Council
1st March 2016
Held at Humbie Primary School

Present: Iain Lawrie (Chair), Sally Leighton (Head Teacher), Kirsten Pearson (Principal Teacher), Tracey McCullagh, Luke Dalrymple, Heather Niven, Elizabeth Robertson, Helen Rawlinson, Sally Heaphy (Clerk)

Apologies: Pippa Murphy, Jennifer Edwards, Fiona Harvey-Jones

Iain welcomed everyone and thanked all for coming to the meeting.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT/SCHOOL MATTERS

SL welcomed KP to her first Parent Council meeting.

Staffing

Mrs Salucci and Mrs Hotchkiss have had their contracts extended to the end of the academic year and it is hoped that they can be further extended for the following year.

Mrs Ritchie is still away for the foreseeable future.

Current Pupils

Currently P1-7 has 19 pupils with 7 in nursery. An enquiry for a P7 next year and twins joining nursery at Easter. The numbers are looking strong and if they continue to increase Mrs Leighton will have discussions about the possibility of an additional teacher for 5 mornings a week.

Curriculum Matters

The transition from Mr Dagger to KP has been good and the 'meet the teacher' evening went well. KP following the school improvement plan as she was involved in this at Saltoun previously.

Worldbook Day - KP has produced a plan of activities with author workshops focusing on the love of reading and writing.

Nursery have been working on phonics and learning the RWI rhymes for their letter work.

A request for more joint work between Saltoun and Humbie nursery resulted in a Magnetism workshop and it is hoped to continue joint work including a combined sports day.

P1-3 are making good progress with RWI. P4-7 are continuing to building links with the Borders bookshop with a visit from Adam Murphy.

As part of the Eco School and science, P4-7 are working jointly with Saltoun working towards the John Muir Award - including a joint dance workshop and a walk to the Saltoun tip involving work on clearing it.

Transition to Ross High activities for P7 are beginning. Possibly joining up with P7s from Pencaitland and Saltoun to create a larger group this to be discussed with Mary McCall. SL liaising with Ross High for an enhanced transition for the Humbie children as it is a big jump.

The pen licence is proving very popular and there have been requests from younger children to gain their pens. We have introduced a provisional licence and smaller pens to help keep them interested.

Oxford Reading Tree rep came to discuss possible new reading material - Project X (super heroes) aimed at P2-4 with possible funding from PTA to buy more books.

PTA requested Art Project - Nigel and Pete are happy conduct a joint pupil and parent printing workshop and artwork to go on display in the Hub – funding was going to be applied for.

Luke Dalrymple discussed the plans for the Orchard, which had now secured a small area behind the school and has funding from the small fund of £1250 to buy plants. There is a planned digging and planting day on 19th March from 10am and it was agreed that the children would provide refreshments around 11.30-12 for those helping with the planting.

LD spoke about the ideas for the design of the planters and plants in them, which he was hoping to be managed by the children as part of an educational space – outdoor classroom. It was discussed that perhaps funding should be sort from the 'Big' community fund to facilitate an artist (possibly Michael Macmanus) to design and build the planters, SL also looking at Saltoun gardening parents – Ideas for types of planters could be looked at via places like Pishwanton woods or anywhere out and about IL to request the parent body photo and post on the FB page anything that might be suitable. The children could help produce the application to the Big Fund.

SL asked Liz if she would be interested in talking to the children about the bees she kept and to explain the reasons why they weren't suitable to have in the Orchard.

KP discussed a successful trip the Royal Observatory, and thanked PTA for funding it.

The daily mile is proving to be a success; the children walk a mile in the morning when they first arrive at school. Parents are welcome to join the walk on any morning. On 18th March we are planning a joint mile with parents & nursery as part of Sport Relief.

SL suggested that P7s be invited to the next Parent Council meeting to discuss what it is like being in P7. IL to put together some questions for the children to answer any ideas for questions should be forwarded to IL and a list could be voted on.

Pitch, Pulse, Magic – for older children. Orchestral players had visited with Strings and Brass and were due to come back a 3rd time. The choir started by SL will hopefully get back on track after the summer. SL was also keen for a music assembly to take place and children who learnt musical instruments out of school could come and play.

Following up on a parental enquiry SL informed Parent Council that there will be an audition next academic year for the violin - for four places from P4 onwards.

SL said there was a possibility for joining Saltoun for PE and music activities, which would give more scope for teams and choirs / musical plays etc. SL to keep parent body informed.

Mrs Anderson conducted the RSPB Big Bird watch, which is now completed.

School Camp will be P6-7 to Loch Insh near Aviemore will run from 21st- 24th March. Mrs Anderson to go. P5 to have outdoor days – SL to provide further details.

Future Plans

The next Community Café could celebrate the Queens 90th with croquet as an idea. In the future, as an alternative to the café, the children could work alongside a chef and cook and serve a dinner to the parents.

SL had been talking to the Edinburgh Soap Company as a possible enterprise workshop for the children to make and sell the soap. The children could apply for jobs and write CVs. Helen Rawlinson offered her recruitment expertise and a jobs fair could be set up inviting parents to discuss their careers. SL and KP to discuss with the parent body.

French – there will be no assistants next year. Linda Scott from Ross High will come once a fortnight.

CATCHMENT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

A presentation to the Convenor of the Council along with Saltoun Primary school was made regarding the request to change our catchment secondary school to Knox Academy. ELC have now come back saying there will be no changes to the boundary and they would not be interested in allowing the Humble children to go as a gentlemen's agreement. IL to look at the possibility of the different provisions between Ross and Knox.

ELAPCM MATTERS

Luke Dalrymple had now taken his First Aid training.

IL to sort out a full first aid kit for the PTA.

NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

IL to forward the National Improvement Framework Guidance PowerPoint presentation to the parent body.

AREA PARTNERSHIP

Information to be circulated via the Humble blog.

'SCHOOL STREETS'

- Traffic Prohibition TROs - An Assessment Policy

If there are issues with speed the road directly outside the school can be assessed. There are concerns that the speed, 40 mph, is too fast for the main road through the village and this has been taken up with the Community Council.

AOB

IL offered to run an informal curriculum evening to chat about the changes in the structure of the senior school exam process. IL to email / FB to gauge the level of interest and set a date.

Grant Rawlinson happy to do another talk about his role in the Borders Mountain Rescue team, which the children enjoyed very much and possibly take it outside.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 5th May 2016 - 6-8pm

NB: There is a crèche available with Mrs Anderson, please ensure you inform her in good time of the meeting if you require her.