

Humbie Parent Council Meeting

13th November 2012

Present – Iain Lawrie (Chair), Lindy Lynn (Head Teacher), Karen Prudence (Principal Teacher) Claire Gaston, Nick McCormick, Lois Bayne-Jardine, Jemma Carnie-Lincoln, Angela Morelli, Sally Heaphy

Apologies – Steph Chisholm

Iain welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming along. He also welcomed the new Parent Council Clerk, Sally Heaphy.

1. Head Teacher's Report

LL announced that the new classroom assistant Rowena Griffin, had started. She is currently working four mornings a week and is budgeted to the end of March 13. This would like to be extended to June.

Events that have taken place have been Numeracy Week, Hats day at East Saltoun and the joint East Saltoun/Humbie Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Humbie Kirk, all of which were deemed a success. The following points were raised regarding the joint service: LL suggested that a PA system would be beneficial. Further to the bus not being able to make it down to the Church LL to talk to Sandy Hodge regarding a possible path through his field to the back of the monument to allow the children to walk to the church. LBJ to explore the timescale of a new car park and to see if it will allow a 70 seater bus to turn. It was considered the use of two small buses prohibitively expensive, so future joint services would be held in the village hall. LL to contact Prentice to see if there is any rebate regarding the bus not reaching its intended destination. It was also suggested that any future services that car sharing between parents should be encouraged due to lack of car parking space.

Quality Improvement Officer Visit – LL reported she was happy with what she saw.

Community Cafe – Two café's had taken place both very successful particularly the Remembrance Day Café raising £116.50 for the Mark Wright Project.

The School Information Booklet - has to be revamped. It was discussed that information that should be included is A General Introduction from the Head Teacher, school hours, staff list, dress code, lunches / fruit and free lunch policy, excursions, Humbie After School Club/Breakfast Club (also to be included in Saltoun's booklet), school closure procedure, Parent Council, PTA and regular social events. There would also be access to the usual information from East Lothian council via the Blog/Edubuzz

Arts Project – LL has established that the grass at the front of the school is owned by the Highway's Agency and it would be permitted to use a small section for a piece of Art. The Art Service said if funds were raised that they would project manage the project. Funding and grants should be sort from various local and national sources including Humbie Community Council (windmill fund) etc. It was suggested that artists be approached to come up with ideas.

After further discussion regarding the best way forward for this project it was considered that a person or committee should be sort to progress the project including form filling to various organisations and individuals asking for funding and to approach the Community Council to see if it could be put on their agenda for further discussion.

Nativity Play – Date set for 17 December 6.30pm - 7.00 pm title “It takes a village to raise a baby”

2. Edubuzz – Now up and running

3. Teaching Provision for Next Session

LL said it was looking like the school roll would be 22 pupils from next August and this would not be enough to guarantee a second teacher. The school role would need to be more than 25. LL said that budgets would be very tight next year. LL is going to meet the new Head of Education whose name is still to be announced and would ask him if there was room for movement on this policy. It was discussed whether funding should be sought to extend Rowena’s contract or to try and push for another teacher. Parents expressed concern that there was a lot of pressure on KP teaching across a P1-6 spread. It was decided that IL is to draft a letter to the new Head of Education explaining the situation and our concerns regarding the demands on staff, stimulation of class, managing different classes i.e. gym and KP not getting any ‘Non class contact’ and for the Head of Ed to reply by a date (prior to the budget announcement - Feb) and if no suitable reply forthcoming letters would be drafted to Cllr Tom Trotter and our MSP and MP. IL to draft letter by end of month.

It was suggested that parental help within the class room could help ease the pressure – KP suggested such situations as a P1-2 in one room with parents while she took another class P3-5 in another room.

4. Healthy Eating

It was raised at the ELAPCM meeting that there were concerns that a high a percentage of food was frozen within the school lunches. It was considered that Humbie already had a healthy eating policy and the Health Group were in the process of doing a snack survey.

5. ELAPC Meeting

IL reported back from the meeting that there were going to be changes to the Senior phase. The current East Lothian policy is for a 3 – 3 model. S1-S3 will encompass a Broad General Education (BGE) with examinations being taken throughout the “Senior Phace”. All schools across Scotland have the ability to tailor the number and type of qualification offered to their own pupils. The plan is to allow pupils to sit 8 National 4/5 exams in S4 in East Lothian – This is not consistent with the approach across Scotland and parents should “not move children to other schools if this can be avoided”.

Some useful websites to review are

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/>

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/cfe/index.asp>

There is a lot of information in respect of CfE (a lot of it sugar coated by the government) but some of it useful. As pupils approach the end of primary school parents should review the curriculum options available.

6. Date of Next Meeting - 29th January 2013.