

Law Primary Parent Council

Minutes of meeting on Monday 19 March 2018

1 Attendance

Attendees

Helen Dowson (Co-Chair)
Frances Hill (Clerk)
Dot Boyle
Anne McIntyre
Lou Tyrell
Claire MacKenzie
Ben Mack
Nicola Fraser
Helen Gray
Juliet Williams
Lesley Jardine
Briony Thompson
Helen Menzies
Lorraine Alcock
Melanie Kay
Kate Metzner
Claire Lyons
Lucy Tate

Jane Darlington
Martin Brown
Simon Cowan
Alison Wilkie
Lizzie Cowan
Layla Gurney
Astrid Trugg
Sharon Henderson
Ulrike Knies-Bamforth
Emma Duncan
Carrie Cowley
Jane Menzies
Helen Felton
Fiona Fleming
Kate Black
Emma Bennett
Zoe Lovell
David Watt

Teaching staff

Jill Wareham
Mrs MacNiven

Councillors

Clr Goodfellow
Clr Jeremy Findlay

Apologies

Bryony Capaldi
Michelle Gleeson
Jayne Stokes
Nicky Meikle

Charlotte Rooney
Stacy Cathcart

2 Presentation from Fraser McCallum

Fraser McCallum, Deputy Head at North Berwick High School (NBHS), gave a presentation on the home learning policy at NBHS. He explained that home learning tasks should be purposeful and efficient and they should motivate the students. In S1 the focus is on meeting the emotional and social needs of students and ensuring that they are not overburdened with homework. The

handouts provided by Mr McCallum will be made available on the home learning section of the school website.

Mr McCallum confirmed that the teachers at NBHS are aware of the results of the home learning survey at Law Primary and have seen the new policy.

There followed a question and answer session. Parents suggested that Law and NBHS staff remain in close contact on this matter. There was a request that if teachers at the High School felt that the new policy was adversely affecting the Law students (in comparison to students from previous years and/or other schools in the catchment) that this is flagged up as early as possible so the home learning policy at Law can be reviewed.

Action: NBHS and Law to review the situation three to four months after the new S1 cohort start high school.

3 Lime Grove

Ben Mack delivered a presentation regarding the Lime Grove site, the last remaining brownfield site in North Berwick. The Lime Grove group is hoping to achieve a community asset transfer to enable the land to be used as a community resource.

4 School Review

Following the recommendations made in the School Review a number of changes have already taken place. There is additional teaching support in P4 and there have been changes made to existing teaching staff, for example Miss Thomson is now working in the nursery and Miss Watson has moved to P1.

An action plan, in response to the review, has been drafted and sent to the Quality Improvement Manager. This will be shared with parents once finalised. The action plan will form part of the school improvement plan for the next session. The School is also planning restorative practices training for the in-service days in May and August.

A consultant, David Watt, will be working with the school until the end of May. David spoke to meeting attendees about his role and outlined the three areas he will be focusing on:

- a) That all children at the school feel safe, active, respected and included. To build positive relationships and tackle negative behaviour.
- b) Improve the support for the 21% of the school pupils that have additional support needs (ASN).
- c) Build confidence amongst parents and carers through improved communications.

Action: Mr Watt asked that any parents who wanted to comment on any of these areas should email him directly at dknwatt@fastmail.fm

5 Traffic Issues update

The Parent Council has not had a response from East Lothian Council (ELC) since its last letter sent at the end of February. However, Mrs Wareham has recently met with Marshall Greenshields, Roads Officer at ELC, to discuss the issue of parents and carers parking next to the new gate on Haddington Road. It is hoped that ELC will paint double yellow lines on this road. A number of parents raised other traffic concerns:

- The issue of parking on Wishart Avenue, making it difficult for children to cross safely.
- Illegal parking in the disabled bays by the Sports Centre.
- Construction vehicles driving near the school (they are not allowed to do this but sometimes take the wrong road.)

Action: Parent Council and School to continue to work to promote walking to school and considerate driving and parking around the school. This subject was covered in the March newsletter.

6 Head Teacher's Report

6.1 Development Work

- Staff attended a Primary Conference in Dunbar on the February in service day and attended workshops. The Senior Leadership Team attended a Restorative Practice Workshop.
- The Sports Festival will take place on 30 May.
- Unfortunately, due to the snow, only one P5 class was able to go the Innerwick residential trip. An alternative outdoor adventure day has been arranged for those classes.
- There will be two French teachers working at the school after Easter, staying with families in the community.

6.2 Building update

- The link corridor will open shortly.
- As a result of the building work, the format for Parent Consultations has changed, they will now take place over two nights.
- Staff have had some challenging times recently due to the construction work – a fire alarm was set off due to dust, fences have blown down and there was also a loss of water in the Craigeith building.
- The Library P1-3 furniture has arrived. Thank you to the parents who have helped unpack and set up.

6.3 Events and Activities

- The P7 team came second in the Rotary Quiz.
- The cross-country team came second to Dunbar in an East Lothian competitive event.

7 Parent Representative issues

7.1 P2 Twitter enquiry

A parent from P2 asked why some home learning information was circulated on Twitter. Mrs Wareham confirmed this was not the approved channel used for communications. However, as the same information was disseminated in paper form the following week, it was assumed this was a supplementary announcement.

7.2 P4 enquiry

A parent wanted to make the Parent Council and School aware that some personal belongings had gone missing from a P4 class.

Action: Mrs Wareham advised the parent to speak to the class teacher about this in the first instance.

7.3 Bikeability

The School still needs volunteers to be trained to run the Bikeability initiative and is also waiting on confirmation that the course can go ahead.

Action: Contact parentcouncil@law.elcschool.org.uk if you would like to get involved.

7.4 Sports Day

Sports Day is on 30 May and the Parent Council is seeking volunteers. Parent Council members are requested to ask other parents/carers to help out.

Action: Volunteers to email parentcouncil@law.elcschool.org.uk. Melanie Kay and Kathryn Forbes have offered to get involved.

7.5 Extra meetings

With so many topics to discuss, a request was made for more Parent Council meetings to be arranged. It is not possible to arrange additional Parent Council meetings this year as they have been planned a year in advance to enable the Headteacher and Councillors to attend.

Action: The School to continue to update parents in the newsletter and by email. Additional meetings to be arranged when appropriate.

7.6 Scooters in the playground.

A parent raised a concern about children cycling and using scooters in the playground. This led to a discussion about staff presence in the playground at the beginning and end of the school day. Mrs Wareham explained that this is not something teachers can do due to contractual obligations.

A suggestion was made that the presence of parent/carer volunteers wearing reflective jackets could discourage a number of issues in and around the playground including inconsiderate parking.

Action: A volunteer is needed to coordinate this – please contact parentcouncil@law.elcschool.org.uk if you wish to help.

7.7 The Harbour Room

A parent/carer asked about the status of the Harbour Room. The Harbour Room team are meeting with Mrs Wareham on 20 March to agree on next steps.

Action: Carrie Cowley and Mrs Wareham to update at the next Parent Council meeting.

8 Dates of meetings for 2018

The next meeting is on Monday 4 June 2018. New dates are to be arranged for the academic year 2018/19.

Action: Frances Hill and Mandy Vance to organise.