

Law Primary Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting on Monday 21st January 2019

Attendance

Attendees

Zoe Lovell (Co-Chair)	Astrid Trugg
Martin Brown (Co-Chair)	Bryony Capaldi
Beverly Gilhooley (Clerk)	Jayne Stokes
Charlotte Rooney	Gillian Marr
Layla Gurney	Paul Molsley
Helen Grey	Jackie Reid
Helen Dowson	Alison Wilkie
Helen Felton	
Christina Sinclair	
Lindsey Mcleod	

Teaching Staff

Jill Wareham

Councillors

Jim Goodfellow

Apologies

Kelly Evans
Stacy Cathcart
Emma Bennett
Melanie Kay
Fiona Fleming
Kate Metzner
Briony Thomson
Miss Dagleish

Matters Arising

1. Traffic progress - Sustrans (Government funded body) have appointed a consultant, Peter Brett Associates, who will assess and compile a study on the safe routes to school around Law Primary. Jill Wareham to meet with Neil Cuthill from PBA this Wednesday to discuss further. The study will then commence with an assessment of traffic Thursday 24th January to assess the traffic at drop off and pick up times. This will be followed by a stakeholder meeting, to which Parent Council is invited, and a wider parental consultation.

Grange Road now has a 20 MPH flashing sign.

Ware Road – work on traffic lights due to be started next month.

No crossing as yet on the Dunbar Road (opposite Aldi). Marshall Greenan from East Lothian Council will get in touch with Dundara House Builders to chase this up.

Action:- Martin Brown (Co-Chair) will continue to lobby East Lothian Council as progress is slow.

2. School Accessibility

Everyone appears to be getting used to the arrangement of one gate (next to the old dinner hall) being left unlocked out with drop off times.

Mrs Wareham does not think the council will be willing to fit a security camera due to the costs involved.

3. Clerk vacancy

As the Clerk vacancy was still vacant, Bev Gilhooley stepped into the role to take tonight's minutes. The vacancy was offered one last time to the attendees but nobody stepped forward.

Action: Bev Gilhooley to consider to a move from Co-Chair to take on this role. Zoe Lovell is willing to step up from Vice-Chair to Co-chair with Martin Brown. A vote will take place at the next meeting on 18th March.

4. Home Learning Policy

Results from High School have now been published.

The results showing pie charts were passed around the room. It was noted that there were no issues arising from homework not being issued at Primary 7 level to S1.

The Deputy Head from the High School has expressed his opinion that S1 is about bedding in, that homework levels in s1 are generally low and therefore that the no homework policy would not be of detriment to the pupils.

Action:- The school will send results of the High School to all parents.

5. External Funding

North Berwick Trust will be meeting with Jill Wareham, Parent Council and hopefully the PTA on a visit to the school on the 7th February. Parent Council felt it would be beneficial to the school and to the Trust for them to see all the challenges the school faces with funding issues.

An invitation to this meeting was extended to all members of the Parent Council including reps.

6. Funding for Childcare

Parent Council can now give funding for childcare for any parent who wishes to attend the meeting. A discussion followed where it was noted that the budget was limited but agreed that if the parent in question had a specific reason to attend, for example an item on the agenda or news to be shared then funding could be made available.

Action:- Publicise the availability with the stipulation that it would be if someone had something to bring to the meeting.

7. Behaviour

As there were no requests to raise issues with behaviour at this meeting there was no further discussion at this time.

Action:- As it is an ongoing issue, parents advised to keep in touch with parent council or Mrs Wareham.

8. PVG.

80 volunteers have now been PVG checked and 2 induction days (Thursday 17th & Friday 21st January) followed.

Part of the induction day involved a new Volunteer Policy including confidentiality and child protection forms signed by the volunteer.

Volunteers were asked if they could also provide some time at lunchtime to introduce activities to the children. At the moment there is a card group for the P5's, an art group for the P6's and the library. It was suggested that a board games group, sewing, baking or any other skills would be appreciated by the children.

Mrs Wareham also pointed out that it doesn't necessarily need to be at lunchtime. This could be half an hour to an hour spent in the Life Skills room teaching basic kitchen skills or simple baking etc.

9. Crossing Guide

Now in place on Lochbridge Road.

10. Head Teachers Report

Head Teacher gave a report on:-

Staffing

Finance

School Improvement

New volunteer policy

Parent room well used. Staffed by local church volunteers

Parents attending assemblies on regular basis.

Scotrail community representative – noticeboard at station

Letters out re next learning conferences

RME curriculum review. Muslim and Jewish speakers booked in for assemblies and work with year stages

CAT this Friday – IEP training

Playground play leaders training – Mrs Laurie-Pile

Sensory room open

Events and activities

Lunchtime clubs expanding – art, card games

P4 athletics festival
Christmas activities
Bubble gum & fluff P5
Singing club – day centre and Seabird centre
Headway presentations. Helmet competition
P7 transition . Ceilidh Nov. Visits and meetings with teachers
Pondlife drama for P6 and P7
Emma and Gill – P4 and P5
Road safety drama event for P6 and P7
Swimming gala
Rotary Burns supper 22nd Jan – 12 performers
Ballet taster sessions
P7 Fair £1900
P7 Lime Grove consultation as part of democracy project
NYCOS tasters P3 and P5
Sustaining North Berwick – recycling bins

11. Headway

Jayne Stokes and Astrid Trugg, parents and local artists, agreed to judge the Helmet Design Competition.

Drawings were to be handed in by Friday 25th January. Ten helmets are to be given out as prizes.

Action:- The competition winners will be announced just before the February break.

12. Sub-groups

Zoe Lovell (Vice Chair) explained her proposal to re organise the parent council to include sub-groups who would work on particular issues between meetings and report back to the full Parent Council.

These groups would be open to all parents/carers/teachers to attend but would be managed by 2 or 3 core members who would arrange meetings and drive the issues forward.

The first two proposed sub groups are Health & Wellbeing and Safe Routes to School and four volunteers have already stepped forward – Charlotte Rooney, Helen Felton, Jennifer Johnstone and Grazyna Swietz

Action:- Zoe Lovell to organise a first meeting of those interested in being involved with sub-groups. They will meet to agree a basic agenda based on school needs, and issues which are repeatedly raised by parents. To be re visited at the next PC meeting on 18th March.

13. Plastic bottles.

Some parents are disappointed in the plastic bottles given out in the Friday pack lunches. It is felt that this is an unnecessary waste of plastic and that alternatives should be considered. Suggestions of water containers made from recyclable cardboard could be considered along with an option to opt out of the water all together.

Action: Jackie Reid to follow up and report back at the next meeting. Bev Gilhooley will write to School Catering.

14. School Meals

It was discussed as to whether school meals were nutritional or good quality. The main issue arising was portion size. Parents felt that the portions were too small and children reported feeling hungry during the school day.

Action:- Jackie Reid will work with new Health and Wellbeing sub-group to continue to look at ways of educating the children on snacks and improving school meals. She will report back to Parent Council on 18th March.

15. Internet safety

Mrs Wareham raised the issue of internet safety and social media. Problems are arising during the school day where children have been bullied or ridiculed via chat rooms, apps, emails and texts. This happens out with school but teachers are spending time dealing with these issues. School feels it has a duty to raise awareness but Internet Safety days are poorly attended by parents and carers.

Issues were raised surrounding use of Chrome Books and the fact children can access YouTube in school.

Actions:-School is having an Internet Safety day on 5th February. Jill Wareham will consider how it may be possible to include parents in some sessions.

PC will discuss some ideas and look into the Chrome Books issue and visit this at our next meeting on 18th March.

The next Internet Safety Day is on 5th February. Parents will be informed.

Other business

- A parent asked if the 1K still happened daily. Mrs Wareham confirmed that it was sporadic due to a number of reasons including, wet conditions in the field, a class may have a child who needs to be risk assessed and that children are running around more at play times due to more space.
- Another question arose as to whether the tree area would be open to children again. Mrs Wareham answered that it was a temporary situation due to advice from the Council tree officer, Mike Foye. The area had been damaged with heavy foot traffic from children which resulted in root damage and flora & fauna completely obliterated. As part of the area was a council tip in previous years, pieces of debris were also becoming exposed.

- The area needs time to recover.
- Innerwick (overnight stay for p5) was cancelled due mainly to staff shortage.
 - A parent asked if Yellowcraig (p6 overnight stay) would go ahead. Mrs Wareham replied that it too was yet to be decided.

Children are unaware and still to be informed

- A last minute email from a concerned parent highlighted the issue of dogs tied to the main gate entrance. They felt that it was causing congestion, distress to some children and to the dogs themselves.

Action:- Parents and carers are reminded that dogs can be tied elsewhere away from the main entrance. Signs to go on fences.

Dates of meetings for 2019

Monday 18th March

Monday 29th April

Monday 3rd June