

Law Primary Parent Council
Minutes of Meeting on Monday 18th March 2019

Attendance

Attendees

Zoe Lovell (Co-Chair)	Kate Allen
Martin Brown (Co-Chair)	Stuart Sharp
Beverly Gilhooley (Clerk)	Bryony Thomson
Charlotte Rooney	Gillian Marr
Layla Gurney	Lesley Jardine
Jackie Reid	Melanie Kay
Kelly Evans	Fiona Fleming
Christa Gray	Popsie Nkuna-Nemudzivhadi
Carrie Cowley	

Teaching Staff

Jill Wareham
Maureen Dalgleish
Ailsa Swinburne

Councillors

Jim Goodfellow

Apologies

Helen Dowson
Stacy Cathcart
Emma Bennett
Lindsey Mcleod
Kate Metzner
Briony Capaldi
Helen Felton
Alison Wilkie
Kate Black
Astrid Trugg

1. Parent Council roles

Zoe Lovell has been acting as Co-Chair since January. A formal vote was taken – no objections.
Charlotte Rooney volunteered to step into the Vice role. A vote was taken - no objections.

Sub committee's will consist Of Helen Felton and Jackie Reid coordinating Health & Wellbeing.

Kelly Evan's will cover Safe Routes to schools.

The members of the parent council were asked if there were any objections. None were noted.

Zoe Lovell, Co-Chair put herself forward as covering Area Partnership. If Zoe cannot make any of the meeting's, Charlotte Rooney or Martin Brown will cover.

Again, the members of Parent Council were consulted as to whether they had any objections. None were noted.

2. Follow up from last meeting 21st January '19

- Homework survey – to date, nobody had volunteered to set up a Yes/No survey on Survey Monkey to ask parents if they were happy with the no homework policy. Jackie Reid volunteered.
- 1K – Teachers from P1 to P5 have agreed to commit to the 1K 4 days a week. P6-7 have different constraints. The curriculum is fuller with added activities and trips. The fact they are on the top floor adds extra time onto this undertaking. They will try to fit this in when they can.

Jill Wareham suggested maybe a parent could start a running club either before school or at lunch times.

Kate Allen wondered if there should be more communication asking for volunteers for lunch clubs

It was noted that Mrs McCauley had very few volunteers for sign up genius. As a result there are Swimming lessons, climbing and Pond dipping all lacking enough volunteers to go ahead at this time.

The PVG policy was queried as to whether one-off trips needed parents to have PVG checks. It was also pointed out that if parents were already committed to helping in school then adding trips into the equation may be difficult. It was thought that it may be more successful if it was open to all parents and not just the parents who are already PVG'd and helping in other ways.

- Play pod – Melanie Kay asked why the Play Pod was still not being used and why no one else had been trained up.

Jill Wareham answered that we need 2 trained members of staff for the Play Pod and at the moment the school were struggling to find any new support staff at all.

It was asked if P7's could be trained on the Play Pod.

- Although they can be trained to generate play, the Play Pod requires adult supervision.

In particular, the task of putting everything back correctly was seen to be too much of an undertaking for p7's.

It was queried as to whether teachers could be trained. It was pointed out that teachers are paid for 35 hours a week and at the moment some are doing up to 50-60 hours a week.

Teachers already give up their lunch to supervise in the dinner hall, add to playground supervision and other voluntary tasks.

Another suggestion was parent volunteers on a rota. This could be possible with training.

Following on from the teachers comments and 'lack of support staff,' Charlotte Rooney asked if the School body knew just how much pressure the school was under and what else we could do to help. Suggestions were – a stall at May Fair to find new volunteers. An email from the parent council explaining the pressures we face and asking for more volunteers.

Kate Allen volunteered to devise this email.

Action: Jackie Reid to set up Survey Monkey for yes/no homework survey.

Martin Brown to contact East Lothian Council to verify PVG.

Bev Gilhooley will ask the office to mention the suggestion of a volunteer for a running club and other lunch time clubs in the upcoming Newsletter. Bev will also ask the office to send out an email asking for Play Pod Volunteers.

Kate Allen will devise an email explaining to parents about the pressures the school are currently under.

3. Internet Safety

Following on from concerns raised over children accessing inappropriate material on You Tube in class, Jill Wareham has sought advice from David Gilmour of East Lothian Council. He advised that firewalls were in place but will not prevent everything unsuitable from getting through and that educating the children about the dangers etc was the way forward.

Mrs Wareham had obtained a 'Digital Parenting' pamphlet from Vodaphone and distributed to all parents.

A question was asked as to why they need to use You Tube to which Mrs Dagleish replied that it was used for language, numeracy, BBC, Science and lots more.

Action: It was suggested the school inform parents to access You Tube via their school account for safer Firewalls. Bev Gilhooley will contact the office.

4. Feedback from sub-groups.

- Health & Wellbeing

Jackie Reid has met with Mrs Wells, kitchen Supervisor to discuss where improvements could be made.

Mrs Wells feels that one of the major problems is food waste. At least 25kg a day - is thrown out. Mrs Wells felt there were certain items that were not good quality and certain items that children never ate therefore were wasteful in being there.

There are some issues with facility's and one problem is the dishwasher not being fit for purpose. Suggestions were made that possibly the PTA could be approached and asked to pay for a new industrial dishwasher.

Another issue is communication between parents and the kitchen staff. In particular, the fact parents feel there might not be enough food. It may be that the food itself needs to be revised given the amount that children waste.

Mrs Swinburne reminded all parents to please log onto SchoolPay and log their children's lunch choices – including pack lunches. This will help the class teacher start the school day a lot quicker.

Action: Jackie will follow up on some of Mrs Well's suggestions and contact East Lothian Council. Zoe Lovell will put forward the suggestion of the kitchen Dishwasher to the PTA.

- Safer Routes to School

Zoe Lovell confirmed numbers on the Sustrans survey. 50 came to the meeting and 210 filled out the online survey.

Sustrans are looking at North Berwick as a whole which was felt to be a positive. On the Move are looking into more cycle Paths.

Results to follow.

Action: To be discussed at the next meeting on 29th April '19.

- How Good Is Our School.

Fiona Fleming and the rest of the team have been working closely with Ailsa Swinburne.

The group have been looking into many areas including – what makes our school unique? How is our presence within the town and could we have more links with the community? It was felt that one of Law Primary's biggest assets is our accessibility to many outdoor opportunities. Unusually large grounds, the law and Beach on our doorstep; opens up opportunities. The group will discuss how this can be utilised for learning opportunity. Also discussed was how can parental engagement and communication be improved.

Action: There will be an invite to all parents on the May in-service day (20th May). Parents can contribute ideas on how we can improve our school.

Updates from this sub group will follow on at the next meeting on 29th April '19.

5. Headteachers report

- A report on Staffing was given by the Headteacher.

Budget

End of financial year.

Development work

Feb in-service day – Primary conference at Dunbar. Staff chose workshops.

Sports Festival Wed 29th May.

Learning conferences

Rights Respecting Schools – silver assessment next Monday. Volunteers?

Positive relationships policy

Assemblies programme – parents invited.

Play on Pedals at nursery. Successful funding bid for balance bikes

Digital parenting guides distributed to all families

25 classes for next session. Planning staffing for next year.

Events and Activities

P7 camp

P7 Rotary quiz

Cross country event at school and then team into East Lothian Cross country – 1st place

Swim gala 1st

Fair Trade coffee morning 1st March with NB FT partnership

Theatre visits – Pondlife, Emma and Gill, road safety.

6. Trust visit and application.

Jill Wareham, Zoe Lovell, Martin Brown, Tina O'Rourke and Antonia Hamilton recently met with members of North Berwick Trust.

The Trust were shown around the school including areas such as the Harbour Room, Lighthouse Room and areas of disrepair such as the P1/P2 toilets.

The Trust noted the lack of staff to make full use of the facility's and were surprised by the number shortfalls and needs of the school.

As the Trust are releasing funds of £200,000 to local groups in March and October this year it was felt by the Parent Council that we should act quickly to get a bid into the Trust by the closing date of 8th April.

The school has advised their main area of concern at the moment is Mental Health Support. As such, the bid will focus on funding for a Mental Health pilot project over a certain period.

Action: Carrie Cowley, Bryony Thomson, Zoe Lovell and Martin Brown have volunteered to work together on the bid.

7. Positive Relations Policy

Parents have been advised to read it.

Action: To be re visited at the next meeting on 29th April '19

8. Use of pitches

Jill Wareham confirmed that all the pitches are open to children.

On excessively wet, muddy days the children are encouraged not to play on them. Otherwise the full area is open.

At some point, re seeding may take place on the bottom pitch.

9. P1/P2 toilets

The toilets in question are in dire need of refurbishment. They are deemed unhygienic and not fit for use.

The council insist they have no funds.

The consensus was that parents could help by also writing as individuals – along with the parent council to keep pushing for action. Pester power.

If anyone writes to the council, Cllr Jim Goodfellow has asked to be copied in.

Action: Parents encouraged to start writing to East Lothian Council.

Other business

- Zoe Lovell reminded parents to be mindful on social media and to refrain from discussing issues regarding school.
- Martin Brown gave a brief description of a new app called Trickle. The App has been offered to parents for free. It is an easy way to log issues to Parent Council and will link any matching issues. Described by Martin – ‘A trickle becomes a flood.’ Martin felt it would be a good way of highlighting the main issues within the school.

Action: To be discussed further at the next meeting on 29th April '19.

- *Parents have been wondering what decision has been made on the new nursery location. Jill Wareham has no updates due negotiations ongoing with the High School.*

*As the proposed land (located behind the original carpark) belongs to the High School and may be needed for their own future extension, this may take some time.
At the moment the build should be completed by January 2021. This date could change.*

Action: Jill Wareham will update parents if any information becomes available.

Dates of meetings for 2019

Monday 29th April

Monday 3rd June