

## Law Primary Parent Council

### Minutes of Meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

#### Attendance

#### Attendees

Martin Brown (Co-Chair)  
Charlotte Rooney (Vice Chair)  
Beverly Gilhooley (Clerk)  
Kate Metzner  
Bryon Thomson  
Ann Reilly  
Hannah Hughes  
Christa Gray  
Jane Darlington  
Kate Allen  
Melanie Kay

#### Teaching Staff

Jill Wareham  
Maureen Dalglish

#### Councillors

Jeremy Findlay

#### Apologies

Zoe Lovell (Co-Chair)  
Stacy Cathcart  
Emma Bennett  
Lindsey Mcleod  
Briony Capaldi  
Kate Black  
Astrid Trugg  
Helen Felton  
Layla Gurney  
Alison Wilkie  
Popsie Nkuna-Nemudzivhadi

#### **1. Minutes of last meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April – any comments**

Jill Wareham pointed out that although Megan Wright had queried whether Race for Life would happen this year; she hadn't formally agreed to organise.

## 2. Updates from last meeting

- Play Pod

Ailsa Swinburn attended a Play Conference in Wallyford and has also found someone to work with Mrs Riddle. Hopefully the Pod will be open after the summer.

Christa Grey has found no other interest from parents so far. Volunteers were requested from both P1 facebook page and asking around the playground but no takers as yet.

Melanie Kay volunteered to take up the 2 hours training offered and help out once a week.

**Action:- Suggestions such as a volunteers Facebook page or sign up genius were discussed. To follow on from this at the next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Noted: Mrs Swinburn is the contact for the play pod.**

- NB Trust

The trust came back to Zoe Lovell to apologise. An error had occurred where the Parent Council bid for Play therapy was overlooked and not reviewed. This was an accident for which they have apologised and the Trust will look at our bid separately and get back to us.

**Action:- Parent Council were reminded that this was not to be discussed out with the meeting, including social media; as our relationship with the Trust was to remain on good terms.**

- P1 toilets

The council have agreed to update the P2 toilets. Hopefully this will happen over the summer holidays provided that the council manage to find no less than 3 contractors to put in a bid in time. This is normal procedure.

- Trickle

Due to low numbers there has been very little action on the piolet Trickle.

It was suggested than more email addresses be given at the meeting so that this app can be sent to their email address and people can sign up.

**Action:- More Parent reps to receive the email via Martin and hopefully sign up. To be discussed at the next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> September.**

- **Dyslexia**

Hannah Hughes and Anna Pult are trying to find ways of connecting with other parents of dyslexic children.

Carrie Cowley (ASN Group) gave them an insight and advice on how their informal ASN group usually works. Hannah felt that the dyslexia group could feed into the ASN group.

Anna Pult suggested bringing some speakers and experts into school to give parents of dyslexic children help and advice. Anna also knows of some dyslexia workshops available.

Parent Council were keen to help and support this group going forward.

**Action:- Hannah and Anna to work on ways to connect with parents including asking the office to send out a Group Call to all parents.**

### **3. Head Teachers Report**

#### **Budget**

Over spend at the end of financial year. Cut to ad hoc staffing by 38 hours. Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 but notified in October 2018.

Predictable needs was £136,884 in 17/18 then £116,351 in 18/19 and now £105,266.

Mrs Thomas DHT-4 days-no backfill. Miss Duncan reducing to 4 days-no backfill.

Application in to Russell Bequest for gymnastics equipment for new hall.

#### **Development work/School improvement**

May in-service day – CIRCLE resource, library service, self-evaluation. Parents invited.

1-2 CAT from the teachers who went to France last summer. Erasmus funding.

Self-improving school's team – Longniddry + yester + Law

Working time agreement for next session.

David Gilmour coming in this Thursday to do session for parents on ICT to support learning - esp dyslexia.

#### **Property issues**

Sports Hall ceiling leak

P2 area refurbishment over summer

New toilets in P1 & P2

Area by giant tyres re-seeded

#### **Events & Activities**

PTA May Fair

Meadowmill – 2<sup>nd</sup> in large schools

P7 Lagganlia

P7 Musical

P4 Climbing at NB Law

P6 Climate Change conference

Plastic fantastic

Orienteering competition P5 team won. Scottish Championships this Friday.

P1 Botany trip

Sports festival - thanks to all the adult helpers.

Gardening Scotland pallet garden third prize – supported by North Berwick in Bloom. 2 entries this year – from school and nursery

Assemblies – SSPCA, Robert Burgon – World Council Plumbers – re right to water, Buddhist speaker, Hazel Gray for Christian Aid week. P6 shared work on anti-bullying and P7 band.

P2 Bee Green.

### **Following on from HT report, Questions arose.**

- We will know classes and teachers for next academic year soon. Children meet the teacher 18<sup>th</sup> June.
- Mrs McCauley is no longer leaving or reducing her hours.
- Mrs Lewis, currently providing cover, will return 3 days a week as a class teacher.
- A parent asked who we could complain to regarding the budget cuts.  
Jeremy Findlay advised that the Education Budget should be protected and he will look into this.  
Iain Grey MSP & John Swinney MSP's are also both against free school meals determining the budget and worth writing to.
- Hannah Hughes, following on from Dyslexia, asked if there was more we could do to make sure children with dyslexia were having an extra 3-5 days reading per week as per the Good Practice advice given by an education psychologist via ELC.  
Jeremy Findlay will speak to Fiona Robertson to get advice on this
- Anna Pult asked if the school was using open dyslexia font. Mrs Wareham confirmed that some classes were but not all.  
Mrs Dalgleish said the practice was for 'Inclusive Classrooms' which included visual symbols and going over instructions.  
When asked if teachers were given special training on dyslexia the answer was no.  
Hannah Hughes queried whether practises could be consistent without training.  
Jill Wareham confirmed - basic requirements are being used.  
Another parent asked if an expert could come in and give advice and JW replied that there used to be but that was cut.  
Maureen Dalgleish suggested the Dyslexia Support Group work together to draft a letter to the council. Jeremy Findlay would like copied in.  
JW confirmed that David Gilmour was coming into school to discuss IT support learning on 4<sup>th</sup> June.
- After parents received the new learning reports and longer learning conference, JW has looked at 50 returned comments sheets so far.  
40 were in favour of the new system  
9 would like more detail  
1 wanted both  
Discussion followed and the consensus was that a small amount of text with some personal comments would be preferred.
- A parent commented that only anything above 95% attendance was deemed as excellent and this seemed unfair as illness has to be accounted for and cannot be helped. Further to that it was expressed that 100% attendance isn't necessarily a good thing when children are sent to school ill.

- Following on from P6 Climate Change conference, Martin Brown contacted the P6 teachers and offered to come and meet the children and ask how we could help. Possibly by connecting with the local group 'Earth Cool' and see how the school could contribute as a whole.

**Action:- Await advice from teachers.**

#### 4. Sub Groups

Martin Brown reminded everyone that sub groups can work between meetings as only 3 people can't keep everything going.

#### Health & Wellbeing

Charlotte confirmed that the group had met twice since the last meeting. After meeting with a councillor friend of Charlotte's, it transpired that a trainee councillor needs to fulfil 250 hours of volunteer counselling in order to be fully qualified.

**Action:- Charlotte will look into the trainee councillors further to see if this is a resource the school can tap into. The group will discuss with the new head.**

Jackie and Helen joined the dinner hall at lunch time in order to get an overall feel of how school lunches worked.

They felt that although numbers were challenging, everything ran smoothly.

It was fast paced from a service point of view but children seemed to have enough time to eat.

If anything, the children had to be forced to stay and eat more.

The children wasted huge amounts of food. The staff confirmed this was a daily issue. Children were keen to get out to play and would have a bite of sandwich, a mouthful of soup then try to move onto pudding. There was teacher supervision and children were encouraged to sit and eat more of their meal.

The food quality was dubious as were the choices of food that children regularly never eat.

It highlighted the fact that this was a bigger issue at local authority and government level.

Jackie pointed out that she will need more volunteers to tackle this.

**Action:- Jackie will look further into what can be done. Will return to this at our next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September.**

#### Safer Routes

Grange Road. Marshall still looking into the private ownership. Jeremy Findlay has offered to help with this as it has dragged on for so long.

Dunbar Road, Aldi crossing. Dundara funding once the finalised design is complete, safety audited and agreed.

Sustrans – Peter Brett Associates has completed the survey and the Final report should have been in months ago but they are running late with this.

Ware Bridge Road – traffic lights are in place but not working.

Planning for a huge Mobile mast has been highlighted as a potential hazard for children crossing in Dundas Road. Locals have asked if Parent Council could get involved as mobile phone companies only have to inform the 2 nearest houses. More support needed.

A reminder that parents are not to drive into the turning circle in the mornings as this presents danger to children walking to school alone.

Dogs are still being tied up at the school entrance. Parents are reminded that some children are frightened of dogs and could cause them to step onto the road to avoid them.

### **Parental Engagement**

Kate and her group are trying to come up with ideas on how to get more parents involved with school.

Ideas included a Volunteer Fair. Easier to manage emails with bullet points in the heading. Evaluate the Parent Council Meeting. Look into how Dunbar communicate with parents.

Make the Website more user friendly. Involve Digi Ninjas.

A parent suggested that Parent Council and other groups could be present at learning conferences to engage with parents.

Notice boards could be utilised more.

Martin Brown advised PC that Bev Skirrow from ELC would come to our next meeting and review how things are done. Bev works with all Parent Councils in East Lothian.

Martin also suggested that Trickle could be helpful with communication

***Action:- Kate will work on ideas with the office and with her group.***

#### **5. Other business**

- Martin asked reps to please try and get things onto the agenda at least 8 days before the meeting.
- Council would like the parent council's opinion on 'cost of the school day'.

Discussions ensued on how we could help those who need it.

Suggestions were that we have a uniform box located somewhere in the school. It could be advertised as a way of being greener. JW suggested the parent's room.

Zero Waste Dunbar have a free uniform day every last Sunday of the month.

Christa added that there is a kindness cupboard at the community centre although they were running low on donations.

Instead of dress up days it could be PJ's day.

- As it was Jill Wareham's Last meeting, parent council presented her with a thank you gift.

### **Dates of meetings for 2019**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

