

Longniddry Primary School Parent Council Meeting 17th January 2018		
	<p><u>Present:</u> Alan McNeill (Chair), Jenny Sully (Nursery pm), Esther Hurrell (Nursery am), Gemma Luke (P1), Katie Medlam (P2), Suzanne Low (P2/3), Joanne Chatwin (P3), Claire Verri (P5), Joan Fairfull (P6)</p> <p><u>In Attendance:</u> Sheona Skinner (Head Teacher), Stephanie MacFadyen (Deputy Head Teacher), Veronica Brown (Clerk)</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Cllr Fiona O'Donnell, Cllr Willie Innes, Lynn Kemp, Cllr Lachlan Bruce</p>	Action
1	<p><u>Matters Arising / Minutes of Last Meeting</u> Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting on 29th November 2017.</p> <p>Following the last meeting Sheona, Steph & JRSO have done a patrol of the parking situation in Kitchener Cres & John Knox Road. Representatives from East Lothian Council have also been making spot checks. ELC will be back soon again to see if the situation has improved.</p> <p>Proposed: Joanne Seconded: Esther</p>	
2	<p><u>Election of Chair and Year Stage Rep Vacancies</u></p> <p>Alan was elected as the new Chair for the remainder of this academic session and the post as Vice Chair will remain vacant until further notice.</p> <p>Alan thanked Ross for being chair for the past few years and also announced that he will be stepping down at the end of the year. Claire announced that she will also step down at the end of the year.</p> <p>A Parent member representative for P4 will be sought and there is a possibility to swap with P1 if it is easier to find a replacement. Sheona to email P4 parents/carers.</p>	SS
3	<p><u>Treasurer Update</u> The Parent Council Bank balance as of 1st January 2018 is £5269.27</p> <p>Sheona to request breakdown of the Winter Wonderland stalls takings from Lynn again.</p> <p>A big thank you to everyone for helping with Winter Wonderland as getting volunteers for the stalls was difficult this year. P7 doesn't run a Mini-Fayre anymore so it was suggested to take help from them next year for all the stalls. Joan asked if any feedback had been received and if anything could be improved for next year? Claire mentioned that the home baking was a little bit quiet since it was in a different hall. Gemma said that some parents didn't realise that the pupils had made their own crafts and missed the chance to buy the ones made by their children. A point to note for next year was to keep the childrens crafts next to the indiv year stage stalls as last year. Water and wine stall went really well and made a lot of money.</p>	SS

4

Headteachers report

Busy start back to the new term. All classes will have input from Generation Science this session and class newsletters will be issued shortly detailing learning & teaching plans. Plans are underway for Numeracy week – more info to following regarding parent open sessions and Pirate Challenge Day.

Governance Review

The Education Bill Consultation is open until the 30th January 2018. It will have a huge impact on the way Schools are run and governed. The parent's role in Schools and parent's role on the Parent Council is changing. It is an extensive document with 24 questions which Scottish Government are seeking feedback on. Sheona led the Parent Council through a powerpoint presentation and some of the issues surrounding the proposed changes were discussed. There continues to be lack of clarity on a number of points so answering the questions and responding to the consultation in a meaningful way is challenging.

Below are examples of questions from the consultation with comments:

Q13 - Should the bill include collaborating with partner councils and Education Scotland? The issues we are facing in East Lothian may be very different from Fife being a very large authority.

Q14 - Should the bill require RIC to maintain and to publish annually regional improvement plans? Sheona said that annual reports are already completed by ELC and individual schools. Concern that is the plan comes from the RIC are we really addressing local issues?

1. There will be a Headteachers charter which will give HT's increased ability to decide on the curriculum for their School, drive improvement, make staffing decisions. HT's in ELC already have this autonomy with the support of the local authority. The Local authorities across Scotland are very different where some provide high quality support for HT's and teachers and some impose local restrictions.
2. The Parental Engagement strengthens the duties on HT to work with the Parent Council and to communicate with the Parent Forum and will be a legal framework. Parents will see clear objectives with a follow up and measures of success. The duties on the Parent Council will be updated and clarified to represent diversity of the School Community with a strong parental involvement in RIC.
3. Pupil participation in the Schools will be strengthened and the pupils will have an increased say in decisions affecting their school. Everyone will have a say and a voice. Sheona said that Longniddry already has a strong pupil voice and the pupils are really good at communicating at meetings and deciding what is important to them.
4. Education workforce council for Scotland will see many professionals involved, for example Teachers, Practitioners, Librarians and a home School link.

Chair for East Lothian Association of Parent Council Members (ELAPCM) Colin Henderson has emailed out to all Parent Councils about his thoughts on the Bill urging everyone to respond and giving advice to anyone who wants to contact him directly.

Alan asked all Parent Council members to email him their thoughts so he can put them together and respond to the Consultation before the deadline.

