



Longniddry Primary School Parent Council Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 20th June 2018

Present: Alan McNeill (Chair), Sheona Skinner (Head Teacher), Stephanie MacFadyen (Deputy Head Teacher), Cllr Lachlan Bruce, Cllr Neil Gilbert, Lynn Kemp, Suzanne Low, Gemma Luke, Lynne Bowers, Katie Medlam, Esther Hurrell, Joan Fairfull, Joanne Chatwin, Jenny Sully, Veronica Brown (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Fiona O'Donnell, Claire Verri

Approval of the minutes from 2017 AGM

Minutes from last year's AGM were approved. Proposed: Joanne Seconded: Esther

Head Teacher's Report

Miss Skinner thanked all the staff for all their hard work and professionalism throughout the year. She feels incredibly fortunate to have such a professional team that are go above and beyond. A special thank you to Mrs MacFadyen for her commitment and drive to lead the school forward. Thanks to all the pupils and also thanks to the Parent Council members and dedicated parents for all their support.

Big thanks to Alan who has been a member of the Parent Council as Chair and Vice Chair for a number of years and is now sadly stepping down. Thanks also to Lynn for being the Treasurer and to Veronica for being clerk.

The School has been awarded their UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award. There is a very positive ethos throughout the school and the pupil engagement and quality of learning is high. The pupils are very engaged and are a credit to the school. All the pupils have an active part to play in the life of the school and are very much involved in their own learning. The Silver Celebration was very much enjoyed by pupils, staff and parents and was featured in the local newspapers. A great achievement and we are now going for gold!

Miss Bertram and Miss Hicks are leaving Longniddry to take on new posts and Miss Murray is joining us as an NQT in August. Mrs Banks has taken the Senior Practitioner post in Nursery and interviews for new staff to cover the spaces in Nursery have been undertaken.

Chair's report

Alan reflected on his years as a member of the Parent Council for 9 years in total. He started at first year in nursery and his eldest is now going into High School. Thanks to the staff team and to Sheona for making the school a lovely place for the children to be. Thanks to Miss Bertram as a P7 Teacher and best of luck in her new post. Thanks also to Steph for being a huge asset as Deputy Head Teacher for the past year.

In the past year the Parent Council had the Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre event, which was a huge success. Going forward, the Parent Council will always support things that

the school do and it would be good to hear about more different things that the parent body would like to see. The Parent Council is very supportive of the work for the gold award during next year. Also big thanks to each and every Parent Council member for all their support and all they do.

Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance £4093.06

Income Received;

Winter Wonderland £2389.85

Easy Fund Raising £19.81

Total £2409.66

Expenses;

P7 Hoodies £538.50

Teachers Leaving Gifts £207.75

Winter Wonderland Expenses £467.39

Book Bags for New P1's £160.00

Total £1373.64

Closing Balance £5129.08

The P7 hoodies is still to come out of the expenses.

Ideas of what to spend the monies on were discussed. A float of at least £1000 is kept in the account and £3000 can be used for something more substantial and will be agreed on in the next session. Mentioned were:

- Outdoors games and recourses
- Rainy day boxes per class
- Easter fun event for outdoors.

The Parent Council has given a voucher in the past for long serving members of staff who leave as a thank you and it was approved to continue to do this. Lynn will organise.

Election of year stage representatives incl. Chair, Vice chair and Treasurer

The Parent Council members did not wish to take on the position as Chair or Vice Chair at the AGM. Alan explained a bit about what the chair position entails. It can also be combined with the class representative and will be decided at the next meeting.

Chair: vacant

Vice Chair: vacant

Treasurer: Lynn Kemp – Proposed: Joanne Chatwin, Seconded: Katie Medlam

Nursery pm: Katie Medlam

Nursery am: Jenny Sully

P1 vacant

P1/2 Esther Hurrell

P2/3 Gemma Luke

P3/4 Susanne Low
P4 Joanne Chatwin
P5 Lynne Bowers
P6 Claire Verri
P7 Joan Fairfull

Year Stage Issues

Nursery pm – Big thank you to all the nursery staff.

Nursery am – A big thank you to all the nursery staff and happy for Mrs Banks to take on her new role. Confusion over whole school events and whether these include nursery or not. The parents asked if it can be made explicit when nursery is part or not.

P1 – No issues raised

P2 – Parents from P2, P2/3 and P3 had asked not to have the sols talk presentation at the end of term, which is a busy time and just before the summer holidays.

P2/3 – Parents felt that the teddy going home a second time around was once too many.

P3 – There had not been any homework over Gala week and the pupils and parents asked if this could be added from now on. Miss Skinner would take this into consideration.

P4 – No issues raised

P5 – No issues raised

P6 – Parents and pupils really appreciate the frequent use of twitter with great photos of the pupil's and as a community effort. Mrs MacFadyen said that the pupil's are now getting extra House points when posting on twitter, which is a great incentive.

P7 – Big thank you to Miss Bertram. Thanks also for excellent transition days and support in going into High School.

AOB

Alan suggested having a School Uniform Shop where second hand uniforms are swapped? The school already operates this system. Miss Skinner said that uniforms are regularly handed in and at her discretion handed out to families who might not be able to afford to buy them. Cllr Bruce added that this is a great way of doing it because if it happens more formally, there might be stigma attached to it.

Cllr Gilbert reminded the Parent Council members that the Free School Meals and Clothing Grants kicks in next school year and to remind everyone to apply for it if eligible. Miss Skinner encourages parents to take the free school meals and added that the school is happy to help filling out the forms.

The school is encouraging avoiding cash payments for school lunches which means that the catering staff doesn't have to do banking. If the school lunch hasn't been paid for, the pupil's will still be fed and the staff follow up unpaid monies. A new system of paying for and ordering lunch in advance is being trialled in some schools. Lunch is ordered in advance

via the parents and Katie said that you can even do it on the phone. Jo said that the orders need to be in a week in advance and the children sometimes forget what they ordered. Miss Skinner said that knowing how many lunches to make in advance keeps the costs down. Online payments also reduce staffing costs in the kitchen as money doesn't need to be counted. There is a computer program that measures the portions and what is regarded as a balanced meal for children at that their age for maximum nutritional value.

Instrumental music lessons will be chargeable from August 2018 following a budget decision made by East Lothian Council. The fee is set to £280 paid in 10 instalments with free tuition for families eligible for free school meals. Miss Skinner said that all Head Teachers were consulted about a number of saving suggestions. People can ask more of the service when paying for it ensuring that it is good quality and continuously improved, supporting their children's learning and getting feedback. Lynne suggested having a free trial period before committing to play an instrument that the children initially might like, however don't warm to long term? Cllr Bruce said that the decision has been made and can't be changed back. The payment is in instalments and can be stopped at any time and added that it is fine to write to Head of Education, Fiona Robertson flagging concerns. Alan will do this.

Dates for next year's meetings

Wednesday 12th September 2018

(post meeting note, this was changed to the 26th September 2018)