



PINKIE PARENTS

**Minutes of the meeting
held at Pinkie St Peters
on Monday 22 August 2016**

Present: Kirsty Sivell (Clerk) Susan Harkins (Vice Chair) Clare Morley (Treasurer) Joanne Friend, Louise Scott, Suzanne Douglas, Suzanne Gunn, Morgan Scott, Shirley Bailey, Kerry Donaldson, Wendy Barber, Douglas Fraser, Stephen Dishon, Deborah Forsyth, Cllr Stuart Currie, Cllr Andy Forrest

Staff in Attendance: Sarah Ogden (Head Teacher) Hazel Rae (Depute Head) Helen Gordon (Depute Head)

Minutes taken by: Kirsty Sivell (Clerk)

1. Welcome and Apologies

SH welcomed all to the meeting

2. Minutes of Meeting of

Minutes approved from previous meeting

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

Anything outstanding will be covered during the course of the meeting

4. Pupil Report

No pupil representation

5. Head Teacher's Report

5.1 Calendar of events

HT will be issuing a letter to parents at the start of term sharing information on dates for the whole year including class photos, Christmas show, sports day, parent consultations, transition dates, leaver's assembly etc.

5.2 Building

The main build was handed back at the end of the summer break, it has been a massive job for staff to organise all the classrooms before the beginning of term. HT would like to thank the staff & builders for all their hard work and also the parents & children for being so adaptable and flexible throughout the build. There are lots of new facilities in the school including 12 new classrooms, a brand new dance

studio, new library, extended and refurbished dining room, court yard & secret garden with raised beds, fruit bushes, tunnel & pinkie foal to name but a few.

5.3 Parking

Billy continues to put the barriers across the front school gate to stop people parking. HT will keep reinforcing that this is for the safety of the children as people continue to park on the grass on either side of the gates.

5.4 New Access

HT has reopened the pedestrian gate in front of the nursery; this has been locked for a long time. The gate will only open to allow access in and out of school between 8.00am-9.00am and will shut just after the bell and open again at 2.30pm until 3.30pm.

5.5 Staffing

There is a slight increase to the number of classes this year 14 instead of 13 and a number of new teachers & teaching staff have been appointed:

Danielle Denholm - P1

Georgie Yates - P2

Douglas Fraser - P4

Sean Drysdale - P5

Gayle Christie- P6&7

Gail Dixon - ASN Auxiliary

Lynn Smail - Classroom Assistant

Gavin McManus - Classroom Assistant

5.6 Outdoor Education

HT stressed the importance of children being outside and being active. With this in mind all staff have now been trained on how to be outdoor leaders so they can facilitate trips outdoors. This training will continue throughout the year and staff will be organising orienteering and other outdoor based activities that all the children can take part in.

The school is working with outdoor education and will be helping the children work towards an accredited qualification. P7's will be doing mountain biking, P6's will be doing water sports and P5's will be doing climbing. The children will be able to chart their progress. HT hopes this will continue year on year. The water sports will be held at the lagoons through the summer months and the sports centre during the

winter months. The children will continue to do the daily mile and P4 swimming lessons as planned.

5.7 Science Lab

The science lab is ready and P2 upwards will be starting their science lessons soon.

5.8 Football

Football has been causing some fall outs and disagreements at break and lunchtimes which is having a big impact on learning. Staff have been aware of this problem for the last year and have tried different strategies to solve this. Staff have discussed this with the children and explained that football should be about team work and sportsmanship. Play time on the football pitches has now been timetabled and Mr McManus will be supervising this. Friday is a no football day and the children will be doing other activities during PE time. This will continue to be reviewed.

5.9 Tea & Toast

A reminder that the tea & toast drop in is still happening every Wednesday morning, anyone can come along for a chat or a cup of tea.

5.10 Education Scotland Visit

Tomorrow education Scotland is visiting as part of the secondary school consultation. Some of the pinkie parents are attending. They plan to speak to some of the children, staff and parents during their visit.

5.11 Staff Training

Staff have all received 'WRAP' training (which stands for workshop on raising awareness to prevent) to help identify and prevent radicalisation. This is a new Government policy and anyone working with children will have the same training.

5.12 Soft play

A big thank you to the Pinkie farm shop who kindly donated £1000 to purchase equipment for the soft play. The school have also put some school funds towards it; this will be a fantastic facility for the children.

6. Fundraising

SD has suggested pulling together a calendar with all the key dates which can be sold at the nativity this year. It was agreed that this was a good idea and SD will speak to Wendy Neil in the printing unit at ELC to look at costs.

SH confirmed that fundraising last term went really well, the school fair was well attended and a huge success raising over £2000. There is now over £8k in the bank and we will need to agree on a plan of what to spend the money on. SD, SH & HT will discuss out with the parent council and agree an action plan.

The Tesco open space fund was mentioned which is aimed at community projects improving the environment. The school could submit an application for the new playground and secure a grant of between £8000-£12000. SH will explore this and other funding/grants available for the playground. CM mentioned a company called Grounds for learning that may be able to assist - CM will dig out the leaflet. SH will make a start and set up a working group of teaching staff, parents & children to look at making progress on the playground.

A date for the Halloween party was discussed and it was agreed that Thursday 3rd November would be best as Benmore is happening the week before Halloween.

SD has had lots of donations of school uniform for the rail. HT agreed that the most suitable place for this would be at the main entrance and parents can help themselves when coming and going from the school. Louise will post a weekly update on facebook reminding parents that the rail is in the main entrance.

SD mentioned that all volunteers should be PVG checked which should be free if done through volunteer Scotland.

7. Treasurers report

Current balance is £8300 approx. £2800 up on this time last year.

£100 is earmarked for the school playground, £500 for Benmore & £360 for the yearbooks. It was agreed that these amounts should be paid annually to the school funds as they are recurring costs.

It was agreed that it would be good to pull something together to send out to parents about what the fundraising money is being used for. SH will email wording to HT with a breakdown to include in the next newsletter.

The £900 which was donated from the common good fund was used to purchase the new class cameras; an additional £500 was donated from Pinkie parents.

8. East Lothian association of parent council meetings

A parent involvement newsletter was recently circulated to the parent council which included dates for future training events that are free for members of the parent council to attend e.g. recruitment & selection, edubuzz, clerk/chair/treasurer training. As SH is acting chair she will try to get along to future meetings and feedback to the parent council.

Named person newsletter - Kirsty will circulate to the parent council

9. Other Business

Named person newsletter - Kirsty will circulate to the parent council

Cllr Currie provided an update on some of the key priorities including the budget review & raising attainment.

SH is keen to put together a quick video to promote the parent council so the school can put it on the facebook page and the website to encourage parents to come along to the meetings.

