



**PINKIE PARENTS
MONDAY, 15 JANUARY 2018 AT 7PM
PINKIE ST PETERS SCHOOL**

- Present:** Susan Harkins (Chair)
Suzanne Douglas (Deputy Chair)
Wendy Barber (Treasurer)
Louise Scott (Clerk)
Cllr Stuart Currie
Stephen Dishon
Cllr Andy Forrest
Joanne Friend
Suzanne Gunn
Jade McCarter
Ashley McGarvie
Kiernan Noel-Paton
Becca Pollard
Emily Price
Gaynor Ross
Morgan Scott
Louise Smith
- Staff in Attendance:** Sarah Ogden (Head Teacher)
Hazel Rae (Deputy Head Teacher)
Helen Gordon (Deputy Head Teacher)
Lisa Livingstone (Class Teacher)
- Apologies:** Deborah Forsyth
Cllr Katie Mackie
Clare Morley
Cllr John Williamson

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Matters Arising

Facebook Page

2.1 Susan informed the meeting that a post had been placed on the Pinkie Parents Facebook page reminding parents not to use the page as a forum for raising personal matters – which should be raised directly with the school. The Parent Council would of course assist with any general issues, which should be raised via email. The role of Pinkie Parents is to provide help and support to parents and the school management. Any posts or comments placed on the Facebook page which could identify an individual member of staff or child would be removed. If this were to continue then consideration would be given to the status of the page, with posts not being permitted.

2.2 The meeting agreed to put together a communications policy, with a view to survey parents on a regular basis to identify any ongoing issues. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting. **(Action: Clerk).**

Playground Improvements

2.3 Primary 6 pupils have been working with local artist Toby Lerner on creating designs for the playground. The plan was to carry out the painting project over the Easter holidays with a payment of £400 being paid to Toby for a week's work. Once the timescales were finalised volunteers would be most welcome to assist. A risk assessment would be completed before any work was carried out.

2.4 The school were currently in discussions with the Council's estates department regarding the number of potholes in the playground – with council officials due to visit soon to inspect the playground. Any design and painting work would depend on whether any resurfacing of the playground was to take place.

2.5 The issue of the lack of lighting at the back of the school building was raised, especially by parents who use the Out of School Club. Ms Ogden agreed to raise this with the council as part of their visit. **(Action: Ms Ogden).**

Pupil Equity Fund

2.6 Ms Ogden provided an update on the Pupil Equity Fund, with it being used to employ extra specialist staff within the school to provide a range of additional support for pupils. This included 2 additional classroom assistants, one of which was a fully trained speech and language therapist who would work with pupils who require daily support; outdoor learning time for pupils; musician graduates who were working with classes and groups of pupils as well as lunchtime sessions; and a dance instructor.

2.7 As well as this the school were working on establishing a befriending service – to assist families who may benefit from extra support. Negotiations were currently on-going with social work on this.

2.8 It was key that any funding not spent this financial year was kept within the school, given problems with recruiting the right staff in time.

3. Head Teachers Report

3.1 Ms Ogden began her report by informing the meeting that a newsletter had been issued to pupils that day, providing an update on staff recruitment and other issues.

3.2 Recruitment, across the country had continued to be an issue – with the two class teacher vacancies still unfilled. The posts were again advertised w/c 8 January 2018. It was crucial that the right staff were employed. The following update on staffing was provided:

- Ms Torrance continues to teach P7 until a permanent teacher is in place;
- Mrs Doyle, who was a permanent supply teacher from the local authority, was working with Mrs Gordon in teaching P2A – and would continue to do so until a permanent teacher was in place;
- Mrs Dixon was now teaching P4A, until Ms Wood returned from maternity leave – which was still to be confirmed, but would be around Easter time.
- Mr Marshall would continue to teach P1 until the end of the year.
- Anne Marie had returned from sick leave and was now back in the nursery.
- Jackie Puntin would continue to work in the nursery until Mrs Dixon returned.
- A new classroom assistant, Luke Neve had been employed and was working with P1 and P2.

3.3 A number of P7 pupils attended an event earlier in the week as part of Your Voice, Your Choice – a scheme being run by the Musselburgh Area Partnership to allow children in the area to have a say on the services available, with funding being

available for projects. Groups of pupils would be established to look at a range of ideas for possible applications for funding.

3.4 The pantomime Beauty and the Beast would be performed in the school on 25 January.

3.5 Parent consultations would be taking place on 27 and 28 March – with letters requesting preferred date to be issued by the school.

3.6 The POD was continuing its good work, but was also now looking at the possibility of having a Musselburgh Area POD. There was also the possibility of getting East Coast FM involved. This was being looked into.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 Wendy provided an update on the account – with an existing balance of £3,822. £900 of this had been set aside for playground equipment and a payment was still to be made to the school to contribute towards the Christmas parties.

4.2 Commitments for the year ahead included the regular contribution towards Benmore and any further funding applications from classes.

4.3 A funding application had been received from P4A&B, to contribute towards their attendance at a Generation science workshop based on designing, building and programming of Lego – and would assist pupils in their interdisciplinary topic. It was agreed that funding of £200 would be provided. **(Action: Wendy).**

5. Fundraising Group Update

5.1 There was discussion around holding another disco for pupils, around a valentines theme. A date and arrangements would be looked into and information sent to pupils.

5.2 P7 Fundraising for their end of year party would be done by the P7's in discussion with teachers and parents.

5.3 It was agreed that a fundraising meeting would be arranged soon to discuss our biggest upcoming fundraising events – the Edinburgh Marathon Festival stall on 27 May and the school fair.

5.4 Ms Ogden was continuing to investigate the use of the school for the Edinburgh Marathon Festival and the fees involved.

6. Any Other Business

Secondary School Provision

6.1 A public meeting was held in December to discuss and update on the secondary school provision in Musselburgh. A letter has now been issued to parents updating on the schedule for the new additional high school, with a provisional opening of 2022.

Nursery Provision

6.2 Ms Ogden was meeting with the Council's estate's department next week to discuss the new nursery building.

Parking

6.3 This has again been raised as an issue following the last meeting and an article in the East Lothian Courier. It was agreed that we would contact the necessary departments within the council to bring this to their attention. **(Action: Susan).**

6.4 The issue of accessibility to the school for those with additional needs was raised. Arrangements are in place for those who require access to the school car park, and if any parent requires this, they should contact the school directly.

IT Equipment

6.5 Stuart agreed to speak to the relevant council department regarding the maintenance and upkeep of IT equipment acquired from outwith the council. **(Action: Stuart).**

Credit Union

6.6 Volunteers were needed to assist with the credit union. Anyone interested in assisting should contact the parent council by email or Facebook message

7. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 26 February 2018