

MINUTES OF
PRESTON LODGE PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2017
AT PRESTON LODGE HIGH SCHOOL

Present Lynne Lewis, Parent Representative and Chair
Lynne Russell, Parent Representative and Vice Chair
Colin Yorkston, Parent Representative and Treasurer
Russell Devine, Parent Representative
Jean Harper, Parent Representative
Malcolm Bryden, Parent Representative
Nicky Stannage, Parent Representative
Dawn Yorkston, Parent Representative
Stacey Graham, Co-opted Teacher representative
Cllr Gilbert
Gavin Clark, Head Teacher
Jacqui Dunlop, Clerk

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were intimated on behalf of Pamela Currie and Cllrs O'Donnell and Innes.

2. MINUTES OF 7 SEPTEMBER 2017

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 7 September 2017 were a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 7 SEPTEMBER 2017 BUT NOT ON THE AGENDA

- a) Credit Union – Colin Yorkston reported that the Prestonpans Credit Union would be able to do a corporate account, but there would be no cheque book but funds could be transferred to a nominated account. They have also confirmed that there could be multiple signatories on the account. They are considering how the EasyFundraising income would work and Colin Yorkston agreed to provide an update at the next meeting. (*Action Colin Yorkston*)
- b) Exam Data – Gavin Clark confirmed that he would provide updates on his outstanding action relating to the Exam data and a full update on the Insight Data at the next meeting as he has a meeting with East Lothian Council on 24 October and will be able to give a more rounded update following that meeting. Colin Yorkston asked if the comparative school data meant that half the schools were better and half were worse and Gavin Clark agreed to find this out for the next meeting. (*Action Gavin Clark*)

Gavin Clark noted that he is currently meeting with subjects regarding the Exam results. It was agreed that the whole school attainment would be the main focus of the next meeting.

- c) Rugby Trip – Gavin Clark confirmed that he had investigated the Rugby Trip and there had been some issues and the information on this had been circulated by email.

4. LONGNIDDRY BUSES

There is no resolution to the issues with the Longniddry buses. Gavin Clark had received an email from Bruce Moffatt from East Lothian Council regarding the buses and he had promised to issue a communication to parents and pupils regarding the new procedures for the buses.

It was noted that again pupils were left by the side of the road as the buses were too full to take them in, resulting in pupils being late for school. The Parent Council noted that it appreciated that cost savings had to be made but it was the lack of communication with parents and pupils which were causing the issues to arise, resulting in pupils being late for school and pupils standing on double decker buses which were travelling at up to 60 mph on the dual carriageway.

Russell Devine noted that the reason the provision was changed to pick up pupils from the houses side of the Longniddry was because there was an accident previously as pupils crossed the very busy road.

Cllr Gilbert agreed to speak to the Council to find out if it would be possible to change the colour of the travel passes of the S5/S6 pupils as they were meant to be get the normal service bus, thus allowing for more room on the school bus. It was noted that there are 40 S5/S6 pupils and Cllr Gilbert agreed to check if there was enough space on the service bus to accommodate these numbers. He also agreed to ask that that information was communicated to the parents and pupils of Longniddry. (*Action Cllr Gilbert*)

it was noted that the Council needed to show some goodwill to the parents of Longniddry as this was the second year that this situation had not been resolved, and they should perhaps consider the installation of traffic calming measures on the road to ensure it was safer for pupils to cross to get the service bus.

It was also noted that pupils cannot use their passes on the buses after 5.00 pm so need to pay if they are afterschool clubs. Gavin Clark reported that he thought it had been changed to allow pupils to use it following extra-curricular activities.

Gavin Clark noted that it was damaging to the school if the issue with the Longniddry buses was not sorted as the school had done a lot of work with the Longniddry community.

It was suggested that rather than there being two buses to take pupils home and one in the morning that this was switched so that there were two buses in the morning. It was noted that there had been no communication with the Transport Department in order for these suggestions to be made.

5. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Gavin Clark circulated the draft School Improvement Plan. The Plan uses an East Lothian Council template and the draft Improvement plan will be available for all parents soon. The Plan encompasses the National priorities, the local priorities and then this is distilled into the school's priorities. Gavin Clark noted that consultation with parents will be a priority this year. The Appendix showed items from last year's plan and gave their status, with Gavin Clark noting that normally a third of actions were completed, a third nearly complete and third not completed. The reason that there were so many items not completed was due to the introduction of National priorities by the government throughout a school year, which meant

that some projects had to be side-lined. An example of this was Homework which the Parent Council had previously noted as being something they would like included in the plan.

A Summary of the Action points was distributed and it was noted that Literacy was being targeted this year. Malcolm Brydon asked why numeracy was not being targeted and Gavin Clark explained that the school felt that literacy had a bigger impact on confidence and attainment if it was improved. He noted that although there will be a focus on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing are still covered in the curriculum. The whole cluster is focussing on literacy. There was a discussion on pupils reading with it being noted that less pupils are reading books due to the use of mobile phones. Lynne Lewis asked if there was any statistics to show what reading age pupils came to the school with Gavin Clark reported that AR is a big focus in the school currently and suggested that the librarian attend a future meeting to explain the approaches to literacy across the school.

Russell Devine asked how the school approaches transition with regarding to literacy and Gavin Clark noted that it was not a smooth transition but that new standardised testing should help with this. He noted that both literacy and numeracy had stood still nationally for the last fifteen years.

There was a discussion on the targeted spending and Gavin Clark noted that the Pupil Equity Fund would be focussed on attainment as that is what the government specified the money was to be spent on; the Area Partnership funding would be focussed on health and wellbeing.

It was agreed that the Parent Council would consider the draft Improvement Plan and feedback any comments to Gavin Clark by email. (*Action All*)

6. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

- a) Learning Festival – this is taking place on 28 October for both teachers and parents and all Parent Council members were invited.
- b) Staffing – Gavin Clark noted that the school have lost two maths teachers and one has gone on maternity leave. The school is therefore 2.5 maths teachers down. Gavin Clark noted that there are interviews taking place and the school does have a plan to cover the classes. It was noted that the teacher shortage is critical.
- c) Friends of Preston Lodge – nearly 1,000 people attended the Friends of Preston Lodge celebrations.
- d) Preston Lodge Pipe Band – the Pipe Band have returned from a 16-day trip to China.
- e) S1 Trip – letters have gone out about the trip with the cost being £45 or £10. Some who were offered the £10 price were not happy and Gavin Clark noted that there should have been more explanation on why the £10 rate was being offered.

7. AOCB

- a. Governance Review Survey – Lynne Lewis asked if the findings of the Governance Review survey had been published. Gavin Clark noted that he had not seen them.

Date of Next Meeting : 2 November 2017