

East Lothian Council

Department of Education & Children's Services

East Lothian Association of Parent Council Members Meeting held on
Tuesday 18th March 2008, John Muir House, Haddington

Present: Don Ledingham, Acting Director of Education and Children's Services
Val McIntyre (Principal Officer), David Gilmour (Network Development Officer), Veronica Campanile (Community Planning Officer), Judith Stirling (Minutes), Andrew Jardine (Aberlady PC), Ulrike Hogg (Haddington Infant's PC), Desiree Dunkinson (Kings Meadow PC), Liz Woodsend (Kings Meadow PC), Lynne Turnbull (Law PC), Michael Johnston (Loretto PC), Julie Roberts (Loretto PC), Tina McAvoy (Ormison PC), Alison Glencorse (Pencaitland PC), Rosemary Gray (Pinkie St Peters PC), George Henry (Pinkie St Peters PC), Lorraine Mitchell (Preston Lodge PC), Margaret Stuart (Preston Lodge PC), Christiane Maher (North Berwick High PC), Sam Austin-Miner (Ross High PC), Fiona McCaskie (Saltoun PC), Helen Forlow (Sanderson's Wynd PC), Mandy Wilkinson (Sanderson's Wynd PC), Peter Smith (St Gabriel's PC), Annette Burrow (Windygoul PC), Kathleen Gunn (Yester Parent Council), Stewart Buchan (Musselburgh Grammar PC), Eleanor Simpson (Musselburgh Grammar PC), Michael McHugh (St Mary's PC), Sharon McLoughlin (St Mary's PC), Shena Thompson (Elphinstone PC)

Apologies: Sarah Boyd (Longniddry PC), Patsy Curran (Head Teacher, Aberlady Primary School), Paul Collins (Haddington Infant's PC), Philip Immirzi, (North Berwick High PC), Musselburgh Burgh PC, Gullane Primary PC, Yester Primary PC

		<u>ACTION</u>
1.	<p>Welcome Don Ledingham welcomed the Parent Council Members and introductions were carried out.</p>	
2.	<p>Parents as Customers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document 'Children and Parents as Customers?' was tabled. • Don asked the group to give feedback regarding 'parents as customers'. There was mixed views, some positive and some who had reservations. The main topic for discussion was how parents felt about being managed. • Don suggested that this document should be an agenda item at individual Parent Council meetings and to give him feedback. • Don discussed the Times Educational Supplement for Scotland (TESS). He suggested that Parent Councils should subscribe to this as it contains useful information for parents regarding school issues. • Veronica Camponile introduced herself and explained her role as Community Planning Officer within East Lothian Council. She explained the consultation regarding Devolving Decision-making on Services to Communities. Feedback forms were circulated and an online version is also available. The end of April is the deadline for completed forms but this date can be extended if necessary. It was suggested that this was included as an agenda item at individual Parent Council meetings. 	

3.	Budget Planning for Education 2008-2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don advised that the Primary School budgets, which include the efficiency savings, were circulated to Head Teachers two weeks ago. • Don suggested that a Budget Planning Group should be set up. The group should consist of an elected member representative, two parent representatives and a member from each Union - EIS, SSTA, HAS, AHDS and UNISON. • It was agreed that the Budget Planning Group should be an agenda item at ELAPC meetings. Two Parent Council members will be required for this group. Don will send an e-mail to Parent Councils requesting nominations and there will be a draw of names. • A discussion took place regarding efficiency savings and the effect it will have on schools, staff and pupils. 	DL
4.	Information/Training for Parents on Attainment Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don reported that training needs were identified at Cluster Meetings. Training for SQA Data for 5-14 year olds will be available. 	
5.	Parent Council Websites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Gilmour gave a presentation on the Education Departments central website. He explained the purpose of the website - www.edubuzz.org • David suggested that he would be available to visit Parent Council meetings, to assist with the set up of central websites. 	DG
6.	Training Requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Val advised that the Parent Council Training Programme has been very successful this year. • Val reported that 120 Parent Council members attended the Recruitment and Selection Training this year. There will be three further Recruitment and Selection Training courses available next term, one of which will hopefully be a morning session and the other two in the evening. • Phil Denning will carry out Self Evaluation training in respect of HMle inspections. The date for this is Tuesday 6th May 08. • Val reported that Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Training will be available on Wednesday 21 May 08. 	
7.	Action Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Val advised that Susan Guy has delivered six training sessions which focussed on the Action Plan. 	
8.	National Body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Val reported that £30 Scottish Government funding has been given to each Parent Council. Two meetings have been scheduled for 13th and 14th May, there will now only be one meeting due to a poor response. The date for this meeting will be Wednesday 14 May 08. • Don informed the meeting that there will be a Swap Shop at the next ELAPC meeting. The purpose of this is for Parent Council members to share experiences and ideas. 	VM
9.	Parent Council Mailbox <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Val discussed the Data Protection Act and previous problems that this has brought to Parent Councils. • Val informed the meeting that she has liaised with IT regarding the possibility of Parent Council's having an individual mailbox. This will enable Parent Council members to communicate with each other. Once this has been set up future correspondence will be sent to the Chair's personal e-mail, the Head Teacher and the Clerk at the central e-mail address. 	
10.	Any Other Business	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don suggested that the following items are added to the agenda – more interaction around the table, e-mail addresses. • A discussion took place regarding whether Parent Council members should send a letter to politicians regarding their concerns about efficiency savings. Don advised that this was not a good idea and suggested that the Budget Planning Group will be a good way to plan and look forward. • Don suggested that future meetings should be more pro-active enabling parent council members to speak freely. Half of the meeting with ELC staff present and the other half for an open discussion. 	
11.	Date of Next Meeting Thursday 5 th June 2008, Conference Rooms 1 & 2, John Muir House	