

PRESTON LODGE HIGH SCHOOL  
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
THURSDAY, 10 APRIL 2008  
AT  
PRESTON LODGE HIGH SCHOOL

Present: Mrs M Gilroy, Parent Representative and Chair  
Mrs L Morgan, Parent Representative  
Mrs L Marshall, Parent Representative  
Mrs A Black, Parent Representative  
Mrs L Robertson, Parent Representative  
Mrs M Stuart, Parent Representative  
Mr J Tait, Parent Representative  
Ms K Carson, Co-opted Teacher Representative  
Ms M Angus, Co-opted Teacher Representative  
Mrs S Thomson, Co-opted Member  
Mr J Yule, Co-opted Member  
Mr W Galbraith, Head Teacher  
Ms H Findlay, Business Manager, Preston Lodge High School  
Cllr M Libberton  
Mrs J Dunlop, Clerk

1. APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Lorraine Mitchell, Heather Coogan, Carolyn Turner, John Berg and Cllr Innes. Mr Yule was welcomed to the meeting as a co-opted member representing Prestonpans Community Council.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 6 March 2008 were a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING BUT NOT ON THE AGENDA

- a) Columba 1400 – Margaret Libberton had contacted the Director of Education regarding this and was told that East Lothian Council are going to try something similar but on an East Lothian scale. Mr Galbraith report that Mr McKay will be attending a further meeting on 28 May at Castlebrae High School and that he still needs convinced to run it as a pilot.

Lyn Marshall reported that she has a contact who knew of the activity centre and it is an impressive facility, however there are similar other products on the market and that Columba 1400 is at the top end of the market.

Mr Galbraith noted that no money would come from the school budget for this and that it is not a possibility for this year. Ms Angus reported on the Rotary Youth Leadership Award which she had taken part in.

It was noted that the Parent Council would be cautious of going down the route of Columba 1400 due to the high costs but would welcome the Director of Education's proposals regarding an East Lothian project.

4. BUDGET ISSUES UPDATE

Mr Galbraith noted that, subject to confirmation of the school roll in September 2008, the efficiency savings of £71,720 are likely to be made. He noted that the budget projection presented is indicative of

the funding picture and that no final decisions have yet been made regarding classes and levels. This cannot be done until the carry forward figures from the previous year and the number of NQTs are known. This information will be made available in May.

Helen Findlay distributed the draft budget from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 (copy on file). This is based on a school roll of 985. The total income for the school is £3,680,272 and this is mainly made up of staff salaries. Core funding has been uplifted by 2.57% to support salary increases.

Helen Findlay distributed a copy of the Non-Staffing Expenditure for 07/08 and 08/09. The majority of the savings will come from non-staffing expenditure with most of the departments having their budgets cut by at least 4.03% to give a saving of approximately £25,000.

Mr Galbraith will be meeting with parents in the near future to consider fundraising for the provision buses for journeys to sporting fixtures as well as examining the need for bigger parental contributions.

Mr Galbraith noted that next year efficiency savings of 2.25% have been proposed. Although as it is a year in advance there will be more time to try and plan for this change more effectively.

#### 5. PLANNING FOR NEXT SESSION

Mr Galbraith reported that the School Development Plan and Standards and Quality Report will be worked on shortly with an in-service day being held on 6 May to progress these matters. He would like to work with the Parent Council on these and will add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

It was noted that the Parent Council will produce a Report for parents at the end of the term.

#### 6. TWINNING

Mr Galbraith noted that a twinning planning meeting had been held and they now have a draft constitution. A further meeting is being held on 22 April to launch the Twinning Association and it would be good if there was wider representation.

#### 7. EAST LOTHIAN ASSOCIATION OF PARENT COUNCILS UPDATE

Margaret Stuart attended the meeting and a copy of the minutes are now available (copy on file). It was suggested that one of the topics that the Parent Council should discuss is "Children and Parents as Customers?" and it was agreed that this should go on the agenda for the next meeting.

It was also agreed that a group of representatives from Parent Councils should be involved in the Budget Planning and it was agreed that Marion Gilroy would contact Val McIntyre to say that Preston Lodge Parent Council would like representation on this group. (*Action Marion Gilroy*)

It was agreed that this was a worthwhile meeting to attend and Linda Robertson and Jim Tait agreed to attend the next meeting scheduled for 5 June. Jacqui Dunlop agreed to notify Val McIntyre. (*Action Jacqui Dunlop*)

#### 8. AOCB

a) HMIE Questionnaire – Mr Galbraith distributed copies of the HMIE Questionnaire.

b) Uniform/Parent Questionnaire – Mr Galbraith confirmed that this was now on-line and that a text message would be sent to all parents to alert them.

Date of Future Meetings:

Thursday, 15 May

Thursday, 12 June