Saltoun Primary School Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday 18 June 2019 at 6-8pm

Present:
Evelyn Swinton (Chair)  (ES)
Kirsten Furr  (KF)

In Attendance:
Mrs Alison Cameron  (AC) (Head Teacher)
Miss Magali Tuke  (MT) (Principal Teacher)
Elise Cachat  (ES)
Gillian Barr  (GB)
Lee MacDonald  (LM)
David Drummond  (DD)
Cllr Craig Hoy  (Cllr CD)
Cllr Tom Trotter  (Cllr TT)
Cllr Shamin Akhtar  (Cllr SA)
Veronica Brown (Clerk)  (VB)

Apologies:
Fergus Doubal
Julia MacDonald
Kelly Kenny
Fiona McCaskie
Cllr John McMillan

1. Welcome / Apologies
Evelyn welcomed everyone to the meeting. Especially welcome to the new Councillor Craig Hoy and Veronica Brown who has taken on the role as Clerk.

2. Approval of previous minutes
The minutes of the meeting on 7th May 2019 were approved without changes.
Proposed by Fergus Doubal by email and Seconded by Evelyn Swinton

3. Matters Arising / Correspondence
Fundraising Calendar for 2019/20:
It was suggested to have a fundraising calendar for the next session because lots of great things have happened and it is helpful to have it all planned and visual for everyone to see the dates and where the Parent Council monies were spent.

Different fundraising ideas were discussed for 2019/20. Everyone is keen to have an end of month/term event to help bring the community together. Pauline at the Bothy can sell tickets and the older pupils can help to enterprise the event. Mrs Cameron reminded everyone to be mindful of costs and timing of events and activities so parents can have a chance to do as much as possible, for example during Christmas time.

- Friday 28th June 2019: The school is invited to Humbie Primary School for a celebration pizza van event. Parents will be able to book this themselves and pay at the same time to Pauline at the Bothy.
- Friday 30th August 2019: An end of month community event with picnic and ice-cream.
- Friday 27th September 2019: End of month community event with soup, sandwich and cake.
- Saturday 28th September 2019: A country cottage kitchen event in the Fletcher hall for adults only. It has a three-course meal with bring your own bottle for £25 including discount.
- Friday 25th October 2019: The Batwalk on has now grown in size into a Halloween family event. The family ticket price includes a pizza, snack or something else equivalent to dinner.
- Friday 20th December 2019: An end of term community reeds making session or Christmas tree decoration in the Fletcher hall.
- Friday 7th February 2020: End of month community event with soup, sandwich and cake.
- March 2020: A Family quiz or adult quiz only in the Fletcher Hall. Evelyn will check with the Saltoun Community Association when they have their quiz night.
- Friday 3rd April 2020: An end of term beetle drive family event at the Fletcher hall.
- May/June 2020: Family fun day with bouncy castle and obstacle course? Mrs Cameron mentioned that Dadswork can give discounts and will speak to them.
- Friday 26th June 2020: End of term mini-freezer on a bike with ice-cream for finishing school.
Friday 28th August 2020: BBQ to welcome new families to the school and community

Set dates for meetings 2019/20:
The meeting dates were set up till the AGM and will have a crèche and a 6.30pm start. The days during the week will vary so that as many people as possible is able to come throughout the year. Tuesday 3 September 2019, Thursday 10 October and the AGM on Tuesday 19 November.

Clerk position:
The Clerk for Elphinstone Primary School, Veronica Brown has taken on the role as Clerk.

H2H Leadership:
New leadership for H2H is needed now when Julie has left for another school. Evelyn explained a bit about what they do and there is also the possibility for a few people to take do it on a rota basis as long as there is a coordinator. Parents are encouraged to sign up to help with events on a time slot basis with an hour here or there. This works well for Humbie Primary School. The Parent Council members will ask around to see who can help with what events.

4. Chair persons update
Nothing further to add this time.

5. Finances
The Bank balance on 18th June 2019 is £1777.09

Planned/Committed Expenditures:
P7 hoodies, P7 Outing, Nursery trip to Wee Hailes and also to Inveresk soon because it was cancelled due to wet weather.

Requests for Funding:
A replacement water table for the Nursery for £30 has been approved. The cost has now gone up to about £100 for a more durable one and the Parent Council members were still keen to fund it or to put money towards it. This will be discussed at the next meeting unless decided by quorate PC members beforehand.

6. Head Teacher’s update

Staffing:
Mrs Cameron will continue to be the Head Teacher for the three schools, Saltoun, Humbie and Elphinstone during the next session 2019/20 and the post will be advertised again in March 2020. A non-teaching Deputy Head Teacher will be appointed for the year to manage the three schools, based in Saltoun. The post is being re-advertised today due to an unsuccessful recruitment campaign and Mrs Cameron is keen to get the right person for the job. It is a great opportunity to strengthen the team over the three schools also having one Principal Teacher per school, which has been proven to work well for another Head Teacher overseeing three schools in East Lothian.

Welcome to the new Janitor Bobby who has just started and is fabulous, a great addition to the team being very accommodating.

Leaving is Lesley who has taken on the position as Senior Business Admin at Elphinstone PS.

Magali has been accepted into the Leadership Program, starting with the first step to leadership.

Mrs Lawson will be working on a Tuesday to help getting stability back in the classroom.

In the classroom:
The Teachers are doing a self-evaluation and want to open it up to the Parent Council so they also can have a say on anything else that can be done to benefit in school. They are looking at a nurturing approach, digital literacy and getting it right in the classroom across the three schools.

The pupils have adopted the school values being kindness, respect and cooperation and really understand them. A letter explaining the values went out to all parents to offer stability and a fresh start with lots going on in school, instability in staffing, unkindness in the playground and complaints from parents. We have now created a base line using a strength based model with the pupils to practice the values and set the standards of what the expectations are in how we behave towards each other and
how we are dealing with making mistakes. Any issue that happens are being dealt with on an individual basis together with the specific families. Shamin also said that it is important that parents reinforce the school ethos at home as well.

The new reporting of the pupil’s achievements is ready to go and is very unique. It articulates to the parents where they are in the framework, showing their entire achievements from P1 and includes all the stages in between.

The Scottish Standardised Assessment is being looked at mainly for attainment and is clear of what is expected of the pupils.

Events:
The pupils love the forest school and the plan is to do a lot more together with Humbie PS next session. The trip to the Zoo is scheduled for the 26th June and is £7 per child.

All the nurseries from the three schools will go on an outing together again next year as the trip to Wee Hailes was a great success.

The Sports day had a good turnout and only a few casualties, a great day.

There has been a Parental Engagement and learning event in Edinburgh which included how dad friendly our school is and about being inclusive for dads in the practice.

The P7 leavers doo was a planned outing to Edinburgh that they organised themselves. They had organised the trip by train, visit to Camera Obscura and dinner at Pizza Express. It was a great day, thanks very much to everyone.

7. AOB
Joanna from Connect, the Scottish Parent Teacher Council is coming to Elphinstone Community centre in September 2019 to meet the Parent Council members from all three schools. Cllr Akhtar said that they play a really important role and a great opportunity to get our voice on the table.

Cllr Akhtar reminded everyone to take advantage of the free activities held over the summer holiday. There is a lot going on in the community, for example libraries, summer challenges, reading challenges all free to access throughout East Lothian.

Mrs Cameron thanked the Parent Council, Magali and all the staff of the school for their patience in the uncertain changes during 2018/19. Next year will be all about stability and calm and always being available and committed to the schools. It has been a learning curve and will drop the “interim” for an open and honest relationship and is genuinely here as the Head Teacher for the next session 2019/20.

Cllr Akhtar thanked Mrs Cameron on behalf of the Council for taking on the role as Head Teacher for three schools and for being supportive of the Council’s decisions and the changes made.

Parent Questions:
Parents are asking about the leavers show rehearsals taking up too much time and being too much for the younger P4 pupils? Mrs Cameron said that the rehearsals take into account the younger pupils abilities, having smaller parts than the older pupils in the show. All their learning also evolves around it like listening, talking, reading and making all the props themselves.

Another question about the reading challenge and if it would be possible to have a numeracy challenge next year? Mrs Cameron said that this is fine and will organise it for 2019/20.

P7 loves their hoodies that they just received however had noticed that other schools already had them on outings and was wondering if these could be bought earlier to get more use out of? Yes, P7 hoodies can be organised for Easter time or earlier and another alternative is to have a T-shirt with the school logo on, which can be fundraised for. Evelyn will email the P6 parents to ask them what they want to do.

Date of Next Meetings:
Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 6.30 – 8.00pm
Thursday 10 October at 6.30 – 8.00pm
Tuesday 19 November at 6.30 – 8.00pm AGM