

Minutes of the Loanhead PS Parent Council Meeting

02-Feb -23 7.00 - 8.30 PM

Chair: Lynn Waight

Minutes: Libby McAdam

Attendees: Poppy Lansdown-Kyles, Lynn Waight, Karen Beattie, Gemma Stevenson, Ashley Allen, Libby McAdam, Melanie Caldwell, Ian Carpenter, Laura Page, Rhona Mag Fhogartai, Clare Williams.

Apologies: Claire McLean, Laura Burnett, Lorna Kennedy, Alex Kitchen, Jo Gillies, Denise Claxton

1. Review of Previous Minutes – Proposed PK, Seconded LM

- Christmas Fair was deemed a success, all feedback was positive and funds raised were £1800.00 – all spent on school crafts etc

2. Resignations

- Kerry Cricton resigned as Chair by letter having had a promotion at work and felt she no longer had the time to commit to PC. Parent Council extended a massive gratitude to Kerry for her years of “service” and specifically mentioned the return from Covid where her job wasn’t easy.
- Claire Mclean resigned from the parent council VIA message to LW again due to time constraints of work. She has extended an offer of help at any events needed, again PC thanks her for her time with us.

3. Appointment of Chair

- Nominations were received for Ian Carpenter to assume Chair for the remainder of the year, this was uncontested. Proposed by LW and seconded by KB Ian was appointed Chair.

4. Meeting Dates

- LW asked for confirmation of dates for the remainder of the year. After a little discussion between all members present, it was agreed that we would stretch the time between meetings due to the Fundraising sub-committee meeting in-between. Dates confirmed as 21st March 7pm – 8.30pm and 17th May 7pm – 8.30pm in the School Staffroom. Minutes copied to School Office to confirm lets (actioned LW).
- Fundraising meeting date - Thursday 9th Feb 6.30pm – 8pm (pending confirmation) venue IKEA Cafe.

5. Treasurer’s Report – Annex A

- Current Bank Balance: £1795.32
- Known expenditure to come this school year: £1000.00 (Prior to meeting)
£1445.00 (following the meeting)
- Also brought up was a request from PK for an anticipated cost per head of the P7 leavers day – confirmed at £15 per head for 31 in the class - £465.00
- Summer Trips – LM asked for a single figure to be put on each child as a PC contribution to their class trips so each child gets the same amount of PC funds. Proposed £3.00 per head . MC to speak with class teacher for an idea on their anticipated trip/costs. Will Action at the next meeting.
- School as requested £25 x 7 for teachers to ready their classrooms for the new academic year. PC agreed in principle – on the basis funds are raised at Summer Fair.

6. Fundraising

- Sub Meeting went ahead on Friday 13th January.

- Scavenger hunt has been arranged by LB, printed by LM and in school to go home on the 9th Feb and return after the Feb break.
- Cheese, Wine and Bingo is booked and tickets on sale – Poster attached - GS
- Spring Fling Disco – Let needs booked (PK), PK organising info will go out to classes after the Feb break and will cost £2.00
- Summer Fair – LM had asked MC for each class to provide one wish for the next class to be their stage – IE P1 might say they wish the next P1's could have a block area like nursery etc. Once this is received a letter will go out for prizes, contributions and tables for the Fair. All help is appreciated here, please contact LM for any more info.
- Midlothian Council have paused all grant decisions – this would affect our Play therapy, fruit bowls and gardening projects.
- Loanhead Parish Church have offered a further month's donation of fruit for the classrooms – Thanks to be passed to them as it is apparent this will be needed.

7. Travel

- Boom gate discussed. Should remain closed, please close if you see it open.
- Cars waiting in the car park should have engines switched off to avoid the kids inhaling the exhaust fumes. PC to send a communication VIA the school to request this be adhered to.
- Parking - Raised again that cars parked behind this in the spaces and therefore obstruction the legally parked car from leaving is causing major issues for staff leaving from work. It is not fair for staff to have to sit in their car for up to 20 minutes until they can leave for home (and their own kids pick up). Discussion followed about whether we can put out cones or figures of children to prevent this but as funds are low it was agreed to first ask via the school mailing list for this to be stopped.
- Request from RM for LB to contact St Margaret's Church and request permission we use their car park to advertise as an overflow car park for school drop off and pick up.

8. Headteachers Report

- MC asked PC to look at changing uniform suppliers to – BE Uniform. LM to investigate.
- Play Therapy. We fund play therapy for the school for all children. MC has passed on a request from the play therapist that one child in the school gets a guaranteed slot each week for an emotional check in. This is a 10 minutes detriment to the other kids who use the service and therefore would have minimal influence on the current usage. This proposal was agreed unanimously.

9. Council Cuts

- LW attended a meeting last night with council representatives, the meeting coordinator collated questions and answers from the meetings, these have been sent out with these minutes.
- Midlothian Council will add a FAQ section to their website
https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200288/consultations/759/savings_proposals_for_202324_to_202526/5
- Parent council encouraging all parent to fill out the feedback survey on cuts
- Agreed a mass copy and paste letter or email has minimal effect so will not be pursued by us.

10. After Schools Clubs

- Organised by Parent Council to provide active sessions to children at an affordable price.(£2)
- Multi Sports booked for P1-2 – More info to follow
- Lunchtime Yoga booked P5-7 – More Info to follow
- Commercials (Tik-Tok) Dance proposed but looking for a teacher

- Art Club P4+ Booked – More Info to follow

11. Mental Health Week

- PK asked if PC can mark this, the school covered the teaching of the topic in January after returning from the Christmas holidays. PC to provide a colourful breakfast during the week. PK action.

12. Local Area Trips

- PK raised that we don't do these since Covid and would like to see them return as a way to enhance the learning environment in school. Parent helpers would be needed and admin of this on teachers is one factor which hinders this. LM suggested PC could collate a list of helpers VIA a maildrop in school and could be one point of contact Office to PC and PC would find the helpers required where possible. MC to promote to teachers in weekly meeting.

13. AOCB

- GS has asked is class reps can please canvas parent groups for Bingo prizes

Date of next Meeting – 21st March 2023 – Loanhead Primary School Staff Room – 7pm – 8.30pm