

Minutes of Loanhead PS Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 21-Mar-23 18:30 - 19:40

Loanhead Parish Church

Chair: Ian Carpenter

Minutes: Lynn Waight

Attendees: Ian Carpenter, Poppy Kyles, Laura Burnett, Karen Hinton, Alex Kitchen, Rhona Mag Fhogartai, Laura Page, Lynn Waight

Apologies: Raul Pardinaz-Solis, Claire McLean, Michelle Brown, Denise Claxton, Lorna Kennedy, Gemma Stevenson, Ashley Allen, Jo Gillies, Libby McAdam, Melanie Caldwell

Thank you to Poppy for coordinating a change of venue at short notice.

1. Review of previous minutes

No actions

2. Updating the PC Constitution

IC raised the idea of updating the PC constitution. The current document is basic, so suggest including more detail, including what to do in the event of a committee member or class-rep stepping down mid-term. Other suggested items to be included were - specifying admin of social media pages and Google drive, clarifying ideal communication methods and routes as well as defining roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders.

The constitution will be sent out to PC Members for review, it is also available to view on the PC Facebook page. Please send comments and suggestions to PC email address (loanheadPSparentcouncil@gmail.com).

3. Treasury Update

Recent money raise:

- Cheese, Wine and Bingo raised £804.48
- Scavenger Hunt raised £53.05

Bank balance £1,689.87

Cash £723.65

A card reader is now available to the PC, it was first used at the Bingo evening, £68 was taken at the event with a total charge of £1.50, this was viewed to be a good investment and will be used at future events.

Planned outgoings:

- We have recently paid the final installment for Play Therapy.
- £720 required for the PC contribution to class trips (at £4 per pupil)

- £450 required for P7 leaving day
- A contribution to the Nursery graduation celebration for 28 children.
- PC will also contribute to a small minibus for the nursery summer trip.

PK is awaiting a decision on a large grant application, which, if successful, would fund various projects throughout the next year.

4. School Travel

LB has contacted St Margaret's church to enquire about parents using the car park located at the back of the Chapel at drop off and pick-up. She is still waiting on a response. If a response is not received soon an alternative contact will be sought, ask LM or Mrs Black at school.

The issue of parking at the school was again raised. With ideas on how to highlight the issue and how to limit the number of cars parked inconsiderately or dangerously discussed. Included were: Cones, bollards, issuing fines payable to the PC, raising awareness at parent events like the P1 transition meeting.

Gillian Bathgate (Travel plan coordinator and school crossing patrol supervisor, Midlothian Council) to be invited to a meeting to discuss and advise, with PC representatives, JRSO from P6 and school staff.

5. Fundraising Update

- Spring Fling disco - Thu 23-Mar-23
- Summer Fair - Fri 26-May-23
- Talent show proposed as a future family event - Possibly next school year, suggested that the summer term is already busy for families.
- Another adult fundraising event may be held - Curry and Quiz

AK suggested a movie night for the children - upper and lower atrium, PJs, popcorn etc.

Sports Day was also raised, more discussion with school required.

Clarification was sought on the charge for the Spring Fling disco although it is not designed as a fundraising event. The £2 ticket price will cover the costs to host the evening, mainly the DJ for the disco and the juice and snacks provided on the night.

6. Nursery Daffodil Tea

Denise from the nursery team wrote a lovely letter to the PC detailing the nursery's plans for a small fundraising event they are holding on 29-Mar-23. In the letter the DM requested help providing resources for the event, tea, coffee, cups and funds to buy six bunches of daffodils. The daffodils will be used to decorate the tables and following the event will be donated to friends of the nursery at Pine Villa.

The PC has tea, coffee and cups which will be made available to the nursery for this event. Following a vote the PC agreed to give the nursery £6 to buy six bunches of daffodils. However AK volunteered to ask local shops if they would be willing to donate daffodils for the event. The funds will be provided if no donations are found.

7. Midlothian Council Budget Cuts

IC had attended a meeting with PC chairs and Fiona Roberston following the outcome of the budget proposals.

In the education sector Midlothian Council has removed the proposition to cut music tuition and P4 swimming from the budget proposal. However all other proposals are still on the table and will be reviewed in June. Other cuts being revisited include shared Headships, closing schools to lets during holidays, redesign of the school week. As has been raised previously Midlothian has a growing population but their funding from the Scottish Government does not currently reflect this, the council are trying to negotiate with the Scottish Government for funding they deem to fairly reflect the population.

Schools are being asked to cut 1% from their annual budget. IC has written to MC to ask how this will likely affect the children of LPS.

8. Volunteering opportunity

Midlothian Council is asking PC members if they would be interested in volunteering to be on a panel which helps decide on out of catchment school placements. Training is provided.

9. Head Teacher's Report

MC was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report which was read at the meeting:

Thank you to the parents who are helping with gardening and baking. Classes are loving this and we hope this can continue into the next session.

Our Annual Poetry Competition will be held on 30.3.23. We ask the parent council to vote on the winners. Please can anyone wishing to vote come to the Expressive Arts Room on either Monday 27th or Tuesday 28th March and you can place your vote. You should choose a Lower Atrium and an Upper Atrium winner.

Class Trips, to which the PC are contributing £4 per pupil

Trips planned at time of meeting:

- P1 National Museum
- P2 Dynamic Earth
- P3 Purves Puppets
- P4 Glasgow Science Centre

Nurture work going well in school. We have other fortnightly focuses coming up and the children will come home with ideas to talk to you about. The Nurture Reps have decided they would like to create either an Achievement Tree and the leaves will be their hands, upon which they can write their achievement outside of school. Or their hands would make a colorful rainbow.

Nursery Daffodil Tea on 29.3.23

All Nursery parents are welcome to attend and if anyone wishes to volunteer to help with teas and coffees then please let the Nursery know.

10. AOB

Packed lunches on school trips

The question was raised as to whether children should be offered a packed lunch when they are on an all day school trip. Nursery to P5 currently receive free school meals so it was thought that offering a packed lunch for school trips would be included. Some school trips have had a question on the permission slip to state whether the child would bring their own packed lunch or receive one from school. It was queried whether this was consistent across all school permission slips for all-day trips. IC will ask MC for clarification.

P6 Class Representative

We are looking for a volunteer to be the P6 class rep.

School Lets

Following the sudden cancellation of the meeting tonight the question was raised as to how we could prevent this happening again. However the lets had been requested using the correct process, the issue occurred within the Skaska internal letting request system and the available staffing, therefore, unfortunately, there was nothing we could have done differently to prevent this happening again.

School Uniform

KH met with a representative from a uniform company which had approached the school. The outcome was not favorable, all items of uniform were more expensive than those currently provided by Image Scotland (hoodie +£9, Jumper +£2.50, T-shirts +£2.00). LM has requested an updated catalog from Image Scotland, once it has arrived the school will review the items available, there is scope to extend the range available.

Date of the next meeting: 17-May-2023