

Note of Meeting

Friends of Loanhead Parent Council

Monday 13th March 2017

7:30pm – 9:00pm

Some concerns were raised regarding P1 children being moved to the first floor in terms of busy periods such as lunchtime, fire drills etc. It was suggested that this should be explored further to ensure the safety of everyone.

The Parent Council asked about investment in the outdoor space and whether EAC's commitment to outdoor learning in the School Estate Management Plan and following Scottish Government recommendations for this type of investment, would be incorporated into this project.

Andrew Kennedy (EAC) agreed that he would look at investment for the outdoor area as part of the project. The Parent Council will explore grant funding however the levels of funding available are not sufficient to address the level of work required here and this would be explored to enhance the investment made by EAC rather than to wholly fund it.

It was suggested by the Parent Council that the school suffers from a lower roll due to the newer schools with better outdoor provision and facilities within the school. Investing in outdoor space makes the school more attractive to the community and may encourage more parents to consider the school rather than a newer school.

A lot of comments and feedback were given regarding the options which EAC will incorporate into more detailed plans and costings for further consultation.

No plans for the upper floors were available at the meeting. These will be available at a later date.

The completion date for the project is August 2019. Parents and staff were concerned that no work would be done until the full investment was completed and two years is a long time to wait. EAC confirmed that some work could be undertaken earlier.

EAC advised that more detailed plans and costings will be available in the next few months.

Mr Forsyth advised that the fence is not in good condition and had raised this previously. This work cannot wait and needs addressed. EAC will progress this.

2. ParentPay

- Go live date is 19th April.
- The school will be cashless from this date for all school meals, trips etc.
- Parents/carers set up an account online. One account can be used for up to six children.

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1. Capital Investment Programme

Representatives from EAC presented three draft proposals for incorporating the Early Childhood Centre (ECC) and completing a comprehensive refurbishment project for the school.

Option 1

- Dining provision moved into the ground floor of the building
- Frees up the current dining accommodation to use for ECC. An extension to the current dining building may be required to make this feasible.
- A lift in the central atrium of the school to improve access
- Accessible toilet on each floor
- General upgrade to the existing extension (toilet block and staff area)

Option 2

- Dining area and ECC within the ground floor of the school
- Combined gym and dining area
- ECC would have separate entrance and ramp
- Lift as above
- Accessible toilets as above
- Existing dining accommodation would be surplus to requirements

Option 3

- Existing extension taken down and replaced with a new extension for the ECC
- Dining provision moved to ground floor in main building
- Gym space retained
- Toilets relocated on ground floor
- Lift as above

In terms of required budget, option 1 is the cheapest, then option 2 and option 3 is the most expensive.

Provision will remain for Peace Childcare.

EAC's overall aim is to make most efficient use of the space in the building.

Capacity for the school is currently around 60%, EAC has a target for 85% across all schools. EAC are confident that if the school roll increased, there is still capacity to accommodate additional pupils.

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- The account can be topped up at any time. The minimum amount of top up is £2.
- Online top ups will be available for use immediately
- Pay Point can also be used but may take up to 48 hours to upload
- Details of purchases can be viewed online

All parents are encouraged to use this system as it is not just for paying for school meals, it will cover other chargeable activities such as trips.

3. Easter Activities

The children have considered our additional suggestions for Easter and I can confirm the following will take place:

Thursday 30th March

Egg challenge	2 adults + team of children
Easter tombola	1 adult + 1 child
Bunny's birthday	1 adult + 1 child
Eggs in the jar	1 adult + 1 child
Tails on the bunny	1 adult + 1 child
Egg and spoon	1 adult + 1 child

Friday 31st March

Daffodil tea/Easter headgear parade 2/3 adults with P7 helpers

Parent/guardian volunteers are requested as detailed above.

The children have requested that FOL provide the jar and the eggs.

They have also requested that we provide the prize bunny (preferably male) and a diary.

4. Pupil Equity Fund

The school has been allocated £37,200 from this Scottish Government Fund. The level of funding is based on the number of children eligible for free school meals. The aim of the funding is to address the attainment gap. Mr Forsyth presented some ideas for this including joint working with other schools to maximise the use of the funding; investing in a reading scheme; IT systems; homework club; health & well-being clubs and a home link officer.

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5. AOB

It was agreed that flash drives will be purchased for the P7 leavers again this year.

Office Bearers

Chair Craig Hume

Vice Chair Carolyn (Carrie) Hope

Co-Vice Chair Karen Johnstone

Treasurer Kaz Hume