



James Hamilton Primary, Sgoil-Araich and Sgoil na Coille Nuaidh Parent Council

Minutes – 17th March 2025

Conference Room, William Mcilvanney Campus

Agenda Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome/Present and Apologies – Laura McChristie</p> <p>LMCC welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Attendees: Laura McChristie, Lynsey Abercrombie, Jen Baldie, Lynsey Kerr (<i>Gaelic Medium Education (GME) parent and Comann nam Pàrant (CnP) representative</i>), Lindsey Anderson, Debbie Mutter, Nicola Haswell, Cllr Graham Boyd, Margaret Black, Margaret Millar (<i>GME parent and CnP representative</i>), Melisa Brawls, Lesley Anne (<i>GME parent</i>)</p> <p>Apologies: Cllr Graham Barton, Cllr Barry Douglas, Cllr Neal Ingram</p>	
<p>2. Parent Council Business</p> <p>LA gave a brief summary of the fundraisers position, including grants and upcoming events. A full detailed update is provided in Appendix 1. Main upcoming events include the Easter coffee morning, which is to be run in the same way as the cash for kids easter coffee morning last year. We will be looking for volunteers to help set up and also donations of home baking. The Easter Raffle will also be drawn at the coffee morning.</p> <p>The summer disco is scheduled for Wed 21st May and will include nursery movers as this worked well previously.</p> <p>MBr raised the overall P1 transition events and said they were very well organised and there was a lot of thought and consideration put into them. LAb thanked MBr for her kind comments.</p>	

<p>3. Head Teachers Update</p> <p>See Appendix 2</p>	
<p>4. Topic – Literacy</p> <p>JB gave an update on the school's literacy work and advised the group as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The lending library has begun with around 20 families taking part, meeting fortnightly. - The lending library provides both English and Gaelic books - Reading cloud software for cataloguing has been purchased - World Book Day activities were organised throughout the school and tailored to each class - JB thanked the fundraisers for their donation of book tokens to award as prizes, she advised the classes were excited for the competitions/challenges run by teachers to win the tokens. - A partnership with Kilmarnock Academy pupils for literacy support has been established with KA pupils supporting primary pupils in developing their literacy skills. JB advised this has been successful for both primary pupils who received targeted support for their literacy work and for KA pupils who developed their confidence and leadership skills with all pupils enjoying the sessions. - JB thanked the fundraisers for the support in literacy this session and last session for the lending library and also literacy software Reading Eggs. - JB advised the school are reviewing the literacy resources and what will be the most useful including Nessy and Barrington Stoke. - JB issued some example of the dyslexia friendly books they school have been using. 	
<p>5. AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P6 trip – Belfast – NH raised this trip and queried the reason for the p6's not going to Belfast this year. LAb advised the P6 year group don't always go to Belfast for their titanic topic, it is dependent on a variety of factors including teacher availability. DB advised that parents would appreciate if this could communicated to parents earlier in the session as some parents have an expectation the p6's will go to Belfast. - EAC Transport Review – Cllr Boyd spoke about the EAC transport review and advised the group that the projected cost for school transport is £4.5 million which has more than doubled over the last few years and is unsustainable in the current economic climate. He advised a significant portion of the cost is taxi journeys with the average journey costing £101.33 per day. Cllr Boyd emphasised that no child will be disadvantaged by the review and children who require transport will still receive it but it may be in a different method of transportation. 	
<p>Date of Next Meeting: 19th May 2025</p>	

P.C Fundraising Team Update – PC Meeting 17 March 2025

Last Meeting – Tues 4 March 6 -7.15pm @ JHPS

Core Fundraising Attendees: Lindsey Anderson, Debbie Mutter, Nicola Haswell

* Fundraisers meet first Tuesday monthly 6-7.15pm at JHPS (Conference Room) – all welcome

EVENTS HELD (Feb/Mar):

- Spring Disco (20 Feb) - £699 (233 children)

EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR 2025....

- Thur 3 April – Easter Coffee morning (similar to CfK format) – **time tbc & helpers req'd**
- End March – Easter Raffle (draw at Coffee Morning)
- Thur 24 April – Parents night
- 22-24 April – PC support Travelling Books stall (22 LK, 23 LM, 24 LA/DM)
- Wed 21 May – Summer Disco (Inc. Nursery Movers) – Atrium booked
- Fri 6 June – Doughnut Day
- TBC** June – P1 Transition Event
- Mid June – Pop Up Badge Stall
- Wed 17 Sep – Community Family Fun Night – whole school/halls booked

EASY FUNDRAISING

- Received £119.61 11/2/25
- Overall raised £658.37 of which £454.20 paid. So far £52.72 is due for next payment 13/5/25 with a further £151.45 pending for future payment

PURCHASES MAJORITY AGREED AT FUNDRAISING MEETING (Feb/Mar 24):

- 2025 Panto @ £1 per head
- Disco light & portable boombox
- Class Wishlists
- Boys Football Tops (letter from Sports Committee)
- Spring Disco Supplies
- Summer Disco Supplies
- Easter Raffles Prizes
- Coffee Morning Supplies
- Breakfast Club supplies – art supplies/games
- Astro Hut (building supplies)

PURCHASES MADE IN LAST MONTH

- 2 x portable boombox
- Class Wishlists (i.e. calculators, outdoor learning skewers, PVA, paint, playdoh, games, coloured pencils, scissors)
- Easter Raffle Prizes (Variety of Eggs/sweets, 2x Cinema Vouchers, 2 x Garage Vouchers, variety of kids Easter art activities)

- Spring disco supplies (crisps, snack, juice)
- Boys Football Tops
- Breakfast club – pancakes for Shrove Tuesday
- Astro Hut Supplies

FUNDRAISING APPLICATIONS UPDATE:

MARCH 24 – Trefoil

- March 24, WIN CONFIRMED 13/9/2024 PAYMENT RECEIVED £2900 – in course of liaising with Miss Gorry and spending monies (£225.10 grant left)
- Purchased new corner sofa, sensory lighting, rugs, wobble cushions, chair bands, large resource cupboard, storage trays, portable boombox, significant amount of emotions/mindfulness/logic/STEM games, books and colouring resources

MAY 24 – EAC Renewable Energy Funding (REF)

- Applied 30/5/24 for £5913 for Sensory Garden/Outdoor Classroom – WIN CONFIRMED 6/9/2024 AWARD GRANTED (submit receipts to EAC to claim costs).
- Purchased outdoor seating/tables, freestanding wooden weaving/painting/white board, mud kitchen, outdoor mirrors, musical boom whacker, wicker wigwam.
- Liaising re. 3 freestanding planter benches (trade price) and await formal estimate (£2382?) to take to EAC **(£2562.50 grant left)**

MAY 24 - Corra Foundation

- Applied 8/5/24 for £3000 to support a library afterschool club for all ages and stages (per recent feedback from families). WIN CONFIRMED & £3,000 REC'D 27/6/2024.
- Funding purchased the Junior Librarian App/Scanner, 2 large/locking mobile storage trolleys a large number of new library books (mix JHPS & SnCN) **(£26.39 grant left)**

DEC 24 – Sensory Circuit Application – Sensory circuit/track for school – UNSUCCESSFUL

JAN 25 - New Farm Participatory Budget – WIN CONFIRMED - £1000 RECEIVED – event was held 5 Feb 2025 at St Josephs and voting was available online. Project will be a spray paint artist for storage unit in the community garden area and the artist will work with school to incorporate designs from the children.

OTHER FUNDRAISING PROJECTS:

AMEY - Community Garden/School Visit Program - in discussions with AMEY to understand what they can offer on either a volunteering basis or delivery of educational sessions for primary children. LA emailed contact 31/5/24.

11/7/24 Amey confirm they are be able to help but will revert once they have sorted funding/time/people.

21/10/24 Amey liaising to set up Teams Meeting to discuss.

17/1/25 Amey request to visit school premises to discuss 22 Jan 2pm – visit confirmed and both PC and school attend.

6/3/25 Amey confirm volunteering availability during Easter school holidays to enable access with machinery/building supplies to overhaul Community garden, build outdoor courtyard/classroom facilities (see REF purchases), build new outdoor learning planters for primary playground, build gazebo for playground

Condition: Subject to completion of Risk Assessment Method Statement and approval by EAC prior to any work commencing.

Liaising with Amey re. Phase 2 and possibly 3 related to further volunteering sessions to help with Outdoor Learning/Educational visit

Astro Hut – hut was destroyed in recent storm therefore PE kit needs carried every morning/night from school by staff/kids. Fundraising have been liaising with Kilmarnock College and final year joinery students

are actively seeking a project. They are very excited to have the opportunity to design/build for the school if we can purchase building supplies required. College have liaised with their contacts to get these at trade price from building merchants (est. £600) and new shed will be more robust and properly secured to help prevent future weather damage.

Condition: Subject to completion of Risk Assessment Method Statement and approval by EAC prior to any work commencing.

AOB QUESTIONS

- PC paid £384 for Leadership hi5awards (May 24) – is there any update on progress of these awards
- PC paid £341.68 (plus £500 grant) for Reading Eggs for 1 year (April 24) – what has success looked like and any plans to renew?
- Asda Cashpot monies received (£667 JHPS & £149 SnCN) – any plans for this funding?



Appendix 2– Head Teacher update

HT Parent Council Report

Monday 17th March 2025

Focus of meeting-

Literacy- Jen Baldi

Sgoil-àraich na Coille Nuaidh Update

We are now sitting at 16 pupils with our 2 ELCPs and 1 SA and are now at capacity. Over subscribed for session 25/26

SNCN and JHP update

We have a busy term ahead with lots of things planned as follows:

- ECC to P1 transition events- Loop Project- on going
- Gaelic Tutors visiting P4-7 classes JHPS
- Residential Trip P7- info session 19.3.25 5pm
- Kindness Café 25.3.25 (Barnardoes & Vibrant Communities)
- Easter Service 2.4.25 at St Kentigern's
- Coffee Morning 3.4.25
- New HT starts (Mr McPhilemy) 22.4.25
- Parent's Night 24.4.25
- Dance Fest group, Mr Swan
- Report Cards, last week of Term 3

Trips

Trips are decided with staff and pupils and signed off by SLT.

- P1A and P1B Calderglen Park and Zoo
- P2/1 and P2 Culzean Castle
- P3/2 and P3 Culzean Castle
- P4A and P4B Kelvingrove Museum

- P5A and P5B Odeon and ????- Possible KFC/ Vibrant Communities
- P6A and P6B Maritime Museum and Eglinton Park
- P7A and P7B Culzean Castle
- P4-7G Edinburgh Castle and Nation Museum Scotland
- P1-3G and SA Kidz Play and Beach park

J Baldie-

In person- Working Group update.

L Paul-

STEM

National Robotarium Visit

Miss Paul was part of a small group from EAC who visited the National Robotarium at Herriot Watt University in Edinburgh to discuss how to best plan and prepare for future STEM events in a sustainable way. We are hoping to have another STEM day in May but this has still to be finalised.

World of Work Week

World of Work Week will be Monday 12th – Friday 16th May 2025. It will follow a similar pattern to last year:

- A project day where each class will focus on a particular occupation
- A visitor's day where we will hopefully have a variety of people in to visit classes and speak about their job. Miss Paul has contacted a variety of companies/local people and is waiting on responses. A Form was also put out on our app asking for parent/carer volunteers.

A STEM day

- A careers day where children can have a think about what they would like to do when they grow up.

Microsoft Incubator Programme

- Staff have completed 4 training modules for '21st Century Learning Design' and we can hopefully incorporate some of this learning into our World of Work Week.
- Staff have completed 2 training modules for 'Master Microsoft Teams' and the pupil digital leaders group will be testing out some of the features of Teams with Miss Paul with the hope that these can then be used by the whole school.

Problem Solving Schools

- Staff have had training on the following problem solving strategies:
 - o Exploring and Noticing
 - o Working Systematically
- Classes have been completing problem solving tasks from nrich using the strategies mentioned above. Feedback from staff has been that pupils have been engaged in the learning and motivated with a positive atmosphere in the classroom with pupils wanting to do more problems.

ECC to P1 Transition

- Currently we are having our third transition loop with children from the ECC coming in to the P1 classrooms and our playground to complete activities with Miss Paul & Mrs Mair.
- Miss Paul & Mrs Mair have met with ECC staff in term 3 to discuss ECC pupil targets and progress.
- Miss Paul has started monthly visits to JH ECC to observe particular children who will be coming to JHPS who may need some enhanced transition.

J Fulton-

Numeracy – Multiplication Minds

Our pupil group (McIlvanney Mathematicians) have been working hard behind the scenes to agree on final details of our new and exciting Times Tables initiative. We have agreed to call it 'Multiplication Minds'.

Mrs Fulton is currently trialling the format in her own P4 class, to see how this will work across the school. The plan is that in Term 4, Mrs Fulton will visit all the P4-7 classes across the school to explain and model how this will look, with help from the McIlvanney Mathematicians.

In short, the initiative will run 3 days a week alongside our existing Number Talks sessions which will run on the other 2 days. It is hoped that this will raise our skills and knowledge, and ability to retain times tables facts in a fun way. There will be rewards after learning 3, then 6, then all 12 times tables. Rewards will be presented by the McIlvanney Mathematicians, either at Assembly or in the relevant class.

When we are happy with the format and the plan, we will share this via the school app with our families.

J Easton-

So the Gaelic working party are working on developing resources for supporting literacy additional support needs. We have sourced some resources that we didn't previously have or know about and have liaised with EAST teachers to discuss and look at some of the resources they use. We have started adapting some of these resources and are using them in support sessions with pupils who need additional support in literacy. We are continuing to look at resources that can be adapted and successfully used in a GME setting and trying to find/consider alternatives for resources that are available in English but aren't suitable for translations (assessments/books like rapid readers etc).

We are also working on creating Gaelic Haiku poems to take part in an exhibition being organised by South Ayrshire for display in the Cutty Sark. This is the second project we have taken part in with the Ayrshire Gaelic group following the success of the Christmas concert we hosted.

L Stewart-

Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy Update

- Classes have completed a questionnaire about their thoughts and suggestions for our behaviour policy. After consultation adaptations will be made in time for Term 4.
- Some staff are still attending training sessions on Children's Behaviour.
- Parents will be notified of the updated policy in Term 4.

Respectme Anti Bullying – this is continually promoted through class lessons and assemblies. We didn't take part in Anti Bullying week but have chosen to promote this throughout the session.

Restorative Approaches - staff use this deal with incidents within the school. Pupils have had training in Restorative Conversations and posters explaining these are now displayed in all classes and open areas. Pupil sessions in classes will take place with S Swan

during Term 4 and a group of Ambassadors to be created to help out in the playground. Parents will get information about this in TERM 4

RRS Gold award - Mrs MacDonald and Miss Reid are taking this forward. We have Right of the Month introduced at assemblies and a different class each month is collecting evidence for our RRs Floor book. Mrs MacDonald and Miss Reid have completed an Action Plan for the Gold Award. There is a large amount of work to be covered so this will take session 2025/26 to complete.

To improve physical fitness and increase active opportunities for children - Classes are continuing to team teach the core skills on timetables topics. This ensure high quality PE is delivered and that there in continuity across the school. There are a variety of after school clubs happening this term led by staff and East Ayrshire Leisure. Playground resources have been purchased and L Stewart will get these all ready and in new trollies to be used after Easter. All children take part in active assemblies weekly which involve walking, playground games, football and dance/fitness activities.

SEBN/Neurodiversity – This has not moved forward due to staff absence this term

School Budget Update

End of financial year

PEF Spend

Staffing- JR, EM, GM, SR (GME).

Afterschool Clubs

Swimming P5

Literacy, Numeracy, HWB resources

ICT resources, including iPads and Chromebooks

School Fund Update

£13,184.15

Of this total the following is allocated:

-£6240 Residential Trip

-£1500 Residential Bus

-£2000 School Trip contribution

Left- £3444.15

End of report