

Lawhead School Parent Council Meeting

Monday 6th September 7:30pm

EGM Minutes



1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Amy Niven, Kate Duff, Laura Sinclair, Nicola Steven, Theresa Ring, Melanie Dobie, Sarah Kay, Lucy Scott, Melati Cox, Sarah Donald, Cathy Taylor, Dawn Pemberton Hislop, Elizabeth Peacock, Rachel Deegan, Donna Bain, Cat Reid, Ozge Senay Sutherland, Heather Gaunt, Heather Lewis, Marije Sneddon, Pam Robinson, Sarah Bell, Rose Lynch, Deborah Stanfield, Michelle Durie, Claire Olley, Lucy, Stefania Pasare, Janet Lovett, Rosie Espley, Emma Nylk, Jamie Dempster, Karen Jarrett, Liliana Martins E Caneco, Kathryn Steven, Amy, Leanne Messenger, Jonathan Seeley, Lucy Jakeman, Alison Glass Davies, Alison Duncan Kerr, Fiona Philip, Abbi Noble, Noreen Young.

Apologies: Brian Thomson and Diane Palmer.

2. Minutes from the previous meeting (AGM)

Approved. Proposed by: Kate Duff and seconded by: Laura Sinclair

3. School update

Update by Mrs Bain:

Classes

9 classes, nursery full with waiting list. New staff – Miss Mahmood P6, Mrs Smith P7, Mrs McInnes PSA and Mrs Stevenson PSA. Miss Delargy and Miss McGeary delivering NCCT across the school – RME and PE. Nursery staffing unchanged - Miss McVicar moved to a new post.

Covid-19

Covid-19 measures within the school have remained almost unchanged. This week we have phased out the 4 bubbles in the playground. Main difference is the change to contact tracing. Letter issued by Carrie Lindsay to clarify this for parents - only action from the school is to issue 'Warn and Inform' notification to parents when informed of positive cases.

SIP

4 SIP priorities this session:

1. Developing our curriculum rationale – will involve pupils, staff and parents
2. Raising attainment in writing from 84% to 87% across the school
3. Develop outdoor learning progression from N – P7
4. Developing effective use of assessment within the nursery to secure children's progress

Summary will be out to parents by end of term along with SQR for last session

PEF

PEF priorities: £14,702 + carry forward + 15% increase = £16,098

1. Intervention 1: HWB – improved resilience and emotional wellbeing of identified pupils and reduction in anxiety.
2. Intervention 2: Literacy – Early Level Phonics – consistent reduction in BASE performance for P1 pupils.
3. Intervention 3: Numeracy – SEAL Maths Intervention – identification of need through tracking, SFL liaison and BASE/SNSA data.

Annual Calendar

Activities and events scheduled for the year (planned as much like a normal year as possible). Term 1 dates have been added to the app. N process of uploading to the website and will send a list out to parents on an upcoming newsletter. All dependent on Covid-19 guidance at the time.

4. Parent Council Update

Members update: Amy Niven Chair, Kate Duff Vice Chair, Cathy Taylor Treasurer, Sarah Kay/Sarah Donald Secretary, Laura Sinclair, Lucy Scott, Melanie Dobie, Melati Cox, Dawn Pemberton Hislop, Elizabeth Peacock, Theresa Ring, Rachel Deegan and Nicola Steven.

Travel improvement plans: Update by Dawn Pemberton Hislop. Dawn and Eva Groeneveld are aiming to tackle traffic issues at Lawhead School. In particular, hoping to achieve traffic calming at the main entrance to the school. They are meeting with Mrs Bain next week to discuss ideas how they can improve this and make the school area safer for our children. Dawn will be sending out a survey soon, please use and any ideas please don't hesitate to contact. Also, if anyone else wants to join both Dawn and Eva please get in touch.

Grant Application Status: Update by Lucy Scott. Last year the focus was applying for grants for technology, after discussion with Mrs Bain grant applications will continue for technology this year. The aim is to help purchase more laptops and a trolley holder.

5 grant applications identified to apply for: Culture grant Fife Council, Common Good Fund, Bell Fund, Russell Trust (Tullis Russell) and Kingdom Housing association.

Stefania Pasare suggested contacting the Stem club regarding a grant, she will kindly send information onto Lucy. If anyone else knows anymore possibilities for grants, please let the Parent Council know.

Outdoor learning update: Update by Cathy Taylor. Back in Spring 2020 a small group of parents came together as a team with an aim to help improve the outdoor setting of the school and help facilitate outdoor learning. Funds to help facilitate outdoor learning has been raised through grants and fund raising.

Aiming to convert the 'Bumpy' into an outdoor classroom. Cathy is meeting Mrs Simpson next week to see how to move things forward. Mrs Simpson is also liaising with the Pupil Council next week to find out what they would like to see outdoors.

Ordering of outdoor football posts will be happening soon. Mrs Bain updated that there is now a new shed for loose parts and outdoor equipment.

Any ideas are welcome, please get in touch anytime.

Treasurer Update: Update by Cathy Taylor. End of year accounts are published and available to see on Facebook page. Decision to move the financial year to run in conjunction with the school year August to August.

A parent from the school has kindly offered to verify the accounts – thank you.

Future plans update: Update by Amy Niven. Now a Parent council with the merger of the PTA and the School Council, both under one umbrella. It is planned to continue to raise funds this year for outdoor learning and technology.

Continue to have fun events for the children this year.

The Parent Council will work alongside the school improvement plan.

Overall last year was a very successful year with fund raising, successful grants and fun events for the children. The council will meet with Mrs Bain to discuss the future, by the next Parent Council meeting hoping to outline the aims and goals.

5. Attainment in our school

Mrs Bain kindly shared a power point presentation on how attainment is assessed and recorded. Mrs Bain also explained how the recently published Times report was done and that it is based on the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) results from the P7 pupils in 2019. Attainment levels at Lawhead School was shared from 2017 until current.

6. Council update

Councillor Brian Thompson unable to attend tonight's meeting and sends his apologies. He has kindly forwarded a general update. However, due to tonight over running we will publish the general update on the Parent Council Facebook page.

7. Q & A

- Emma Nylk: Thank you for the update. I work with attainment data in schools and Scottish Government all the time and how the Times have used that data is very wrong.
- Rosie Lynch: I concur that 21 is a pretty small sample size in relation to the Times publication.
- Rosie Espley: Is it typical for averages to decrease so much from P1 to P7 in so many categories? Mrs Bain explained yes, this trend can often be seen.
- Ozge Senay: Concerned that probationary teachers are teaching P6 and P7 classes. Janet Lovett, Karen Jarrett and Lucy Scott also in agreement to this. Lucy Scott: Suggested experienced teachers to sustain as high a level of attainment in upper years as possible. Ozge

Senay: I completely agree with Lucy's point. Ozge Senay: To clarify my concerns and comments are not to do with the quality or friendliness of the probationary teachers but to specifically plan now to support our future P6 and P7 pupils who will be going off to secondary school soon. Another question, can the school not obtain full time non-probationary staff for all years so that we do not have to depend so heavily on probational staff for all years? Reassurance by Mrs Bain given, all probationary teachers are fully qualified, well supported and often come with a lot of energy with the most recent knowledge. No class in the school would have a probationary teacher for 2 years in a row.

- Lucy Jakeman: We haven't even had any reading books sent home and so it seems really difficult to support learning, can we have some clear guidance about what we can do at home to support our learners? Mrs Bain: Details regarding reading books are in the school newsletter and books will be coming home.
- Laura Sinclair: Feels needs communication improvement, can an update on the children be done on teams? Mrs Bain: I feel this would be too much work for my staff currently.
- Laura Sinclair: Can I also just ask... I understand that the working time agreement has already been done but within the agreement the hours that would normally be assigned to open afternoons etc, can these be used this term on a small overall 'in class this week' update until we can get into the classrooms again?
- Lucy Jakeman: I've never seen my child's jotter. She's in p2 now and so I'd like to know how to support her work in this area. Can this be arranged?
- Jonathan Seely: With a brief look at table P1's scoring around 90% and then significantly declining across the board in all sections to p7. Looking at the average across the school it seems to not address this decline?
- Liliana Martins E Caneco: What can the school and parents do to ensure that decline does not continue to take place during the next year's between P1 and P7? Responses: Suggestion of workshops from Amy, Claire Olley, Melatai Cox and Stefania Pasare. However, Melati did express she also had doubts that parents wouldn't attend. Stefania Pasare suggested: How about giving more feedback to parents if a child is particularly struggling with reading etc. Lucy Scott highlighted: There is usually a healthy bank of parents who are happy to come into school voluntarily to help in classes if and when Covid allows. Sarah Bell: I would agree with what others are saying regarding communication. I find it very difficult to support my children's learning on a day-to-day or week-to-week basis if we don't know what they are doing in school. We sporadically in P1 got a very short paragraph about the week and it was very helpful, even just as a way to get your child talking about what they'd been doing as well as what you could build on at home. Stefania Pasare: I agree in having more information on the work kids are doing at the school in order to support the learning at home. Amy: I agree on some feedback being useful, as a new p1 parent have found there has been very little information on an informal level to gauge what goes on inside the classroom and generally about how they're settling in. Emma Nylk, Elizabeth Peacock and Michelle Durie agree with comment.

- Heather Gaunt: Asking regarding Seesaw? Mrs Bain explains it has been approved by Fife Council to use and Lawhead School will be trialling it within nursery. Kate Duff, Elizabeth Peacock, Marije Sneddon, Deborah Stanfield and Michelle Durie all commented they would like things to move forward with the use of Seesaw and it was a good idea. However, looking for it to be used on other year groups not just nursery.
- Lucy Jakeman: Can I ask how you find out what level your child is at? Did I miss it in the report we get sent at the end of the year?
- Claire Olley: Could we see the teacher of each class and the classroom through SWAY? Alison Duncan Kerr, Melati Cox, Janet Lovett and Amy agree with this suggestion. Mrs Bain will look into this.
- Jamie Dempster: Will the attainment presentation be shared after the meeting to the parents? Ozge Senay : Agree with Jamie's request, this would be very useful for us parents.
- Jamie Dempster: Can the school work with other school learning partnerships, ones that are achieving high attainment levels? Unfortunately, no this is chosen by Fife Council.
- Claire Olley: Could there be more reading books? Ozge Senay: We could have targeted fund raiser to raise money for reading books? Mrs Bain explains updating books could be possible, potentially through the school's annual budget.
- Laura Sinclair: Can we do more similar play equipment in all areas in playground, not just P1-2? Mrs Simpson kindly set this up this area independently.
- Liliana Martins E Caneco: Are there any plans for more music lessons in the school? It would be great to expose the children to more music and instruments at School? Mr Higgins is our Viola/Violin instructor who will be working with the P6 and P7.
- Deborah Stanfield: Are the P6's not going to be buddies this year? Mrs Bain explained it is hoped now that restrictions are easing that P6 buddy system for P1 children to re-establish.
- Janet Lovett: I'd just like to say that my two are really happy at school overall and I'm a happy parent hearing about what they do. Clearly Covid has been a total pain on their lives but together we'll get through it!!!
- Jonathan SEELEY: Thanks for organising and thanks to Mrs Bain for her time tonight.
- Melati Cox: Yes, I agree, thank you, Mrs Bain for your time and your explanations this evening.
- Claire Olley: Thanks to council members for their time and efforts and Mrs Bain.
- Cathy Taylor: Thank you Mrs Bain for your time and patience tonight and thank you to Amy and Kate for organising.

- Jamie Dempster: Thanks for all the updates and the presentation Mrs Bain and good luck with the year ahead!!
- Michelle *****: Thank you, this has really helped as I'm a new mum to the school.
- Heather Gaunt: Thanks everyone.
- Emma Nylk: Thanks.
- Liliana Martins E Caneco: Many thanks for such a comprehensive discussion.
- Amy: Thanks.
- Stefania Pasare: Thank you to everyone for the information provided.

8. Next meeting

Agreed to be held on October 4th 2021