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Description automatically generatedLawhead School Parent Council Meeting**

**Monday 29th November 7:30pm**

**EGM Minutes**

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Present: Kate Duff, Amy Niven, Laura Sinclair, Nicola Steven, Melanie Dobie, Sarah Kay, Melati Cox, Cathy Taylor, Dawn Pemberton Hislop, Liz Peacock, Donna Bain, Kathryn Steven, Heather Gaunt, Brian Thomson, Jennifer Simpson, Sabine Parrang,, Liliana Martins E Caneco, Emma Nylk, Leanne, Janet Lovett, D Triantafyllidou, N Young, Rachel Deegan.

Apologies: Theresa Ring, Emma Allan, Lucy Scott, Heather Lewis, Diane Palmer

1. **Minutes from the previous meeting (EGM)**

Approved. Proposed by: Laura Sinclair and seconded by Sarah Kay

1. **School update**

Mrs Bain’s update was issued on the Parent Council Facebook page and the School App for parents to read and submit questions prior to tonight’s meeting.

**Questions submitted:**

Question 1: School library, a parent keen to support the library and would like more information about how the library worked? Response from Mrs Bain: The school has no central library but each wing within the school has their own library. They are looked after by the staff and the children. The school is very well resourced and has an excellent quantity of books. We do have a wish list of group reading and novel books. Currently have £700 raised from book fair commissions and will use this.

Question 2: Shall the Christmas concert and assemblies be recorded? Response from Mrs Bain: Fully aware not all parents can attend the Christmas concert and therefore one of the indoor rehearsals will be recorded and uploaded onto sway. Mr Higgins Christmas music with the children from P6 and 7 will also be shared. This is also the school’s contingency plan if poor weather on the day of the concert. Regarding assemblies there is a significant number of children within the school that are not consented to be filmed. Therefore, it is difficult to film without excluding these children and we don’t want the children to miss out on assemblies. Assemblies will not be filmed.

Question 3: Parents asked if there will be more book fairs? Response from Amy Niven: Last year there was an online Usbourne book fair, we would like to hear from parents if they would want this again. Will also find out if Usbourne books do group novels and reader books.

1. **Parent Council Update**

**Fundraising updates:** Update by Amy Niven. All My Own Work raised £546.55. Another successful year of doing this and very positive feedback.

**Christmas fundraisers and festive update:** Update by Melanie Dobie and Nicola Steven. Festive shopping event has been successful, it is hoped this will run again next year and will be expanded. The Parent Council is hoping to arrange a Santa to come visit the school and deliver a wee something to each child. Needing a Santa to volunteer so please get in touch if this is something you can help with. Treasure map fundraising up on Facebook. Please share with the children about the great prizes, the map can potentially raise £500. Mrs Bain will kindly share on the school app and in the newsletter. ? Share on community pages and place a poster on the gate.

**Treasurer update:** Cathy Taylor issued an update ahead of the meeting on the Parent Council Facebook page, please access for update. No questions were raised following this, but it was short notice therefore Cathy happy for anyone to message any questions after the meeting. Cathy also updated Tesco fundraising of blue tokens still running until December, currently in 2nd place.

**Uniform exchange:** Update by Jen Simpson and Rachel Deegan. 1st Monday of the month the exchange runs and the Captain and Vice-Captain help. Plenty items to exchange but maybe needs to be set up at main gate to be more visible. Please speak to parents and spread the word, especially for the Christmas jumpers. Rachel will advertise on Facebook. Toy exchange was mentioned but felt too many people in the grounds, maybe reconsider at a later date. Coat exchange was suggested by Janet Lovett with a positive response. Bag exchange suggested by Nicola Steven but it was felt storing might be an issue.

**Outdoor learning update:** Update by Cathy Taylor. Work in the bumpy area still not started, awaiting Fife Council.

Palettes were donated, thank you. These will be used for composite.

Mud kitchen kindly donated by L Sinclair, thank you.

The university sports grant has been used to purchase, bibs, poles and goal posts.

The greenhouse has been damaged in the storm but Mrs Simpson if confident this can be fixed.

Shelter outside for outdoor classroom too difficult to put in place due to fire regulations. However, an idea that may work is a stretch tent and Cathy will do grant applications to help fund this.

Also looking for logs for seating areas. If anyone can get and help cut up that would be great, Mark Edwards from Special Branch was suggested.

**Grant Application:** Update by Amy Niven. Lucy Scott has submitted a few grant applications. These applications are to help improve technology within school and laptops. Further update on these applications will be done at the next meeting.

**Communication update:** Update by Liz Peacock. Liz and Laura Sinclair are working to create a guide which helps parents learn which communication channels the school use and what they are used for. The guide will set out questions and answers to help parents find the information they are looking for. A brief at glance guide to get the best out of the communication channels, something easy and quick to use.

1. **Curriculum Rationale/Cost of the school day**

Mrs Bain presented a power point presentation on both these subjects. Mrs Bain will kindly post these presentations on the Parent Council Facebook page. See attachment for presentation:



Two questions Mrs Bain raised in the presentation:

1. What makes Lawhead School unique? Laura Sinclair: The community, Amy Niven: Inclusive and aspirational school including academic, sport and community. Janet Lovett: Good parent and teacher engagement. Heather Gaunt: Such a welcoming school. Laura Sinclair: Celebration of achievement. Nicola Steven: Very friendly and welcoming to new pupils. Liliana Martins E Caneco: Diversity and the Ceilidh. Emma Nylk: The children are supported from nursery through to P7 in one location. Cathy Taylor: I feel the teachers and staff really know my children well. Heather Gaunt: The variety of sports. Liz Peacock: Everyone’s equally welcomed and made to feel part of the community, whether they are around for a short period or for multiple children over the years.
2. What do we want for our learners? Janet Lovett: To be supported. Liz Peacock: For them to be supported in achieving the best for them, academically and in their development overall. Emma Nylk: To be proud of their learning and to achieve the best they can. Cathy Taylor: A warm welcoming environment where they feel safe and supported. Kate Duff: To be happy and secure. Sabine Parrang: To be happy and developing well, also ensuring the children that need support get it. Liliana Martins E Caneco: The encouragement to allow them to grow independently and nurture their confidence. Heather Gaunt: To be challenged, but to be given the tools to solve problems and be curious with their learning. I also love that children have such fun at break time.

Following the presentations:

Amy Niven: Very informative and interesting, thank you for sharing.

Mrs Bain is looking for volunteers to be part of a working party of looking at the cost of the day at Lawhead school. Emma Nylk kindly offered. Any other volunteers please drop an email to school or phone. Will start the group from next term.

Nicola Steven: Interesting to hear all this information and asked about the situation of free school meals. Mrs Bain updated: Currently all school meals free until P4. After Christmas this will extend to P5 and in August 2022 this will be extended to P7. Nicola also asked how often will the working party for cost of the day meet? Mrs Bain explained most likely 2-3 times a year but initially to get the group and actions up and running maybe more.

1. Council update

Update by Councillor Brian Thomson: Speed cushions at Buchanan Gardens and Hepburn Gardens are now approved, will be done within this financial year.

A parent had previously asked if advisory cycle lanes on Strathkinness Low Road just outside the school could be a possibility. Transportation officers reviewed this, but it was found the road to be too narrow and might make the situation worse around the school.

Laed Brae works continue, taking longer than planned due to weather. Now looking to be further 10 weeks than planned.

Transport officer in touch and looking for ideas for any further safety measures/crossings. If anyone has suggestions, please forward. Amy Niven suggested the Parent Council will get in touch with Brian regarding this after further discussions of the school travel plan.

1. **A.O.B**

Next meeting 21st February 2022