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Elderbank Primary School and Early Years  
Parent and Teachers Association  
Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting

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Date: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Time: 7pm

Location: Elderbank Primary School

Minute Taker: Tracy Ferguson

Attendees:

Elaine McNeil	Gwen Lusk	Tracy Ferguson	Kelly Marshall
Irene Stitt	Heather Wilson	Miss Robertson	Mr Bleakley
Miss Langam	Mr Caldwell		

### **Agenda Items**

#### **1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 approved and available on the school website.

#### **2. Treasurers Report**

The bank currently sits at 1176.70

#### **3. Head Teachers Report**

##### a. School Improvement Plan update (Mr Bleakley)

- There is a new focus on restorative approaches that will help children self-discipline and will work to repair relationships between children and get to underlying problems.
- This approach involves staff training with educational psychologists, both teachers and classroom assistants, to learn how to conduct a restorative conversation and develop kids as restorative leaders.

##### b. Rebound Therapy (Miss Langan)

- The trampoline has a permanent base in the gym hall, which is a real benefit as it is immediately available to any child who requires it.
- Two rebound therapists have been appointed – Miss Langham and Mr Strang with another 3 planned.
- Sessions with children started on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and immediate benefits were seen and the general feedback is the rebound therapy trampoline is a worthwhile investment.

c. Total Communication (Miss Langham)

- There is a large number of autistic children in the school who will be supported using the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). Two staff are now trained with further training to be cascaded to additional staff.
- Makaton training (simplified sign language) is underway with a planned launch in February.
- British Sign Language (BSL) has been fully rolled out within the school.
- Teach Trays is a strategy that helps to build repetitive skills in P1 and P2 to limit the relearn process every time they move to a new year and to support independent learning.
- Visual clutter has been removed and plain colours used to reduce noise to promote a calming environment.
- The B Squared programme is a tracking tool to help monitor and pinpoint where children are at in their learning.
- Evisense is another system being used, which is a communication tool where for example a teacher can take a picture of a child and an individual private page, which will allow photo's, videos and comments to be sent to parents/ carers about their child in real time. This software can also link to the B Squared assessment tool.

d. Pupil Equity Fund (Mr Caldwell)

- Evisense was one of the purchases that has been made through the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF). Evisense is focused on special needs children, hearing impaired children, and targeted children in the mainstream school, which means the benefits of the system will reach approx. 150 children.
- Since the last update the first round on intervention has been delivered across all children and the feedback has been positive with all children feeling supported. A full evaluation will take place and results will be fed back to teachers and parent/ carers, then targets can be set for next set of interventions.
- Numeracy interventions are similar across the school therefore all staff will be trained to use these interventions with all children. £5000 PEF was spent on core numeracy resources that will benefit all groups and classes.
- A further £1500 PEF has been spent on ICT software that will be delivered to classrooms soon.
- All PEF strategies have been backed by the Professional Learning Academy at North Ayrshire Council who plans to replicate the approach we have taken in across other schools.

e. Miss Robertson thanked all staff for their contribution to making improvements.

- The model for enhanced deaf support has been changed to be more bespoke and more discussion based with children receiving pre/post lesson support or in class with a tutor.
- Incidental learning is difficult for deaf children therefore experiential learning will be expanded.
- Deaf children saw the Nutcracker as the show is completely visual with the story being told through movements, as opposed to the pantomime, which despite have a translator available, a lot of the meaning is not understood by deaf children.
- The Glasgow Science Centre visited P3 children in the school and this was funded through the hearing impairment provision.

- Learn for sustainability. The school grounds are to be developed and children were asked for ideas and suggestions – these can be viewed on boards in the foyer. The school have gone out for quotes. P6 children have been tasked with developing the cabin.
- New school app launched for IOS and Windows. The aim is the app will replace texts and parents/ carers will only receive what is relevant to their child(ren)s year group. The latest news section also links to the school website.

#### 4. Events

There are no events scheduled at the moment. Consideration is being given to arranging a sub-meeting to specifically discuss fundraising activities.

<b>ACTIONS</b>	
Parent Council	Arrange a fund raising meeting

#### 5. Survey

The survey is ready to launch and will be sent to the school for distribution to parents/ carers via text as the survey is digital through Survey Monkey. The survey will run till Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb and the results will be distributed at the next meeting.

<b>ACTIONS</b>	
Tracy	Send survey to school and collate results
School	Send link to survey via text

#### 6. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018.