



Blackwood Primary School & ELC Parent Council

**Blackwood Primary School, Carlisle Road,
Blackwood, Lanark, ML11 9AT**

Blackwoodparentcouncil@gmail.com

BLACKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 12th February 2025

Present

Emma McGeachie – P5/7, Donna Neeson – P7, Lisa Tweed – P2/5, Tori Sommerville – P7, Christine McMillan BPS, Jenny Bowman – BPS, Ruth Colquhoun – BPS, Erin Illingworth – BPS and Viv Colquhoun – BPS, Kimberley Miller – P2, Laura Watt - P7, Wendy Thomson – P3/7 and Susan Watt – P7.

Apologies

Jo McGuigan

Welcome

Emma opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Correspondence

Email received from Vivien Stewart (BKCG) regarding Solar Farm development at Rogerhill Farm. She proposed a “What Lock Wood means to me” campaign for schools to highlight the importance of our children’s Forest school experience. This will be discussed in AOCB below.

Treasurer’s report

Donna gave us a financial update -

Opening balance from November meeting - £6,284.87

Income from bonus ball - £295.00

Income from easy fundraising - £42.59

Payment for Christmas treats - £73.20

Payment for lottery license renewal - £20.00

Payment for Clickview - £627.00

Payment for P7 hoodies - £239.95

Payment for Sumdog subscription - £295.41

Closing balance as at 12/02/25 - £5,366.90

EASY FUNDRAISING

Donna highlighted the limited uptake of Easy Fundraising. Only approx. 64 families/individuals are using the “Easy Fundraising” app for Blackwood Primary. Easy fundraising is a brilliant way for the school to raise money as a % of money spent at retailers online goes directly to the school. We have asked if Sandra could include details, including a step-by-step user guide within the school newsletter to encourage more participation.

Head teachers report

Thanks for the financial support which has enabled us to

- Have treats at our Christmas Celebrations.
- Engage in learning at home and in school – click view
- In the recent Sum dog SLC Competition Primary 7/6 came 1st and we had 7 pupils in the top ten – Awesome!

I would like to acknowledge the contribution Carole McKenzie made to our school community in her role as Head of Education Clydesdale and in her current post as Executive Director of Education Resources. Sadly, Carole is retiring due to ill health. She will be missed and we wish well for the future.

Storm Damage

- School was closed on Friday 24th January.
- The 4G netting and cage was damaged - cage itself has been fixed but we are on it along with Leisure to get the netting repaired/replaced.
- Trees in the wildlife garden - reported to land services
- Outdoor storage for games damaged beyond repair.

Staffing

- Interviews taking place this week for an EYW to cover Lynzi Morrison's maternity leave.
- 0.6FTE Mrs Canning (previously Miss Meldrum) has returned to work on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Colquhoun will cover 0.4FTE of this post. She will remain with us full time until the spring break.
- 0.4FTE – covered internally and by area cover until further notice
- Mrs Murray finishes with us on Friday 14th February to take up a new post at Lesmahagow High School. She has been attached to the school for over 20 years as a parent and served on the PC – interviewed me! She has worked in the school for 10 years. We wish her well at LHS.
- We are hopeful that we will get a 0.6FTE replacement in allocation

School Improvement Plan

- All teachers have participated in Stephen Graham training on Guided Reading - 4 of 5 sessions completed.
- P2 families have been asked to attend a maths workshop on dominoes and attend a further 6 weeks of numeracy home learning. This will be led by Mrs Gray and Mrs Colquhoun.
- Transition events with LHS are underway
- Assemblies – Primary 2 have entertained their family and friends with a literacy themed assembly with a focus on The Three Billy Goats Gruff!
- Residential to Dalguise on 24th -28th February. Six members of staff are away – Mrs Kellie, Miss Lothian, Miss McArthur, Miss Illingworth, Mrs Colquhoun and Ms McMillan. The remaining Primary 7 children will join Mrs Small and the remaining Primary 6 children will be with A variety of school staff over the week. Ms Stewart will cover Primary 3.
- Sustainability – Bins have arrived along with new litter pickers. 3 pupils have been invited to attend the ECO conference at Hamilton Sports Grounds on Friday 28th March
- Launched our Behaviour Pathway based on "Be Ready, Be respectful, Be safe!" This has generated lots of discussion with a mixed response from parents, some like, some don't like, consequences too long /severe/not enough... work in progress!

Cost of the School Day

- Hoodies- the Primary 7 Hoodie have been given out and thanks to the PC these have been limited to £10. Parents have been given 12 weeks to pay for the hoodie.

Participatory Budget: £3000:12

- P7 & P7/6 visited Edinburgh and went to the Playhouse theatre to see Joseph and his amazing Technicolour Dream Coat (19.12.24). Many of the audience complemented staff and pupils on their behaviour – very proud!
- All stages have experienced an education excursion this financial year.

Ongoings :-

- Students across our school community
- H & S – ongoing issues with a few areas in our playground.
- Primary 1 enrolment completed 33-35 intake projected which would give us 9 classes.

Looking ahead ...

- P2 Maths workshops series of 6-8
- Dog trust visiting the school 5 & 6th March
- World Book day on 6th March
- Hosting Burns Competition on Tuesday 11th March
- P7 & P7/6 assembly on 14th March
- Cross Country at Lanark on Wednesday 19th March
- Dance Festival on Wednesday 26th March
- Football & netball festival on Friday 28th March
- SLC ECO conference 3 pupil reps
- Choir are performing at Kirkmuirhill Parish Church Guild on Tuesday 1st April
- 150 Year celebrations - Parent Forum Surveyed at our concerts & pupils too
- Blackwood Gala Day (7.6.24) – Queen, and 5 other court will represent Blackwood Primary at this event.

Any Other Business

*“What Loch Wood Means to Me 😊 campaign”

We received an email from Vivien Stewart (BKCG) asking for Parent Council Support regarding the proposed Solar Farm development at Rogerhill Farm. The proposal is currently under planning approval from the Energy consents Unit, Scottish Government. The developer has not consulted with local children regarding this proposal & if it goes ahead unfortunately due to health & safety the area will not be suitable for Forest School. Vivien proposed that the 3 local primary schools work with the Blackwood & Kirkmuirhill Community Group & BECA the local Blackwood Estate Charity on a “What Lock Wood means to me” campaign to highlight the importance of our children’s Forest school experience & this will be presented to Scottish parliament to defend keeping Loch Wood for Forest School use. To collate information for our campaign, we sent a google form to ask if our Blackwood Primary children use the Loch Wood area out with Forest School. 75% of our Blackwood Primary families use the area out with Forest School for walks, cycling etc... & 48% of these families didn’t know the Loch Wood area until their child had attended Forest school with Blackwood Primary.

On the 7th February, Emma, Donna & Marianne Stewart represented Blackwood Primary, at a meeting with MSP Brian Whittle, BECA, Vivien Stewart & members from the parent council groups of St Johns Primary & Bent Primary. The information discussed at the meeting will be presented to the developer in a further meeting with MSP Brain Whittle.

A BIG thank you also to all the children who worked with Ms Stewart to collate our Blackwood Primary "What Loch Wood means to me" Scrapbook of all their Forest School experiences. Mr Whittle was very impressed with your lovely comments & pictures.

Since then, the Parent Council have also written letters of objection/concern to the Energy Consents Unit & Scottish Parliament & we have received 3 responses from MSPs supporting our argument to save Loch Wood. There is still much work to be done but this is a small positive first step.

*Lisa discussed the Blackwood Primary School & ELC Parent Council Car Boot Sale Proposal. There aren't very many car boot sales in this area anymore, so it could potentially be a popular event to run. The event will be held in the teachers' car park, 1st Sunday in June. Christine has pre booked the area & all safety regulations have been approved. All agreed this would be a good idea & a great way to raise additional funds for the school. Lisa recently saw other PTA's doing gift amnesties on Facebook to get prizes together for fundraising tombola's, so she jumped on the band wagon and arranged one too. Well done Lisa 😊 !! We have collected some great prizes so far & we are hoping the event will be a great success. More information to follow & any updates will be on our Parent Council Facebook Page.

- Emma discussed the 150th Birthday celebrations with all. Christine advised planning is under way – Fun day for the children in school and possibly a community event at night showing a gallery of new and historical memories. Emma discussed a possible suggestion from parents of a Family Ceilidh to include kids and parents. Christine will look into this idea and Emma offered the parent council support.
- On behalf of other parents, Wendy asked if Christine could confirm what time the P7 assembly is taking place as there has been communication of two times. Christine advised she will confirm the time tomorrow via text or email.

Next meeting

- Dates of next meetings
 - Wed 7th May – Face to Face

Close

Emma again thanked everyone for coming, and for their input.

Blackwood Parent Council 2023/2024 –

Emma McGeachie (Chair), Laura Watt (Vice-Chair), Donna Neeson (Treasurer), Kimberley Miller (Secretary)

In support of -

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