



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 7th May 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, and Viv Colquhoun – BPS, Kimberley Miller – P2, Lynsey Clark - P5, Chloe Semple – P2, Sainie Hobdell – P2/P3, Claire Black – P5, Marianne McDonald – P4, and Susan Wayt – P7.

Apologies

Jo McGuigan, Erin Illingworth, Laura Watt, Wendy Thomson, Amy Lang and Julie Smith, Ashley Meldrum, and Sarah Smith.

Welcome

Emma opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Emma explained it's the last meeting on the school year and extended her thanks to everyone for their continued support over the last year. The collective work of everyone involved has greatly benefitted the children and the school.

Correspondence

Email received from Gary Lambie Performance, Planning and Operations Manager regarding PVG scheme updates. Recent changes to the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme that will directly impact parent councils. Under the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020, which came into effect on 1 April 2025, individuals carrying out regulated roles with children must now be members of the PVG Scheme. This will continue to get looked at – At present all members of the committee are registered.

Councillor Ross Lambie has emailed the Parent Council regarding funds South Lanarkshire Council have for a proposed playpark within Blackwood & Kirkmuirhill area. The email was very limited & there has been no update on this so far.

Treasurer's report

Donna gave us a financial update –
Income and Expenditure School year 2024/2025 -

Opening balance as at 12/03/25 - £5,366.90

Income

Bonus Ball – 17/02/2025 - £59.00

Bonus Ball – 05/03/2025 - £59.00

Bonus Ball – 21/03/2025 - £59.00

Bonus Ball – 11/04/2025 - £59.00

Bonus Ball – 22/04/2025 - £59.00

Bonus Ball – 06/05/2025 - £59.00

Asda Fundraising Cashpot – 13/03/2025 - £425.18

Total Income - £779.18

Expenditure

Lisa Tween – banners etc – 12/03/2025 - £188.64

David Malcolm – Biscuits – Chq 010250 – 24/03/2025 - £13.00

Bank service Charges – 25/03/2025 - £4.25

Laura Watt – Leavers Pens – 07/04/2025 - £54.90

Bank service charges – 25/04/2025 - £4.25

Total Expenditure - £265.04

Closing Balance as at 07/05/2025 - £5881.04

Head teachers report

Thanks and an ask for the financial support which has enabled us to

- Subsidise Leavers Hoodies, P7 leaving gift and end of year trip 23/6/25 to bowling
- Sumdog – renewal £493.79 (estimation)
- 150th Arts project contribution towards the £3500 cost – involves all pupils P1-7. Ideally £1500.

SLC are delighted to announce the appointment of Lynsey McRoberts to the post of Executive Director.

Storm Damage

- 4G netting fixed towards end of March 25
- Land services cut down damaged trees

Staffing

- Miss Morrison in the ELC has had baby boy - Archie we wish them well.
- Mrs Carlin has joined the ELC team to cover maternity leave
- Mrs Howarth has joined the SSA team 0.6FTE and is based in the office Monday – Wednesday.

Looking ahead August 2025

- Potentially 1.6FTE reduction in staff in configuring 8 classes.
- Potentially 0.3FTE reduction in staff if configuring 9 classes.

School Improvement Plan

- Residential to Dalguise on 24th -28th February was very successful. The logistics of any future residential trips will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- Celebrating success individual and collective– Burns Competition & Cross Country
- Sustainability –3 pupils along with Miss Illingworth attended the ECO/Sustainability conference at Hamilton Sports Grounds on Friday 28th March and will lead theme across our school community during 2025/26.
- Primary 4-year group are taking part in weekly forest schools on a Tuesday this term.
- We have almost completed our 3-year plan on developing out literacy pedagogy. Resources to support this approach are in place and we plan to have further visit from Stephen Graham in September 25.
- Currently gathering our self-evaluation to identify improvement priorities for 25/26

Participatory Budget August 2025: £3000:12

- This term pupils and their families will be given the opportunity to vote on participatory budget for August 25- April 26.

Ongoings :-

- Car Park – re-establishing the use of the car park at the entrance to the school at 9:00am and 3pm.
- Students across our school community
- P7 & 6 masterclasses
- P7 Bikeability Level 2 this term
- Transitions P1 – Enrolled 35 children – 15 of whom do not attend our ELC. Extended our transition programme to include 3 sessions of forest schools during May
- Transitions ongoing with LHS including 2-day visit on 10th and 11th June
- H & S – inspection taking place 14.5.25
- 150 celebrations
 - Logo
 - Tea Towel
 - Sports Day themed morning (27.5.25)
 - Arts project
 - Showcase & photograph (TBC Sept/Oct)

Looking ahead ...

- P4 assembly (16.5.25)
- Football & Netball – Dr Gardiner, Summer Cup and SLC Girls Football
- P3 Assembly (6.6.25)
- Blackwood Gala Day (7.6.24) – Queen, and 5 other court will represent Blackwood Primary at this event.
- ELC Graduation (13.6.25)
- Church Service (17.6.25)
- ELC Leavers party (18.6.25)
- ASN leavers party (24.6.25)
- House Treat (18.6.25)
- P7 leavers (20.6.25)

Final thanks to the families leaving Blackwood Primary after many years. Their commitment to the school and the Parent Council has been invaluable and has been appreciated

Past Chairs – Susan Wayt and Julie Smith

Vice Chair- Laura Watt

Treasure -Donna Neeson

Past Treasurer – Gail Hutchison

Member – Tori Summerville

Any Other Business

- **Car Boot Fundraiser Event 1st June 2025** - Lisa designed some Parent Council roller banners, leaflets and a vinyl banner to advertise the car boot sale. These have all been printed and delivered and they look great. The roller banners are to highlight the parent council and to remind parents about us during school events such as parents night. They will also be used at Parent Council events such as the upcoming Car Boot Sale to highlight the tombola stall. The Car Boot vinyl banner is currently displayed on the school fence and is future proof, so can be used again in future years. It describes the car boot as being on the first Sunday in June, which allows it to be used in future years. The leaflets detail the differences between the parent council and the parent forum. On the back is a parent check list to let parents know how they can help. It lists things such as Easyfundraising and the Bonus Ball Syndicate.

We are arranging the car boot sale for this year's fundraiser. We have done all the research, made plans of the car park and worked out how to fit as many cars in as possible whilst still giving people enough space to display their sales. Every car will have at least 1.5 car parking spaces each. This means there is room for 34 seller's spaces as well as the space for the Parent Council car where the tombola and raffle will be held from. There is also a food van booked, and the fire brigade should hopefully be attending too, emergency call outs permitting. Out of the 34 available spaces, 18 have been booked and paid for so far, so there are 16 left. With a few weeks left to go, we are hopeful that we can still fill most of these.

The prize donations for the tombola have become so great that we are now going to split the prizes between the tombola and a raffle. We have some amazing vouchers from Scotrail, the Butchers, Edinburgh Zoo and other local businesses, so these will be used as raffle prizes and all of the physical prizes will be in the tombola. Raffle tickets will be available before the event. We really hope it is a successful day for everyone.

- New Parent Council Board Members are required for August 2025. As a Parent Council, legally we cannot run without a minimum of 4 board members. We need a new Vice Chair and Treasurer. Board members are required to hold a position/role for 3 years however, we do appreciate that this is not always feasible. The minimum would be 1 year, maximum 3 years in post. We have 5 meetings per year, 3 are in person at the school & 2 are on Zoom. Meetings are held on a Wednesday evening 7pm – 8pm.

As a board member you will work with the other board members, Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary & Treasurer to ensure the Parent council supports the parents & children of Blackwood Primary by liaising with teaching staff & local councillors.

Due to School Budget restrictions, Blackwood Primary do not have the necessary funds to provide any additional extras for the children. The school rely on the funds raised by the Parent Council to pay for things like the Sum Dog & ClickView learning platforms, seasonal treats for Halloween & Christmas, P7 Leavers gifts.

We are a small forum of 4 members but collectively as parents, teachers & local councillors we are so much more 😊

If you would be interested in finding out more about the roles within the Parent Council please just ask. You can email us direct or just catch us at the school gate.

In August we will be welcoming some new P1 parents to the school so please come along to our first meeting on Wednesday 3rd September at 7pm.

- Lollipop Lady – Kimberley discussed on behalf of a parent raising concerns that the lollipop lady on a few occasions hasn't been at the school crossing before 2:55, Christine explained she has sent an email to the council however advised the lollipop lady should be there for 15:00 until the last child leaves.
- Emma thanked Donna and Laura for all their hard work and effort over the past few years as board members, as they will be stepping down and leaving Blackwood Primary.

Next meeting

Dates for next year are -

- Wednesday 3rd September at 7pm - **IN PERSON**
- Wednesday 1st October at 7pm - **IN PERSON**
- Wednesday 12th November at 7pm - **TEAMS**
- Wednesday 4th February at 7pm - **TEAMS**
- Wednesday 13th May at 7pm - **IN PERSON**

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 -

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

Head Teacher – Ms Christine McMillan

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In collaboration with -

South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources

Almada St, Hamilton ML3 0AA

Executive Director **Tony McDaid**

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