



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 Meeting – Wednesday 13th May 2026

Present

Lisa Tweed P6/3, Emma McGeachie P6, Jenny Bowman BPS, Vivienne Colquhoun BPS, Christine McMillan BPS, Joanne Wilson P1, Chloe Semple P1/3, Ashley Canning BPS, Abbie Dunlop P1, Karen Muir P1, Lara MacPherson P1, Kerry Weir P2/1 Councillor Ross Gowland and Marianne Stewart BPS.

Apologies

Kimberley Miller and Wendy Thomson

Welcome

Emma opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

Treasurer's report

We closed the last meeting with a balance of £5,485.59.

Payments in;

-Easy Fundraising £94.33
-Bonus Ball (6x£59, 1x£56) £410
-SLC Grant (P7 Wiston Lodge trips) £6,944
-BCKG grant (for IT headphones) £500
-In-service day bake sale £112
TOTAL IN £8,060.33

Payments out;

-BPS (P7 Wiston Lodge Trips) £6,944
-Service charges (2x£4.25, 1x£5.93) £14.43
TOTAL OUT £6,958.43

Closing balance £6,587.49

Patterson's quarries community grants via the Scottish Landfill Community Grants, are winding up their community grants scheme. They now have 2 years to use the funds in their pots. If there are projects to be done in the playground or nature garden etc, now might be a good time to come up with some ideas and get quotes and see if we can qualify for a grant to cover the costs.

Head teachers report

Thanks –

- Grant Application which has enabled P7 to have 3 fully funded activity days at Wiston Lodge
- Thanks to the office bearers and members of the PC for your support this year.

School Improvement Plan –

- 4 modelled days of VCPA from Hannah McCafferty (Numeracy DO SLC), 2 observations to be carried out in June
- All staff participated in a PSR moderation day at Crosshouse Primary School with a focus on high quality learning & teaching. This included moderation and professional discussion on writing. 3 teachers had visited the trio schools termly throughout the year. All staff reported this was a positive experience.
- Continue to build on our literacy work. Reading is ongoing. The book fair raised £789.07 which will enable us to refresh our reading library. Most stages have visited the community library this year. All stages participated in World Book Day.
- £10,000 allocated to promote inclusion- Resources
 - Newly formed SLC inclusion residency team will be based here from Monday till end of term to develop their offer of support for schools
 - NHS will be based in school for 2 weeks to assess 20 children awaiting a neurodevelopmental assessment. This is a new model to address wait times for the Neurodiverse Team.
- → Management of resource reorganisation
- UNCRC - Rights Award is ready to submit → ongoing. This will lead to an update of our Relationships Policy. NSPCC work was carried out in school week of 24th April with a follow up workshop for P7 & 6
- Working in partnership with Glasgow Science Centre and Scottish Power Renewables all stages have participated in a STEM activity funded by Scottish Power and be more aware of a sustainable developmental goal in a rapidly changing world. Furthermore
 - P7 & 6 had a 4 week workshop with Chef Robert. This included a parental workshop
 - Smart Stem have worked with P5-7
 - Generation Science – Our Changing Climate with P3/2 & P4/3
 - Generation Science -The Green Machine with P4 & P5
 - BECCA funded Clyde in The Classroom – P5 & P6/5. P5 have won their national competition report writing of the project and will celebrate this next week with the team from Clyde in the Classroom
 - P6/5 visited Auchenheath Fram
- Some stages visited the BUD BUS for skills development. The Army visited P7 for a World of Workday and this will be followed up with an activity day at Hamilton Palace Grounds on Tuesday 19th May.
- Mind Marvels have worked in the school, and all children have been had 3 sessions with the final session tomorrow 14th May.

- Completed Year 2 of 3 in our HGIOS cycle of self-evaluation.

Participatory Budget:

- All classes have participated in a school trip. Prior to the summer holiday this will be voted on again for next year.

Ongoings:-

- Class Assemblies in P1, P2/1 and P4/3. The leavers assembly will be on Friday 19th June.
- Football and Netball festival we have continued to host. The Summer Cup was won by St Johns at Football and Milton for Netball.
- Cross Country our teams worked hard but didn't make the finals.
- P5 have music this term from Ms Cunningham and P4 have a taster from Mr Brawley. This will be celebrated on Wednesday 17th June at 9:30am
- Students are in our school this term - P2/1, P3/2 and PE students all stages.
- BURNS competition - huge success across the board - Thanks to staff who supported this. Best wishes to Rebecca (P7) and Connie (P6) who are going to the National Final in June.
- Around 70 children participated in the SLC Dance festival in Lanark - Thanks to Mrs Small who leads this as a lunch time club and all her helpers!
- The Choir continue to perform locally most recently for the Darby & Joan. Thanks to Ms Stewart who takes this as a lunchtime club.
- P7 are completing Bikeability training this term.
- Sports day & lunch is planned for this Friday ... lets just watch the weather!
- Transitions are ongoing at P1 and S1.

Looking Ahead ...

- Sitting on the cusp of 8 or 9 classes and the implications that has ...
- 35 - Primary 1 have enrolled
- 8 – P1 will join our supported classes

PLAN A - Classes look like

P1	P2/1	P3/2	P4/3	P5/4	P6/5	P6	P7
25	25	25	25	24	24	30	30

We are on this!

Staffing News

- Mrs Bennie has obtained a headship and is now the HT at Kirkton Primary in Carluke.
- Rebecca Lennox (0.6FTE Team Leader) has left the ELC and is now the DHT at Kirkstyles. We wish Rebecca well in this new role. This vacancy is being filled by Freda Mashall.
- Lynzi Morrison has returned from maternity leave which meant that we Nicola Carlin finished her cover with us.
- Sadly, over the festive period Mrs Rhonda Forbes had a family bereavement and has not returned to work. This absence has been covered by existing school staff. Mrs Forbes will not return to class this term.
- Finally I've saved some news for the end .. Jenny our DHT is retiring (Early!) and will finish up at the end of this term. Jenny has been a member of staff here for over 20 years firstly as a teacher in the supported classes, Principal Teacher and most recently as DHT. She leaves a huge gap to be filled (which will be done in due course following SLC recruitment). Personally, she a huge support to me

since her appointment and has supported many children and families in this community. She is not going quietly! However I'm sure you join me in wishing a healthy and happy retirement as she leaves with our thanks and appreciation.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Emma discussed the School swimming provision - there is a possibility that it will become free for P5 including bus costs. Part of the Water Smart Schools Initiative

BECA - petition number now at 2381

A new forest path / area is being developed. It's in the early stages but they want to consult with parent councils regarding ideas for the area for the children.

Emma discussed Solar farm discussed regarding objections. Children's impact assessment to be looked at, still ongoing .

Environmental assessment has still to be done.

Chloe discussed Fundraising -

Jobs have been allocated out for the car boot sale in June.

School summer party organised for 2nd August in the Community Wing – Tickets will be for sale at the car boot sale from either Kimberley Miller or Karen Muir.

Race night is organised for 5th September in the Bowling Club – Tickets will be sold in Term 1 after the school holidays and further information will come in future newsletter from the school.

Helping new P1 parents -

A WhatsApp group to be set up for them to join which will include parents who already have children in the school. This will give them a contact for any advice needed.

Play in the park to be set up for children going into P1.

Lisa discussed the upcoming car boot sale - some more sellers required, 33 spaces left. Will continue putting the word out via social media etc

The tombola will be held at the car boot sale and the raffle at the race night.

Christine advised the P7s have requested a pizza party as part of their leaving - Parent Council will fund. Cakes etc requested for the assisted P3 transition - Parent Council will fund.

Councillor Ross Gowland -

Universal connections discussed

Local action fund

Mason Arms in Lesmahagow empty - planning declined for flats due to parking.

Housing planning and buses discussed.

Playpark upgrade in Kirkmuirhill discussed.

It was suggested to him by the parents if the old ash park area in Heathfield drive could be made better use of.

Water Smart Schools is an RLSS initiative which the school have been working on for the past 2 years. They are hoping to gain their Gold Award. This is separate from school swimming. The Scottish government have said that they will fund free swimming for all Primary 5 school children in 2026. More information to follow how this will affect Blackwood Primary school swimmers.

Solar farm & BESS petition information with the section on BECA. The petition is to protect the Forrest school areas used for the children's outdoor learning. BECA are currently developing new areas for this. Vicki from BECA is looking to consult with parent councils from the local primary schools for input on how these areas could be used to benefit the community

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- Wednesday 2nd September
- Wednesday 30th October
- Wednesday 25th November – TEAMS
- Wednesday 3rd February – TEAMS
- Wednesday 12th May

CLOSE

Emma again thanked everyone for coming, and for their input. For those of you who couldn't manage tonight's meeting, there will be a copy of the minutes sent out via email & if anyone has any questions feel free to contact us via the Facebook page.

Our next meeting is the first of the new school term and will be Wednesday 2nd September 7pm, in the school. We hope to see you there 😊 !

Blackwood Parent Council 2025/2026 –

Emma McGeachie (Chair), Chloe Semple (Vice-Chair), Lisa Tweed (Treasurer), Kimberley Miller (Secretary)

In support of -

Blackwood Primary School, Carlisle Road,
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In collaboration with -

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