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Minutes Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 14th March 2017 7pm-8:30pm

**Present**

Sarah Henley, Annette Barlass, Nikki Cooper, Pauline Bird, Gemma Gough, Ruth McMaster, Nadia Maqbool, Barney Todd, Paul Keegan, Dawn Wilson, Gillian Morrison, Jon Reid, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Morag Hill, Lorraine Hart, Fiona Beveridge

**Apologies**

Christine Hay, Linda Hennessey, Jackie Marra, Domhnall Dodds, Martin Rutherford

Previous Minutes

Minutes from the meeting 23rd January were circulated. There were no issues raised.

**Head Teacher Report**

Ms McMaster gave a brief verbal report.

**Staff update**

It is expected that Mrs Roy will return after the Easter break.

**Family Learning event**

The maths event at the Crofthead centre had been a success.

**Pupil Equity Fund**

Around £15k expected. Options are being considered as a cluster at present. Ms McMaster to report back to the parent council.

**Action: Ms McMaster**

**Trim trail / playground**

Mr Todd to consider options and report back.

**Action: Mr Todd**

**Playground safety**

Large boulders have been broken up and taken away. These were causing a lot of accidents especially when icy.

**Treasurer report**

Linda Hennessey could not attend the meeting. No queries were made regarding the report. The school has received a PC cheque for £5100 for iPads. This was only expenditure. Income of £515.70 reported from fundraising activities; charity bags and East meets West night.

**Parent Questions**

**P1 assembly**

Ms McMaster apologised for the P1 Assembly mistake in the newsletter. However, as the P1 assembly was so good which they did as a whole school launch of the Pollination project, Mrs Gasper has organised for a P1 Parent Assembly on Thursday 23 March.

**Homework**

It was suggested that the homework deadline is moved from Thursday to Monday so that parents can spend more time on homework with their children. During our PC meeting, this received a mixed response with some preferring to keep weekends free of homework and some suggesting that homework be stopped altogether. Ms McMaster will carry out a staff questionnaire on this, Mr Todd will arrange for the Pupil Council to survey the pupils and Nikki Cooper will arrange a questionnaire for parents.

**Action: Ms McMaster, Mr Todd & Nikki**

**Parents’ Night Booking System**

Ruth had been told by the council to hold off with the parent online booking system until contract details are finalised. There is a possibility that this will be rolled out across the council in the new session so that there is uniformity across schools.

Ms McMaster to keep PC informed.

**Action: Ms McMaster**

**Sky Sports Kids**

Sarah will talk to parent who works at Sky to see if Bellsquarry PS can attend this event at Craigswood sports centre.

**Action: Sarah**

**School / Parent Council Partnership Development**

**Sponsor-a-book**

Mr Todd said the school were receiving many donations of books. Jackie Marra or Sarah Henley can be contacted for book plates. It was agreed a member of the PC would come in to present the books to the children at an assembly.

**Road Safety**

At Pumpherston and Uphall Station Primary, JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers) have placed leaflets on offending vehicles. Lawrence recommended parents take a look at what has been done at Harrysmuir primary.

**Daily Mile**

The Pupil Council has measured the playground. School are looking to introduce this however maybe only one day per week to start with. To begin after the Easter break. School will inform parents prior to this.

**Parkhead PS Parent Council**

Sarah has been approached by the chair of Parkhead PS PC for advice on running a successful parent council. This demonstrates that Bellsquarry PS PC has a good reputation in the wider community. Other attendees had also heard that Bellsquarry PS PC was admired for its inclusiveness and for being well attended and supported.

**Fundraising update**

The main item discussed was the East meets West event on 18th Feb. Nadia provided a comprehensive update with very positive feedback and lessons learned for the future, including making this a family event.

A fundraising meeting was held on Friday 10th March. It was agreed that a Strawberry Fayre event will be held and there will be a sponsored fun run on the day. Sarah confirmed that the PC have public liability insurance.

As this is her last year with the school Sarah is trying to hand over Charity Bags for School. She is still looking for ‘Bags 2 School’ volunteers. Nadia said that she may be able to help. Sarah to follow up with Nadia.

**Action: Sarah**

**Communication**

Parents were encouraged to take a look at the “app”. This will be discussed more at the next meeting when Martin Rutherford will be present.

**Correspondence**

Sarah briefly mentioned SPTC (Scottish Parent Teacher Council) and that Bellsquarry PS PC are members. Sarah suggested that parents check out the SPTC website. Some areas need a password for access and Sarah can provide this on request.

**Councillor Fitzpatrick update**

**Planning**

On planning, Councillor Fitzpatrick reported that an appeal has been placed in relation to Wellhead Farm, Murieston.

**Attainment**

West Lothian secondary school exam attainment figures have shown an improvement over the past 5 years which takes West Lothian from 17th to 3rd over this period. Lawrence highlighted that WL College work closely with schools to enable pupils to leave school with technical qualifications.

**National & Local Issues**

**Governance Review**

Jon reported that he had submitted feedback from Bellsquarry PS PC but had not heard back. Jon believes that this may be due to the unexpectedly high volume of feedback received.

**WL Parent Representative Meeting**

All parents welcome. Date March 15 2017 (day after this meeting).

**Named Person**

The Scottish Government are still planning on proceeding with this. The named person for pre-school pupils will be the Health Visitor and the Head Teacher, or similar, will be the named person within school.

**WL School Term Dates**

The proposed school term dates for 2018/19 are out for consultation. These were circulated and will be published on the blog. Comments should be provided to Sarah who will feed back.

**Action: Sarah**

**AOB**

**ECO School**

Ms McMaster reported that Bellsquarry PS has successfully retained its ECO school green flag status. They were complimented on the quality of the application.

**Community Planting**

Mr Todd asked that parents let him know of any perennial plants that they like or would recommend for planting by Bellsquarry Community Council.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 24th April 7pm in school