

## Leith Primary Parent Council Minutes

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 6.15pm in School Library

**Attendees:** Marie Middleton, Judith Weir, Kate McDonald, Nikki Dunne, Heather Stitt, Katy McLean, Claire Colquhoun, Justine Douglas, Alexia Gatinou, Erin Welsh, Barry Wright, Dawn Moloney, Phil Allcock, Rebekah Mcvittie, Nicola Lamberton, Richard Wise, Veronica Melichar, Jule Hildman, Manuela Rocchi, Andy McKinlay, Wendy Kelly, Bryony, Knox, Alanna Clarkson, Shemah Yousif, Christine Treche, Kirstie Paton, Daniela Niklova, Patrick Ntawuyamara , Richard Wise

1. Welcome, introduction from everyone and apologies – Jen Shepherd, Kirsty Welsh, Amy O’leary, Suzanne McHattie
2. Minutes of last meeting and update on actions

Actions – 1. ideas requested from anyone on **Book Week, Social events, After school clubs, Leith Decides bid, main fundraiser for the year 2. Volunteers needed – library, after school club, social committee** and welcome picnic 3. Attic now been cleared of all remaining books 4. Ready reckoner for P1s – will go in bags this week 5. Deep clean requested – Miss Craig spoke to cleaners who said the cleaners said they’d been in over summer, however building work means a deep clean has now been booked. We will specify what we want cleaned. 6. End of year report/communications on what LPPC has done for the school – noticeboard Marie to discuss location with Miss Craig. 7. Set meeting dates for the year – done and communicated. 8. **Wood bark for 1k run route – Kirsty to follow up further and pass on details to Miss Craig post meeting note - Marie spoke to Scott Thomson from the North Neighbourhood Parks Department who advise wood bark is unsuitable but willing to help find a solution. Marie to arrange meeting with Miss Craig and Mr Thomson from the Council.**

3. Head teacher Update including school improvement plan – areas we are focusing on for the year. Four main areas
  - A. Literacy – reading engagement and passionate about reading for pleasure. Evidence shows if this is working much of the other elements of learning will fall into place. Reading is the foundation.
  - B. Working party for writing policy – raising general quality of writing (not handwriting) – moderating standard across the school and consistency at certain levels. This includes spelling. Staff training and teaching approaches.
  - C. Improving health and well being – 3 year programme building resilience about to start, already in other schools. Helping children survive in the big wide world. Helping children deal with challenges, equipping them with skills at home and in playground. Launched assembly this week with new topic each term. Topic 1 resilience – Skipper travelling through river of life and has obstacles as he goes and uses his tool belt to overcome issues. Includes Mindfulness, relationship and social skills, things will be linked to literature and TED talks to keep parents involved. All children across school will do the same topic at the same time. Teachers all well versed in research to back it up and reasons for doing this.

D. Updating skills on autism and behaviour management.

Other issues:

£138,000 funding money – targeted interventions planned for the year. Focus is on the children on free school meals. Room 16 to be a nurture base, 3 staff formally trained in “nurture”. Can be used for targeted family learning too. Mindfulness training been given to staff now which they will use with all children. Maths support – extra morning for recovery work. Additional support for learning – targeted, other staff including liaison worker, speech and language worker. Drive to improve on stat 1 in 5 children in Scotland living in poverty, schools can support this programme and some elements Leith does already. Cluster schools focus on numeracy and literacy moderation too. Meditation – or similar will be looked at this year following success from last year. Donations for nurture room – working group will be in touch if they need anything.

Parent volunteers very welcome to come in and help with e.g. writing workshop – adult to each small group to help those able as well as those needing extra support to get the basics. Volunteer parents taking children to e.g. swimming so PSAs are left in school to use their skills better. **If you are able to support the school with your time or skills please contact Dawn Moloney the acting deputy head teacher. Volunteers in the school (parents, grandparents, friends) means staff time can be better used teaching our children.**

Leith Primary has highest number of low incidence hours – to support children needing extra help. We supplement our core budget to support these children.

Nursery teacher – interviews next week, hoping for a principal teacher.

Pick up arrangements – playground is very cramped and chaotic at the moment so alternatives are being explored and tested. Newsletter suggestion hasn't really worked that well so exploring ideas with the staff. Particularly busy during the first weeks of term, please be patient and follow instructions about where to stand. The staff will report back the revised plan as soon as possible.

4. Update on Head Teacher recruitment process – interviews September.
5. Welcome Picnic - bring the children and make new friends, from 12. P7s running it, including a bake sale.
6. Scottish Book Week & Library – ideas for book week.... each year group have children librarians to support parent volunteers – 2 per year. Book recommendations board, Book seeks reader/Blind Date – to encourage great books to be borrowed that aren't being read at the moment. Wrapped up book – don't know what you are borrowing. A badge saying “I am currently reading.....” staff

and children to wear. Some children might not want to go out to play at breaks so we could trial run them using the library instead of going outside with P6/7 librarians monitoring – only for reading no new borrowing. Theme for book week – “nourish”.

7. Main fundraiser of the year – focus to have one big project or thing for the year. Costing from school e.g. bleachers, projectors to Marie and Phil
8. Mobile phones in school procedures – 2 mobiles never made it back home to their owners last year. Phones were technically stolen and police were involved. Don't bring it in to school if it is of value! Bring it at your own risk. Phones currently put in a basket in administrator's office. Suggested to get treasury boxes for each class instead. This has only happened twice in the last 11 years. Make sure it is the responsibility of the parent/child to make sure their name is on their item.
9. After school clubs – Active schools does sports clubs, LPPC run alternatives. Active Schools has very few options this time around, letters to go out soon. LPPC clubs – professional coaches run the clubs and are paid. Costs covered using small fee for each child to attend. Drama and yoga this year for various year groups finalised so far. We need mats – request for funding of approx. £150 to buy enough for the club for now and can always get more later or ask if there any donations of mats. £150 agreed by LPPC. We need to use £eith Decides money for mats £400 awarded so there will be money left over for other clubs requiring equipment or subsidy. Coding club coming up too, details TBC.
10. Any Other Competent Business
  - a) Edinburgh & Lothian Trust Fund – outer clothing and footwear support for families – grants have had little take up. Form coming out with minutes.
  - b) Miss Brown new PE teacher – interested in starting some sports clubs.
  - c) Please email secretary or chair if you want to raise a topic at a meeting or wish the LPPC to explore a particular topic/area. – social activities on the next agenda.
  - d) Parent pay – can't force parents to put bank details in, they must allow alternatives for parents – has this happened? **Miss Craig to explore.**
  - e) Dog mess on links outside school – guerrilla signage idea to be explored, current signs too small.