

## Leith Primary Parent Council Meeting – 1 February 2017 18:15

**Attendees:** Jen Shepherd, Judith Weir, Nikki Dunne, Marie Middleton, Phil Alcock, Dawn Moloney (Acting DHT), Rebekah McVitie, Bryony Knox, Fiona Craig (Acting HT), Christine Treche, Miss Curran (P2), Ms Butler (P4), Jule Hildeman, Suzanne McHattie, Amy O’Leary, Justine Douglas, Kirsty Chatwood

1. **Apologies:** Kate Macdonald, Rachel Hein, John Booth, Katy McLean, Melisa Rodriguez, Wendy Kelly, Andrew Burnet, Kirsty Welsh
2. **Minutes of last meeting** – approved
3. **Head teacher update**

Ms Craig reported that all is going well so far and thanks the parents for making her feel welcome in her new role. Mrs Moloney and Mrs Hughes are getting to grips with Miss Craig’s previous responsibilities including dealing with social work etc

Hayley Stewart has been appointed as permanent member of staff and will take P5a from Monday until the end of the summer term in June. She has an excellent track record and spent her NQT year with Leith Primary P6 class. Her appointment has been a quick smooth process to ensure minimal disruption to P5a.

Sadly we will lose Mrs Tennant on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February to take up a full time nursery teacher post at Lorne Primary. Miss Hogarth takes over Mrs Tennant’s role including art. At the nursery Mrs Tennant’s days will be covered by an Early Years Practitioner until the summer. After the summer a permanent nursery teacher will join the nursery on a full time basis.

Mr Tiplady who has also been at Leith Primary in the past will be teaching P2a on a Wednesday to replace Miss Hogarth.

Mrs Watson goes on maternity leave on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Her post is currently being advertised with a closing date of 15 February.

*Scottish Opera* was a great success again and DVD of the performance will be available soon.

The *assemblies* with Leithers Don’t litter made a great impact on the children and their visit was featured in an article in the Evening News.

Next week 48 children, a record, go to *the Lecht* for the ski/outdoor activity trip.

*Generation Science* visited which was enjoyed across the year groups.

There is currently a *Behaviour Management Review* happening and Miss Craig is seeking parent views through the survey monkey survey (link featured in the school newsletter) **Have your say by completing the survey and also if you have a particular interest in this area please contact Ms Craig to join a temporary working group to tackle the issues we have.**

*World book Day* celebrations are planned (2<sup>nd</sup> March) including a sponsored event where we hope to raise funds for the non-fiction section of the school library – if each child raised £1.50 we’d have around £1,000 to spend through an Usborne Books scheme.

*Ipads* have been bought for all P6 pupils which takes the number up to 3 full class sets in school. These will be used by other classes too when required. Also purchased are Promethean boards for ICT suite and new classroom.

*P1 pre-registered* children number over 70 however we have been capped at 59, as with other years. It is expected we will have 2 perhaps 3 (including a possible composite P1/2). Ms Craig is exploring the option of using the Education Welfare Officers room as a classroom given the expanding school and limited use by the EWO. Jen has previously enquired about handing the room back to the school with no success, however it is hopeful that the growing school roll will mean a change in the current situation. Potential uses for the room is for breakfast club, allowing more pupils to attend or a nurture room. Jen has offered to write to the council on behalf of the LPPC to help push along a change of use. There was also discussion about the attic. It was suggested with some revamping it could be proposed to use it as a non permanent class space/occasional use. Hopefully this would side step the single stairwell fire safety issue and make the most of the space. **If anyone is willing to look into the possibility of using this single stair well space and potential funding avenues please speak to Miss Craig.**

*Class sharing assemblies/parent assemblies* will resume again in the summer term with hopefully refreshments and an opportunity for parents to meets and chat afterwards.

*Pupil Equity Fund* – the school has been awarded a staggering **£138,000** to help raise attainment. Miss Craig is attending an event on Friday to hear more of the detail. Parents input in how to spend it will be sought at a later date. We have received far more than any other school in the cluster.

*Parent Pay* system will now launch in February

*Awards for All* money is now depleted and we need to look into other grant/funding avenues. Kate requires volunteers to help her with applications. Justine has offered to help but more help required please.

*Existing building* - School tiles around the building will be replaced over the February break to smarten up the school. The other side of the roof will also be fixed so more scaffolding will be erected over coming weeks. Once all this work has been done, it will make the old building look smart next to the new gym/nursery once it is completed. The new building project commences on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February and will last 52 weeks.

4. a) **Head Teacher Recruitment** – insufficient applications of the correct calibre were received so the post will be re-advertised. New time scale has not been received yet.
- b) **After school club** – drama club has been very popular again with 2 classes being run on Monday and Thursday. Both oversubscribed however this time a shortage in parent volunteers. **Please let Bryony know if you can help for even one week (you can bring your own children even if they aren't part of the class).** It was suggested we could use St Mary's hall/stage for an end of term "show" – **Bryony to investigate.**

Other after school clubs have been discussed and we need parent volunteers to get them started but you are not required to attend. There was mention of an engineering club/group to tie in with the new build project. Staff have some contacts who may be able to help with

funding and taking the club to link into the mathematics taught in class plus the contractors would be willing to get involved too. Mrs Clark and Mrs Kinnell have contacts and ideas for this type of club. **Is anyone willing to work with them on this?** It was also suggested we try to launch some lunchtime clubs – the writing workshops were very popular – **Bekah suggesting how it could be tied into her library sessions.** There was also mention of a parent who may be willing to do some musical/singing group? **Please can anyone willing to help organising a possible activity, in the first instance, get in touch with Bryony.**

c) **Contract for the new nursery/gym** – Ashwood Scotland won the contract and are due to start on 20/February. Pre site work has already been started. Finish date expected to be 2/March/2018, this is a 3 week slip from last date given. Ms Craig has tried to find out how much disruption to expect however it is impossible to tell and quantify. There will be weekly meetings between the school, architect and contractors. Ashwood will provide a monthly newsletter. **Judith will target Ashwood for a raffle prize or other donation for Christmas Raffle 2017.** Excellent news is the build is come in under budget which means the outdoor classroom proposed by Mr Friend has been approved and will be created once the nursery temporary buildings have been removed. **The playground committee is needing some more volunteers – please contact Jen if you can help with this.**

5. **Running fundraising** - no update but this will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. **Local community fund application** – help needed with ideas for what to pitch for plus help market our ideas to parents and local people so they vote for us this time! We can get £2,500 or £400 if we get enough support – potentially “easy money” for our children. Let’s approach this like Hermitage Park did for Feith Decides. Could P7s make a video for social media – enthuse the children about it and they can pester their parents to vote this time? Ideas for funding requests so far.... play trail for playground however this is expected to be approx £6,000+, it was suggested we could offer to match any funds awarded. The £400 grant could be for after school club funding. **Justine has offered to help with this and Suzanne will work with Ms Craig on the “PR and marketing” approach. Marie suggested we “sell” our idea to some older members of the community and hope they vote for us following a social gathering to explain what we’d like to create.**

7. a) Swimming volunteering going well however more the merrier as some volunteers are down for 5 or 6 weeks of helping. **You need a school PVG to help – please see Marie/John Wall/Mrs Moloney if you can help.** The swim classes run until end of June so any help gratefully received.

b) Library – all going well, 2 more volunteers in the pipeline.

c) General lack of volunteers and participation by parents – It is still the same small group of people who are turning out and offering to help so we need a strategy to widen the net and encourage new people. You don’t need to come to a meeting to make a difference and get involved!!! It was suggested we do a survey, have stalls at the next parent consultation nights (early March) to tell people what LPPC does and how people might be able to help. A booklet could be created to explain who we are, what we do, how much has been raised and how it has been spent. These could be given to each child. **Marie to coordinate these**

**ideas, the parent consultation nights are fast approaching so please get in contact with Marie asap to offer to help.** With many of the most active LPPC parents having older children, who will be leaving school in the next few years, we need to look at succession planning!

8. Calendar Co-ordinator 2018 – we need someone to continue the process Jen has set up, much of the leg work has been done with a decent list of likely advertisers for each month. **We have a designer but need someone to do the admin side of things – volunteers please.**

9. AOB – Parent Disco and Raffle scheduled for April but not finalised. Seafield waterworks has been smelling particularly bad recently with a burning smell which turns out to be Toluene which is potentially hazardous. As a result the other parent councils intend to send a joint message to complain. **LPPC to participate in this complaint if there's still time – Jen to do this.**

Litter is still an issue on the grass outside school – **Ms Craig to investigate strategies for improving this situation.**

**Bake sales Benmore – Kirsty to co-ordinate helpers for this.**

**Fair Trade – Mrs Moloney to co-ordinate helpers for this**

Next meeting is Wednesday 22 March 18:15

For childcare spaces please email Judith

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