

Leith Primary Parent Council

Wednesday 24th January 2018

6.15pm in School Library

Attendees: Marie Middleton, Judith Weir, Katy McLean, Fiona Craig, Barry Wright, Rebekah McVittie, Nikki Dunne, Nicola Lamberton, Rachel Andrew, Claire Colquhoun, Christine Treche, Alana Clarkson, Amy OLeary

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** – Suzanne McHattie, Veronica Melichar, Kate McDonald, Wendy Kelly, Kirsty Welsh, Justine Douglas, Rachel Hein
2. Minutes of last meeting and update on actions (5 mins)
3. **LPPC Chair Post & PVG Lead Signatory vacancies** (5 mins)

Marie leaves Edinburgh on 5th February. PVG signatory is going to be Veronica going forward. No-one has stepped forward to offer to do chair role. There is the option of co-chair. No decision is needed today but will need organised in the coming months. Option to have someone in place until May when the AGM happens then someone new takes over after that. Suzanne (Vice Chair) unable to be around during week days day time but might be willing to look at co-chair if someone else was available.

Please consider taking a more active role in the Parent Council – this doesn't need to be attending meetings, taking on a formal role or organising something by yourself. We need new helpers to assist in any way, however small. Many of those already organising the projects and events have older children and therefore will be moving on from Leith Primary soon – these important things need new people involved or they will no longer continue which will be unfortunate for our children. If you want to discuss (no obligation) about how you might be able to help please contact Judith, Suzanne or Nikki – leithppcsecretary@gmail.com Thanks

It was also noted that we need to get more people involved who have children in p4 or younger. **Fiona to ask staff for suggestions of parents who may be worth approaching to become involved. Marie to check constitution to check process of no chair available. Suzanne to take over the admin side of chair for now. Fiona to ask a new member of staff if she's interested in taking on role. Fiona to put role of chair in this week's newsletter.** Chair specification is available for anyone to see.

Judith thanked Marie on behalf of LPPC for doing an amazing job as chair over the last year, wished her well for the new phase in their lives in West Sussex and presented her with a gift. Fiona echoed our thanks on behalf of the school.

4. **Head teacher Update** (10 mins)

New member of staff joined the nursery last week. Very high calibre candidates and Ms Clark is very experienced and enthusiastic. Nursery/gym completion is end of March and will be open after Easter holidays.

Mirin from People Know How sent report of her findings. Next stage is mini focus groups on Friday afternoons. When the new gym hall is ready there will be an event with stands and interaction opportunities. Some parents have a lack of confidence of approaching parent council and staff so we need to see how we can improve this situation and engage with parents more in a positive less intimidating way. Below is the table of findings supplied to Miss Craig and her team.

	Primary school	Home learning	Teachers	Relationship between school and home
General comments	Very positive feedback. Children owe the school, and most of the parents are happy with that.	Quite conflictive area. Majority of parents say that there is no communication of homework. How to do homework at home? Explanatory notes?	Very good feedback. Teachers take time for their children	Could be improved
Suggestions	<p>SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of the playground Sheltering at the school for parents- adapting to weather conditions Paint the school-looks old Hygiene – specially toilets <p>COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More parties and social events Parents want to go more in the school and see what their children are doing Parties and social events <p>AFTER SCHOOL More provision needed</p>	<p>YES TO HOMEWORK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional? Yes, but only to P5, P6 and P7s? Yes, but only specific homework: reading, maths <p>NO TO HOMEWORK</p>	<p>ONLINE JOURNAL More personalised</p> <p>CLASSROOM SUPERVISION Children’s safety</p> <p>TURN OVER OF TEACHERS (2 in a year)</p> <p>NEED MORE DIRECT CONTACT WITH TEACHER</p> <p>GOOD LEARNING SUPPORT SYSTEM IN PLACE</p>	Good relationships, but needs to be more approachable. More 1-1 contact with teachers
Our questions	Our question: What are the priorities??	We need numbers- what is the real percentage? Homework workshops	What are teacher’s perceptions of the time they dedicate to parents?	Specific focus on teachers.

Miss Craig showed us a Numicon set – each class gets a box and each stage has a teacher’s handbook. This dovetails with SEAL which is the maths learning system we use. Teachers are enjoying using it and already seeing children picking things up more quickly.

Anti-bullying for p3-7 sessions coming up

Generation science have been in too.

P4 and 5 have been getting ukulele lessons which have been popular.

Miss Craig asked about a funding request for Benmore trip for P6s. **Mrs Hughes will provide details. There will be an email request for approval of amount – please respond when you receive the email with approved or not approved.**

5. **£eith Decides** (15 mins)

Vote is now March, idea/application in for end of January. Three pot sizes (up to £500, up to £5k and up to £10k) but only one application in total. We shall apply for up to £5k. Ideas from before Christmas were fitness/trim trail – rest of the community can use it as well as school which might help generate votes from non-school voters. We could have planning issues with this so it needs explored. Previous discussions with parks department has resulted in indication that we go ahead and do it would be ok retrospectively. Lindsay Grant and Sarah Fraser work for this department who may be able to advise. Alternative idea was get clock fixed. Another idea is something music based. A community trim trail might prove awkward during school hours for community non-school users but hopefully they might just wait to use it when school is finished. Previous quotes indicated the trim trail might come in at £8k. Trim Trail could be a school fundraising focus instead of £eith Decides but trim trail may get support from Projekt 42 and its customers and general community. Suggestion to switch to the lower amount given the time limit for application e.g. dance and movement classes or workshops. Vote taken on larger pot and trim trail. Playdale will quote for the application but we can explore other distributors if we win the club. **Amy to work with Kate on this.**

6. **LPPC Finance update** (5 mins)

Current balance £17,987 but will still need to pay our contribution for Lyceum and Numicon. Recent profit from projects included: £1734 individual school photos, calendar sponsorship of pages £1865, raffle £2168, Christmas fair profit £1376. Very positive fundraising situation. There was a note found during treasurer hand over saying £4700 which is supposed to be ring fences for playground. This can probably now be absorbed into main fund.

Fiona to put a budget together for next year for money the school may request from LPPC - this will help with planning for next year. Marie has asked that Fiona give a good news story about e.g. Numicon which LPPC purchased, which we will put into the newsletter. Marie to speak to Amy about this.

Suggestion that we ask non LPPC members to suggest what we spend any money raised. Marie asked if Fiona could get staff to get children to talk about what they want for the school and vote on it – encourage the children to get their parents involved. E.g a sail type “temporary” shelter – needs to be non-technological due to constraints by council. Voting slip to be distributed to children and request that teachers talk it up in class to encourage participation. Other promotion through posters and facebook will ensure everyone has the chance to have their say how the money is spent.

It was suggested could we do some “decorating” outside – railings etc. John Wall and Fiona have a rolling programme of 2-3 classrooms per year. Many of the suggestions that came up have health and safety implications which makes it difficult to come up with something we could put money towards or pay for.

There was a suggestion that we look at class libraries and update that and support with some LPPC funding.

There might be a deficit for yoga this time as the classes aren't full this time. It was agreed LPPC can cover this cost.

7. Updates from sub groups (10 mins)

Barry will have a think about coming in to do groups/activity that play to his strengths e.g. music etc. Claire has offered to look after clubs now and will contact some people who might be able to run new clubs. Thank you Claire and Barry!

8. School Streets Permit and Plan (10 mins)

We have received permission to be part of this scheme. St Andrew Place will be closed at key drop off and pick up times. Police/traffic warden presence has an impact for a short time but not a long term solution. We now need a campaign to promote this. The school has junior road safety officer team who can work on posters and flyers etc. Can we actually physically block off the road? We need to find out what other schools have done and what School Street can offer and support. **Fiona to explore what information we will receive from the council to support us. Also looking at contacting another school already in the scheme to form our plan.**

9. Any other competent business

Marie to organise a handover for Suzanne, Nikki and Judith to keep things ticking along.