

Leith Primary Parent Council

Wednesday 14th March 2018, 6.15pm in School Library

Minutes

Attendees: Suzanne McHattie, Judith Weir, Claire Colquhoun, Nikki Dunne, Nicola Lamberton, Barry Wright, Jule Hildman, Bryony Knox, Shemah Yosif, Rebekah, McVittie, Kate McDonald, Lauren Sweeny, Christine Treche, Rachel Hein, Jenny Ryan, Alan McCredie,

1. Apologies: Katy McLean, Veronica Melichar, Kirsty Welsh, Amy, O'Leary, Gayle Blair
2. Minutes of last meeting and update on actions (5 mins)
3. LPPC Chair Post and volunteer update (5 mins) – Still needing a new chair, definitely consider co-chair if two people were interested. **Any volunteers to take on secretary** and Judith would look at co-chair. In general though we need more volunteers for many jobs. We need different parents to step up. Teachers have suggested some parents who might help but sub group leaders need to come up with a list of jobs for their area first so we can suggest things to people we approach. **SUB GROUPS LEADERS - Supply jobs by Thursday 29th March to chair.** We need to tell parents if they don't help we will have to stop events and activities.... give them a list of things that won't happen when parents don't get involved. Rachel suggested a welcome pack to all pupils stating what we do and how much we raised and what it was spent on, how to get in touch. It was suggested that this comes from the school rather than parent council. We need to appeal to people across the year groups. **Suzanne to look at the letter/pack and supply to Miss Craig for her input and distribution.**
4. Head teacher Update (10 mins)

The gym/nursery building was due to handover on 29th March but generally feeling is no one is convinced this deadline will be met. If it is late, the last-minute finishing off can happen during Easter break whilst interiors are being done at the same time. Generation Science are due to come in 2nd week back which builders say it will be ready in time for that definitely!!

29th March diversity day activities in class, talks in class from visitors and a parade across the links in decorated t-shirts – this time decorated with a symbol which represents respecting themselves/building resilience and what makes them unique and great. Parents are welcome to join in or volunteer any skills or have contacts to share information on cultural background or e.g. visual impairment, teaching songs in another language, LGBT included too.

Pupil equity fund – some issues getting things organised but most recent addition is a family liaison officer will be joining the school 1.5 days a week. They need a space in the school and would like to use the parents room. LPPC would need to put their storage items in the attic but would still be able to use the parents room on the days the FLO is not here. FLO – works with families including visiting at home, not at a social work threshold but need some support. No start date for the person yet.

School Streets will be launched officially but a public consultation needs to take place first. This will take place at parents' night.

Mr Wall - business manager becomes full time after Easter to cover the increasing jobs and areas covered.

After gym is open room 2 will be set up again as a multi-purpose room rather than a specific classroom. Good location for visitors or parents events.

Nursery – will be set up during the Easter holidays Nikki said some parents would be willing to help out if required. Miss Craig to find out what if any help is needed. Temporary unit will be removed during summer holidays.

Playground will be revamped will be summer break – turfed, silver birches, outdoor classroom etc, - where temporary unit is. The rest of the playground is not in this remit but LPPC can revisit this after the summer to see what still needs done and what is not being done by the council.

5. Leith chooses update (5 mins)

Voting closes on Saturday 17th. Today all aged 8+ children from school went to Community Centre to get a code to vote. Online voting was criticised for still being complicated. At the launch event it wasn't clear how to vote and it was very busy. Video and other promotions we did were very popular but it was a very big category with lots of great projects.

For future events we thought a pull up sign would be good to have. There was a vote and agreement to spend up to £100 pull up sign to promote LPPC. **Suzanne to delegate someone to look into this.**

6. LPPC funding for school (15 mins)

Two events have been cancelled this year as we've not enough volunteers to run them. Benmore funding request went through but took a big chunk of money out of our budget. Parental fundraising for the p6s was very poor from the bake sale. There is now a form for staff to complete to better understand how trips are being paid, how much is being requested, who will benefit and how pupils/parents are contributing. Miss Craig is going to set up a family fund to help with other trips which she hopes LPPC could contribute to. **Miss Craig will give us an indication for what amount to expect for next year for all trips** to allow LPPC to budget and work out how the money is distributed fairly. The Pupil Equity Fund, PEF will continue to be used but school needs to do more grant applications plus class fundraising. **Kate to liaise with Miss Craig to explore options.** Bake sales are not being promoted enough to parents to donate. Some parents felt it was good to volunteer and contribute even if their child isn't going on the trip. LPPC money takes an amount off everyone's cost then there are other options to support the cost for those who need it.

Going forward there will be an information session from P4 upwards which includes information on what trips were coming up in following years and a payment plan will be set up so parents can put money in to save up. We also need to look at other grants available to support. **Can someone step up to support Kate with grant applications? She's been doing this role on her own for 4 years. Does anyone have experience of public sector office or applying for grants, or someone who is comfortable filling forms in, often forms have similar formats. It would potentially only take 2-3 hours per term to support Kate. These applications in the past have raised a huge amount of money over the years to help reduce costs significantly for parents.**

7. New gym hall update including event discussion

Looking for ideas for the first event in the new gym. Family disco or kids disco? Could we do an event for the P7s which is for the whole school disco to attend. There was a suggestion of having awards for the P7s e.g. kindness award etc. Claire offered to help organise an end of year disco – split the year groups. LPPC asked for teachers to attend to support with maintaining discipline, previously lack of teachers has meant parents do not take any responsibility for their own child despite them being there. Miss Craig indicated some staff may come out of goodwill but they aren't required as part of their contract at the moment, but she could add this in for next year.

Volunteers - Barry, Suzanne, Rebekah, Claire Rachel, Jenny, Bryony. Any more volunteers to help organise and attend the event to help required. Please contact chair.

Miss Craig plans to use the new gym to invite parents in to have a cup of coffee before pick up and to learn about new things going on in the school etc, trying to improve engagement. LPPC can piggy back these meet ups to help promote what it does and recruit new helpers.

8. Updates from sub groups

All sub group leaders to come up with lists of tasks send by 29th March to chair with a view to encouraging new volunteers.

Library – staff to tell library staff if classes aren't coming. **Miss Craig to speak to staff and Rebekah to leave contact details with Lorraine so they can tell library staff in advance.**

9. Any other competent business

Water bottles – does anyone have contacts to get some reusable water bottles for use in school? **Nicola to speak to Standard Life and Scotmid contacts. Claire to speak to Tesco & Asda.** There's no suitable points around the school to install water fountains.

Claire has spoken to a basketball coach to run an afterschool club - £16 per hour available Thursday. She's exploring this further on Friday.

Litter – so much around...AGAIN! Some of it is an issue from children but some is from elsewhere. The school has a set of litter pickers and they have a team of P7s who supervise litter picks. We need to instil a collective responsibility to not drop litter. **Jule will liaise with Miss Craig/Mrs Hind to see what LPPC can do to support.**

Duncan Place got its funding of £1.2m to get the building back into use again. Views of children will be taken into consideration.

Scottish Chamber Orchestra came to Dad's Rock at the weekend. Barry has a contact there now and is wondering how it could be used to support the school. **Barry will liaise with Miss Craig about how we can use this contact.**

School class photos to be start of May. **Alan & Jenny will liaise with Miss Craig on dates.**

NEXT MEETING IS Wednesday 16th May 6.15pm this is the AGM.