

Leith Primary Parent Council Meeting - MINUTES

Wednesday 12 December 18:15

Attendees: Suzanne, Fiona, Judith, Veronica, Amy, Kate, Alana, Danni (Family Liaison), Laura (SFL), Christine, Lauren, Sarah M, Roz, Sarah F, Katy, Jenna

Apologies: Nikki, Nicola, Rachel, Bryony, Wanda, Gayle, Justine, Claire, Richard, Rebekah

1. Apologies, minutes from last meeting and outstanding actions

- Crib sheet to write to MSPs etc – Bekah – Not available to discuss
- Decals/images for toilet walls – Bekah
- Choir/music after school club, any progress? - Claire Not available to discuss

2. Head teacher update

Appointed 5 new PSA since last time. First person hasn't started yet though as paperwork isn't through yet. It has taken 4 months to get person into post due to HR delays. Cumulative affect of not having staff has been huge. Surveys have gone to HT about the issues around PSA numbers v relative need in schools and questioning the formula. It should be based on need not number of pupils in total. Too few places in special schools too which has an impact too. Complaint has been made about HR issues which are hitting all schools badly. The new staff will have a postivie impact on the staff and pupils! Nuture groups etc can be started again when we have staff.

School hosted meeting of agencies and support groups from around the city with a view to seeing how to better support some of our families. It was very successful with lots of great ideas and discussions. Some things were organised on the day and some are longer term ideas. E.g Outdoor activities for older pupils who are struggling to be in class at the moment. This takes the pressure off the class teachers and gives those pupils a better experience. Potential to start working with Veolia (water management for Seafield) keen to help, possibly STEM activities. They have a person dedicated to these community issues.

SUPER POWER Agency – Gerald Roberts based in USA. Works to engage disengaged children with writing and reading. Wants to come and do some work in Leith. Starting with P6 (work 8-18). It is totally funded so the school will not need to pay anything. Looking at cluster activities too to help with early transition to secondary school.

Toilets nearly finished and to a better standard than Fiona expected. Some snagging being done over holidays. Boiler also nearly finished.

Visiting panto went well. Most of the children loved it. Thanks from Fiona to LPPC for funding this. Question was asked, do we want to continue with in house panto or do year about with Lyceum? Suzanne thinks children need external theatre experience but need to consider subsidy going forward. Consider doing something at another time of year as a trip out of school to reduce pressure of £ and activities in school at such a busy time of year for staff. School need to decide within the month if we do the in house panto again? As there were issues for some pupils sitting at the back of the hall consider the possibility of asking for contribution from parent and split it into 2 performances so pupils can see more easily.

Laura McConnel new SFL teacher and Danni Taylor Family Liasion were formally introduced – both doing a brilliant job and making a difference already. Danni – her role is PEF funded closing attainment gap, engaged with families to get them through home learning or through school, up partnership with LPPC through Leith Chooses. Tues, Wed in parents room. Employed via Citdel for the rest of the week. Best to book an appointment, everyone welcome. LPPC will put her leaflet on to LPPC FB page. Laura – SFL she support children in a variety of ways, group or individual working on literacy mainly. Teaching alongside class teachers too. Also working on gross motor skills. Does assessments to identify those needing extra support. She was also involved in playground development in previous role and is happy to get involved in our revamp. Helping with grant etc. Also working on family learning, also involved in A.C.E. which looks at adverse childhood experiences and discuss this issues with talks from 3rd sector, Head Teachers or lawyers etc. She wants to spread awareness of this issue and what is being done to reduce this problem. Also specialist on ADHD, autism etc.

3. Leith Chooses – application discussion

Locality Improvement Plans / Local Events – Nicola L spotted this grant, part of the local improvement plans money available...£2.5-5k per project, total of £20k for NE Edinburgh. Designed to help close access to culture and artist gap. Kate found that Leith Late would be interested in collaborating and with Danni to work with families. The aim is create a mural on school wall involving selected pupils and parents to help improve their engagement. Kate is awaiting costings from Leith Lates. She will estimate costs if she doesn't hear back and apply without final prices.

Leith Chooses – themes changed and also other changes to process this year so need to think of original ideas. Kate suggested Holiday Hampers – distribute at start of summer – they contain food and activities hamper – tickets to Britannia or cinema

etc. Possibly family bus day saver to help with transport. Fiona thought 120 families in school might benefit from this. Discover project also does something similar. Assume £50 per hamper which needs to include food and maybe activities and a bus ticket, Edinburgh leisure activity, Zoo etc. We will try to get some free tickets if we buy some from visitor attractions. It was decided we'd were going for £5k. Danni and school can support us if we are successful working out best way to distribute and organise. Need volunteers to man the stall on February to help generate votes. Please contact Kate if you can help

4. Aviva Community fund outcome

Despite having more votes than before we never got to next level. We did get £200 donation for applying.

5. Tesco Bags for Life application – discussion of ideas

Recommended to apply for being included in vote that takes place in Musselburgh area rather than Edinburgh round as it is less competitive to get on final list. It was decided we would apply to ASDA and Tesco – for playground equipment. Fiona would like a shipping container for loose play items. Things need looking after better after each time they are used but also that they need replaced regularly as they are used a lot when there are items available. Suzanne to speak to supermarkets about applying to get considered.

6. Christmas fair, raffle, calendar, cards project - debrief

Christmas fair went well again – thanks to Nikki and her team. Overall money taken by stall was the same as last time. Fair felt busy but not mobbed, the smaller room didn't turn out to be an issue. **Raffle** down slightly on last year due in part to “mystery donor” not buying their usual £200 of tickets. Nikki had tried to get helpers to be split into two sets of volunteers – set up and first half of fair and then another group doing second half of fair and tidy up. Unfortunately too many people dropped out which meant the majority of people helping were there from 9-3.30/4. Next year we will aim to over recruit helpers with a view to ensuring we have enough when people drop out. There was some discussion about working with CLASP to use the dining hall next year e.g. tea and coffee and baking in dining hall and other items in the hall giving more room for other stalls in gym. Can be looked at for 2019.

Calendars sold well at the Christmas fair and have been very well received. Nikki checking money has all come in from advertisers and Sarah, Andrew and Judith are sending out calendars to advertisers as a thank you for sponsorship.

Card project went well on the whole, there are a few outstanding orders which were made directly with the printing company, not through school order. Claire is chasing these and if they aren't here by the end of the week will speak to printer about getting discount/refund. Some of these items are Christmas cards which are getting very late to post. Over £300 raised which is much more than last year. Having the card as a proof definitely helped boost sales. Different range of products available was popular too, teddies, wrapping paper and magnets in particular. We will aim to start the designing and order process earlier next year and advise parents to order through school not directly. All orders made through school (which Claire processed) arrived in plenty time.

7. Benmore vote outcome

3 (token amount) and 5 (annual review) most popular options but not clear preferred option. Approx. 53 pupils this year. There's money in the bank account to support it but not as much as last time. Suzanne suggested £20 per pupil, for this year to a maximum of £1200. Kate seconded unanimous vote to support. Suzanne want to get the children involved in fundraising activities too among P6 pupils and families – a bag pack is involved. Veronica has made chutney which will also help pay for a treat for pupils. Friday café hasn't raised a huge amount so far. Overall the conclusion was that we give a nominal amount per child each year but review this annually around Oct/Nov.

8. Our next big event – discussion of ideas

Potentially look at a movie night for end of January, Sarah is interested in organising this. Nominal entry cost not a focus to fundraise. Easter time – bingo night possibly with food and a bar. Other ideas mentioned Funky Friday – 50p to dress up, do your hair. Spirit Week – PJ day Monday, Funky hair Tuesday etc.

9. AOB & a chance to chat and enjoy some festive refreshments!

Bikes – Well done to the team who sorted out the shed at the weekend. 25 bikes of which 8 or 9 (suitable for aged 8-11) are salvageable. The rest are for younger pupils. Bike Station willing to do an assessment on the bikes. Bike Ability is done for P6 pupils by Mr Mackenzie. Fiona happy for Sarah to ditch the ones that are past repair. Fiona happy to pay for repairs within reason

Supply teacher for P3 – he is here for now, possibly after Christmas too. Probably February and then Mrs Slattery is due back from maternity leave but at the moment unsure of work patterns so Fiona cannot confirm a longer plan at yet.