

LPPC Meeting - Wednesday 8th September 2021

Minutes

Present: Ajay, Ali Wiseman, Allison Everett, Aliya Mashabova, Asma, Carolyn Boyd, Christine Treche, Emily Williams, Fiona Craig, Fiona Lamb, Gayle Crawford, Gemma Kennedy, Hugh Stuart, Iranna, Jen Guan, Jenna Caplan Andersen, Jenny Long, Judith Weir, Katie Galliard, Laura Cogan, Laura Taylor, Lauren Sweeney, Leonides, Linda Hawkins, Natasha Marshall, Nicola Lamberton, Nikki Dunne, Rachel Andrew, Samar Ramli, Svenja White, Veronica Melichar, Zeeshan Chaudhary.

Apologies: Laura Mynard.

Chair Update

- Welcome to all. We had been hoping to meet in person; sadly, Covid restrictions, relating to school, don't allow this.
- Lauren Sweeney and Emily Williams have just taken over as Co-Chairs.
- LPPC exists to represent all parents and children, seeking to improve communication with the school - We value input from all parents, as this is vital to our aim.
- Road Safety – No crossing guides at Duncan place. Robert (on the road at the other side of the school) is retiring in October. The council are seeking to recruit replacements at present. LPPC has chased this up with Chas Booth (local councillor) as nobody is in position yet ... not heard back yet ... will chase him again. The temporary crossing guard (Isabelle), is only available "as and when" (i.e. if she is not needed to cover the first day of an absence elsewhere). **Parents could help by contacting the council directly about this (i.e. via email to Chas Booth).**
- Library – LPPC helps to run the library. In normal times classes visit once a week, with parent volunteers staffing it. The books in the library have also been funded by LPPC too. Parent volunteers have been in school this week, sorting books etc. Covid restrictions mean the school is still not able to run regular library sessions, however they are hoping to restart these as soon as it is permitted. **Parent volunteers will be needed to staff the sessions once they restart - please email the LPPC Secretary if you would be interested in volunteering for this.**

Introductions – LPPC Committee / School Staff / Others.

Headteacher Update

- Veronica's cakes, which were a regular feature of 'in person' LPPC meetings, are definitely being missed during 'virtual' LPPC meetings.
- Lovely to have mums into the library this week to help out. The school is very keen to get the library back in use, as soon as restrictions allow this. More parents (both mums and dads) will be needed to help with this (as previously mentioned).
- Challenging start to term. At one point a third of staff were off due to positive covid tests or a sickness bug. Thankfully, no severe cases, so everyone was back after their allotted time (i.e. isolation or recovery). A number of children have been off school too. The media suggests that Covid cases are starting to slow down, so we will watch and wait day-by-day. We are very much hoping that things will calm down soon and get back to as 'normal' as possible.
- Normally we run 'meet the teacher' sessions at the start of term; that has not been possible this year.
- In addition to the library, parent volunteers are also needed to accompany classes who are taking swimming lessons at Abbeyhill Primary School. This will be happening as normal this term, as long as we can staff it. Each session needs a teacher, plus one or more parents (on a rota) to assist; half the class swim, whilst the other half of the class work in the dining hall. **It is essential to get parent support with this, since there are less PSAs in school this year - please email the LPPC Secretary if you would be interested in volunteering for this.**
- Themed weeks - The school will be running a 'World of Work' week. They are looking for parents who would like to share their job / skills with children at the school and talk about what their job entails (either just to their own child's class, or to the wider school community) - **please email the LPPC Secretary if you would be interested in volunteering for this.**
- Focus for staff Developments / Training:
 - Refresher on numeracy & maths.
 - Shared focus across the city on P5 learning.
 - Improving teaching of outdoor learning too - i.e. Leith Links, beach, Meadows Yard (in conjunction with Edinburgh Rangers service) - learning across the curriculum in the outdoors, supported by the council outdoor learning team.
- Priorities for Recovery & Learning Plan
 - Digital Learning (Schools Empowering Learning project) - Big investment into schools with digital tech etc, very exciting, not got all the details yet. Secondary schools first, then P6 & P7 after Christmas maybe. Leith Primary staff are committed to embedding digital learning across the curriculum (i-pads, laptops, cameras etc) and are aiming for the Digital Schools Award.

- Focus on developing the equalities agenda across all schools in Edinburgh. Leith Primary is a very diverse school. We are looking at our Inclusion Agenda (i.e. Decolonising the Curriculum etc) and Dawn Moloney (Principal Teacher) is leading on this. Parental involvement is valued on this - there has already been communication sent out (last academic year) asking parents who are keen to be involved to contact Dawn directly.
- Questions from parents:
 - P6 this year missed most of P5 swimming last year - Will they catch up? The schedule is provided by the swim teacher. They are currently restarting with P4, P5 and P6. Fiona Craig will ask if P6 could possibly have a few more sessions than usual as they missed out on lessons last year (i.e. P6 usually get less sessions than P4 and P5, so there may be a few spare weeks at the end).
 - Art room - Will use of this room be reintroduced now that the school ceiling work is almost done? They are still finishing the old cloakroom on the bottom floor. The main office will be done during the October holiday. However, the art room has been used quite a bit this term. Last year, Covid 'bubbles' were stopping that, not the ceiling work. So, yes, it has been used this year. [NB: Art Room ... Allison Everett (i.e. Art Gallery) is happy to help with art stuff in school, Fiona Craig will chat with her.]

Treasurer Update

- £12,664.62 in bank ... lots to spend on projects ... maybe the playground.
- Last academic year - Fundraising opportunities were reduced, as well as spending opportunities.

Christmas Fundraiser

We still aren't sure what will be allowed at Christmas.

- **Christmas Cards (Nikki D taking the lead)**
Lorraine K will pass envelopes out at the end of the week for children to take home. There is a code on the sheet, which allows parents to place an online order, then send artwork back into school. Deadline is Friday 8th October for designs. The design can be used to make gift wrap, gift tags, mugs etc ... notebooks are new this year too ... not just cards. Adults are welcome to do a design too, not just children. Extra forms can be collected from the school office if needed (each design must be submitted on a separate form. This is a very good way of raising money for LPPC.

- **Calendar (Nikki D taking the lead)**

Children draw self-portraits in school. These pictures are put on the calendar for the month of their birthday. Companies sponsor pages on the calendar; that's where the money comes from. We need a volunteer to contact previous companies to check if they are still happy to sponsor a page, and also to contact other companies (if we need more). Nikki will do coordination of pictures etc, but she would appreciate help - [please email the LPPC Treasurer if you would be interested in volunteering for this.](#) [NB: Lauren S & Emily W are happy to help too, plus maybe one other person (who might help with art stuff).]

- **Christmas Fair**

We need to decide whether to go ahead with this. Maybe not hold it at school? Could hold it outdoors in the playground maybe? [Or, in the Croft area at the Links? - Emily W and Lauren S will speak to Evie about this.](#) There are gazebos at the croft too. Evie might help to promote it, if LPPC makes a donation to the croft, and they might benefit from people buying teas / coffees etc.

- **Christmas Raffle**

Online raffle last year, which was very popular and we could easily run it again this year. Cashless, through PayPal. How much to charge for each ticket? £5 like last year, was that too much? We can give either a cash prize or some raffle prizes. [If anyone is keen to volunteer to help with sourcing prizes \(i.e. a main and second prize, then a few smaller ones too\) - please email the LPPC Secretary.](#) [NB: There are lots of lists and ideas available to help anyone that does want to volunteer to help with this. It needs to start asap, as the star prize would usually have been sourced in May / June 2021, and tickets used to go into school bags before October holiday. Local businesses are pretty generous in supporting local schools.] [Also, all ideas for star prizes are very welcome \(e.g. gaming console, weekend away tickets\) - please get in touch if you have any contacts that might help with this.](#)

School – Parent Communication

[The best way to communicate with your child's teacher\(s\) is via the school admin email address.](#)

School Lunches

Children at the end of lunch sittings have been finding that not all lunch options are left. Hugh Stuart oversees this. The school kitchen has been in chaos for the past 18 months (i.e. whilst the kitchen has been replaced) and it has only been 'fully operational' again for about two weeks. There have been some teething issues. Hugh has spoken to kitchen staff, who say that when they started to serve food manually again (i.e. the last 18 months it has been pre-portioned into trays) they were running out of food; hopefully this will all be sorted soon.

After School Activities (e.g. Active Schools)

- Other cluster schools appear to be restarting after school clubs (i.e. parent led etc).
- Lee Goodfellow from Active schools said restart across the city for Active Schools will happen after the September weekend (i.e. this will be the same as other cluster schools). The school is now permitted to use the gym hall again, which helps massively, as Covid restrictions have been lifted and there are no restrictions on after school clubs at present (i.e. 3pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday).
- Laura Taylor could start Yoga classes asap (as these are parent-led) and this will be much easier now that she can use school as a venue. Another venue option is to do it at Duncan Place maybe, with funding in place, but creates logistics of collecting kids who all finish at different times; will try to book through School Lets first, then move on to Duncan Place if not possible. Two times a week as before, then maybe expand. Keen also to do Yoga within the school day, with those who have additional needs, depending on funding. Classes are offered at a very reasonable rate (£2.50 per session). Lorraine K has collected payment envelopes / forms in the past, and passed them on to Laura - continue with this system maybe as it worked well. Also, maybe LPPC could fund a few free places for families who are struggling to meet the cost. Majority feel that this seems a good idea, maybe two or three free places. L
- Drama Club - The man was very keen in April / May 2021 to restart it. A school let would be needed. Anything between 3pm & 6pm should be approved at present. Fiona Craig keen to get that started again. Judith Weir is the contact point for this.

[NB: Fiona Craig and Active Schools to communicate with CLASP about when Gym Hall is not available during 3pm to 6pm slot, with as much time as possible - liaise with Claire (CLASP manager).]

Residential Trips

- Bemore - Two years of Bemore missed. P7 trip in 2022 Bemore (would usually be P6), end of May, four days after the second Monday holiday (as pay for one less night to stay if they do it that way). Cost approx £300. Access to full / partial subsidy for those who need it, and LPPC fundraising too historically. Part of curriculum, so definitely going ahead.
- Lagganlia - Historic booking for Lagganlia in place (P5 to P7 usually). This is offered in conjunction with skiing trips to Hillend. Cost approx £270 for 2 or 3 nights. Assessing this at present and will decide whether to go ahead. Provisional booking is for 32. There is a cut-off date for the decision about cancelling some spaces without penalty. School would be happy to go with fewer, if staffing and coach costs etc allow. Could maybe release the other places to another school.

More info will be available for parents before the end of September. Messages will go out soon.

Library

See notes above.

Playground (Nicola Lambertson taking the lead)

- Nicola L - Design passed previously by LPPC (attached to email with minutes from this meeting). Outdoor stage built since then. Council pricing suggested double available budget, partly due to timescale at the time (i.e. trying to do it over the summer pre-covid). Community payback team might be able to help (they painted railings last time). Nicola is revisiting the quote with the council. The community area leader of the payback team is keen to help. We have been trying to do this for over four years now through the council; could they not give us a budget which we could use to get in contractors ourselves etc? Nicola is pressing / chasing the council to see if we can bypass the usual systems in any way. Around £5K might go towards the playground from the LPPC budget. [NB: Adam Mcvey is a local councillor who has children in the school nursery.] If anyone would like to be involved with this, please email Nicola at lppcplayground@gmail.com
- Fiona C - In the meantime, maybe we could get some age appropriate educational signs (world map etc) in the older playground, and some sensory walls / mirrors in the infant playground. That would be a great start. Up to £1500 LPPC contribution (i.e. as proportion of playground budget) could be used to 'spruce up' now. Fiona Craig would involve the children in selecting signs, and there might be scope to add in some school budget too. Approved by LPPC vote (at least 12 in favour).

- Intercultural Youth Scotland – A graffiti artist will be coming in on 21st September to decorate the container in the playground which contains loose parts. The children would also be keen to learn how to do graffiti art - Mr Mackenzie might be able to help with that; Fiona Craig will chat to him about doing an Art Club. [NB: Aerosol aspect is unlikely to get approved by H & S rules, but could do something without aerosols] [NB2: Fiona C mentioned that a Previous Parent (HR's dad - HR now in S5 maybe) might also be able to help.]

AOB

- LPPC Notice Board - The contractors damaged it. They will replace it.
- Veronica – PVG coordinator for LPPC. Responsible for making sure people are up-to-date with PVG. Free PVGs as LPPC is a charity. Anyone working for LPPC will need one of these, as you need one for every different organisation. Only required for regular volunteering, not just one-offs, e.g. after school clubs etc. Needs a new volunteer for this next year as Veronica currently has a P7 child - Please email the LPPC Secretary if you would be interested in volunteering for this.
- Gayle – Social Media person for LPPC. Contact via LPPC Comms email address.

Future LPPC Meeting Dates

- Wednesday 17th November
- Wednesday 19th January
- Wednesday 16th March
- Wednesday 25th May - AGM