

Parent Council Meeting

Held at Edenside Primary School on

Wednesday, 7 September 2016 at 6.45pm

Present: Harriet Campbell, Jill Scott, Cllr Tom Weatherston, , Zoe Currie, Sue Flint, Harriet Pattinson, Pauline Carruthers, Ginny Stewart, Sheila Fleming, Diana Miers, Nicola Moir, Anne Marie Bready, Jane Nimmo, Beth Packham, Alison Granger, Heather Waddell, Kay Anderson.

1. Apologies

Victoria Horsburgh, Cllr Simon Mountford, Cllr Alec Nichol, Margaret Riddell, Ailie Ramage, Juliette Knibbs, Lorna Donovan, Jane Woodcock, Sara Boulton

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as correct by Diana Miers and seconded by Pauline Carruthers.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

Mrs Yost left on the second to last day of term. Mrs Wilson has been covering P1 and has done a tremendous job.

Interviews are being held on Monday and taking into consideration a four week notice period, we will ideally have a permanent P1 teacher before the October break. The new member of staff will be joining a very strong team.

Unfortunately Mrs Utterson and Mrs Hill both lost their Additional Support posts at the end of last year.

The school is building a bank of parent helpers and currently there are people supporting children in P1 – 7 over two days. Any parents wanting to volunteer are to contact the school for further information.

Budget

The current budget has not yet been released.

Primary 4 Swimming

Currently Primary 4 are unable to go swimming. This is due to the numbers in the composite 3/4 class. If P4 went swimming the P3s would have to be accommodated in the other P3 class and this would put the Teachers over their legal staff:child ratios. The school have looked into all possible alternatives to try and enable the children to go swimming but this is

not going to be possible. Mrs Bready and Miss Nimmo have been talking to Neil Innes to try and find an activity as an addition rather than an alternative.

PEF – Pupil Equity Funding

The children that have been identified within the school have started their programmes. There is a Literacy focus in the morning and in the afternoon they look at personal and social development through PATHS – Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies. The aim is to roll the PATHS programme out over the rest of the school. The new groups are working hard and settling into the programmes extremely well .

Community Police Officer

There is a new Community Police Officer called Karen Logan.

Accommodation

The new kitchen is 'nearly there'. The Staff have to be given training before it can be used.

Dalguise

The P7 are off to Dalguise on 16th October. There is a parent evening next week.

Nature Unlimited and Edenside

Nature Unlimited are going to take small groups of children up to the Bowmont Forest for forest school activities, this will be through the Maxwellheugh Fund and Borders Childrens Charity will help with transportation. The aim is to start in January, 12 children for a 10 week period.

P7 Year Book

The Coates family kindly organised and funded last year's P7 year book. They have also decided to fund this year's book too.

It can be found in the school foyer along with the Civic Week Book and our Comments Book which is filled with the nice things people say about our school, staff and the children.

4. Treasurers Report

The bank balance is looking healthy and requests from the school for resources will be discussed.

5. Fundraising Report

Lasts years events were successful. Planning the events and who was going to run them at the first meeting of the academic year worked really well.

6. Future Fundraising

Events and volunteers were as follows:-

October Bake Sale

Harriet Campbell

Halloween Disco, 2 Nov

Beth Packham and Alison Granger

Bingo	Beth Packham and Carrie Ann Borthwick
Book Sale	Juilette Knibbs
Coffee Evening,	Harriet Pattinson, Sue Flint and Zoe Currie
Feb Bake Sale	Ginny Stewart
Spring Disco, March	Pauline Carruthers and Ginny Stewart
Obstacle Course, April	Miss Fairbairn and TBC
Shorts and Shades Disco, May	Heather Waddell

Christmas Cards are being done again this year and will need to be in by the October holidays

7. Proposed Spend

All were happy with the 5p contribution towards school swimming lessons. £3 per pupil contribution towards schools trips was also approved plus £2 towards the Panto. Other approved spends were a contribution towards Christmas parties, P1 book bags, P7 leaving gift and a white board for P7. £250 was granted to Mrs Moir to decorate and furnish the small room between the two P7 classrooms to use for PEF and small groups.

AOCB

A parent spoke on behalf of herself and other nursery parents about getting a roof on the buggy park. This could be looked into.

Why are some children getting a photocopied reading book? It was explained that the books can only be bought in sets of ten and it would be too costly when only an extra one or two books are needed.

Several issues arose regarding school uniform orders during and after the summer holidays regarding the quality/service. Sheila Fleming suggested that we gather information and give Border Embroideries feedback.

Breakfast Club – still in talks with the Council.

Why isn't there a Head Boy and girl this year? It was felt by staff and children that it would be better to give all the children a wider spread of opportunities for their final year at Primary School

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 November 2017.