

Parent Council Meeting

Williamston Primary School

Tuesday 10th November 2018, 7pm

Attendees Lloyd Van Vuuren (Chair), Julie Blackwood, Alison Elliot, Allison Pollock, Lorna Hutson, Lyndsay Swan, Tiffanie Woods, Jane Dunlop, Emma MacGregor, Andy Walker, Raket Fernandez, Susan Gillanders, Fiona Hollands (HT), Lynn Dare(DHT)

Apologies Caroline McIver, Angela Drewett, Natasha Troitino, Gillian de Felice, Alsuin Ormiston, Claire Duff, Hazel Ross, Heather Griece

Pupil Leadership Group

Presentations by Head Pupils and Learners Caitlin Gardner, Callum Watson, Siranne Geldart and Eden Harvey. P7 pupils had attended the P7 Conference at the Civic Centre and they presented their ideas on Pupil Power.

The Head Learners told us all about the P7 trip to Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre, Lochgoilhead. A very successful and inspiring trip was reported. Thanks were extended to the teachers who give up their time to allow these trips to go ahead.

PSA sub committee

The sub-committee reported that the film night showing of The Greatest Showman had been a success and around £360 had been raised. Thanks to all those who helped and attended.

An Art Gallery Event is planned for the 29th November. There will be a raffle and Parent Council contributions to the luxury hamper are to be with Lyndsay Swan by the 28th November.

The new reading scheme for P1- P3 funded by the PSA at a cost of around £7500 has now been rolled out.

P7 prom. There was a discussion over funding of the P7 prom. In previous years costs of £10 a year per pupil for leavers events had been funded by the PSA, as well as the cost of the year book which was between £300 and £400. It was agreed by the Parent Council that as school funding from the council has been cut to £11 per head, money raised by the Parent Council is now needed for resources for the school that would previously have come from school budget. It was not therefore possible to continue to fund the Leavers' event but that the Parent Council could continue to fund the year book. A meeting of P7 parents is to be arranged by Julie Blackwood to see how the event can be funded this year and in the future.

STEAM group

Tiffanie Woods gave a report on the very enjoyable Science of Gin night held at The Bankton House Hotel on 24th October 2018. 11 parents attended and in the region of £30 was raised. Thanks go to Dr Anne Pawsey from the University of Edinburgh's School of Physics for running this event for us. There was a discussion about setting up a coding and science afterschool club. Parent help would be the main stumbling block so if anyone is interested in helping please contact Tiffanie Woods or the school.

Communications group

Andy Walker gave a report on the new school website which is part of the West Lothian Council scheme to standardise school websites. A lot of work has been done by the Communications team but it is still a work in progress. The website can be found at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/williamstonprimaryschool/>

If anyone would like to help the Communications team with this please contact Andy Walker.

Concerns were raised again about communication between the school, parents and Parent Council. It was agreed that the new school website should improve communications immeasurably.

Toilets

The toilets have been an issue within the school and they are due refurbishment by the Council scheduled for 2020/2021. Photos were circulated of the shocking state the toilets are left in by pupils. The school said they have tried everything to get this to improve but with no success. It is causing toileting issues with some pupils. Therefore, it was agreed that an email, with the photos attached, would be sent out by Lloyd Van Vuuren from the Parent Council asking parents to talk to their children about this issue. A working group will be set up.

Parent Council Constitution

Lloyd Van Vuuren said that this is in progress and the report to be held over until the next meeting.

Grants

We are still looking for people to look into grant applications that the school may be eligible for. If anyone would like to get involved please contact Lloyd. This is a pressing issue due the cuts in school funding.

Head Teacher's report into SNSA testing

Mrs Hollands gave a report into Scottish National Standardised Tests (SNSA) which were carried out last year for the first time at P1, P4 and P7 level. The results are used as a diagnostic tool for the school and individual pupil's results are not available for parents. Information on the testing can be found at <https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/>

Mrs Dare's presentation on Connect is to be held over until the next meeting.

Date of next meetings

1. MONDAY 14th January
2. TUESDAY 5th March
3. MONDAY 13th May