

WPS Parent Council Meeting

Monday 25th January 2021 7pm – 8.30pm

Minutes

Attendees

Jane Livingston	Head Teacher
Maree Young	Depute Head Teacher
Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick	West Lothian Council Leader
Lyndsay Swan	PC Treasurer
Alison Elliot	P7 Rep
Nat McGowan	P2 Rep
Jennifer Ross	P1 and P6 Rep
Elaine Kinloch	Nursery Rep
Gemma Taylor	P4 Rep
Jane Dunlop	P3 Rep
Lesley Dunlop	P5 Rep
Andy Walker	PC Chair
Claire Stanfield	Fundraising Committee
Miss Elming	P3ES Class Teacher

PC Chair (Andy Walker)

Welcome to all.

Congratulations to new Leadership team, Mrs Livingston, and Mrs Young. Both of whom are now permanent in their roles. Best wishes to both.

1. Update from School Leadership Team (Mrs Livingston and Mrs Young)

- Mrs Livingston ran through the report from the school which is available on the school website to read fully.
- Highlighted that process of handing schooling for key workers was being handed centrally and that there may be delay in persons requesting pupils attended school and the school being informed. This has led to occasional delay in pupils attending school. This has been rare but has happened.
- Risk assessments and auditing of risk assessments is ongoing process.
- Currently down 3 members of staff down due to absence. All staff absence will be communicated to the parents/guardians of classes and pupils affected as best they can.
- Currently investigating Bug club reading for upper school. This does have a cost implication which is being looked at.
- Long serving janitor Dougie Sommerville is due to retire at the end of March.

2. Update from Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

- Despite reports to the contrary all requests for laptops to access remote learning have been fulfilled. Anyone requiring equipment to access remote learning should contact the school.
- As more parents/guardians are furloughed there has been an increase in the number of pupils receiving free school meals. There is also an £80 winter clothing grant available for qualifying families.
 - Mrs Livingston added that all families who qualified for this grant had already been contacted and several items purchased and provided.
- West Lothian Council Advice Shop is still available for persons concerned about finances, details at the link below...

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop>

The service is available via the telephone 01506 283000 or email at advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk.

- There is also the West Lothian Citizens Advice Bureau (<https://www.cabwestlothian.org.uk/>) which can be contacted for those seeking advice in a wide number of areas...

Phone; 01506 432977 Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 5pm.

e-mail : enquiries@cabwestlothian.casonline.org.uk

text: 07712 305764

- Music tuition fees are still currently suspended.
- ? A question was asked about concerns pupils would be asked to re-sit their current year due to the amount of time out of school, which has been rumoured.
 - Councillor Fitzpatrick stated this was really a question for the Education Secretary John Swinney. West Lothian has and will continue to follow the guidance as laid down by the Scottish Government.

3. Finance updates (Andy Walker)

- Donations to JustGiving currently sit at £821, thank you to all who have contributed.
 - To donate click here... <https://gf.me/u/y38vng>
- The yearly cost of the School App has been covered by Parent Council funds, £480.
 - Thank you to Lyndsay Swan for organising this.
- With all outstanding payments cleared there are £2614.24

4. Subcommittee updates

a. Fundraising (Andy Walker)

- No fundraising activities have yet taken place this school year. A meeting with the fundraising committee will be held in February to discuss anything which can be done.

b. Communications (Andy Walker)

- All communications are currently coming directly from the school via the School App, Twitter, and Seesaw. Website use is low at the moment in favour of these other platforms.

c. Outstanding places (Andy Walker)

- There has been no movement in either position currently.
 - STEM
 - Grants

5. Year Rep updates (Non-Remote Learning Related)

<u>Nursery</u>	Elaine Kinloch	Nothing to raise.
<u>P1</u>	Jennifer Ross	Nothing to raise.
<u>P2</u>	Nat McGowan	Nothing to raise.
<u>P3</u>	Jane Dunlop	Nothing to raise.
<u>P4</u>	Gemma Taylor	Nothing to raise.
<u>P5</u>	Lesley Dunlop	Nothing to raise.
<u>P6</u>	Jennifer Ross	Nothing to raise.
<u>P7</u>	Alison Elliot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P7 Leavers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hoodies – Alison to look at getting prices for these. As is customary the costs will be met by families who wish to purchase them. Mrs Livingston has no issues with arranging periods when these could be worn to school assuming a return to school prior to the end of the school year. ○ Yearbook – The plan is to provide these again this year. These are usually fully funded by the Parent Council. Given the extraordinary times it may be that parents can make a donation to the funding with the PC making up any shortfall. This will need to be discussed and agreed at a later date. Regardless of funding mechanism no pupil would miss out.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prom/Party is looking unlikely at the moment. Feeling is parties/events which have been arranged during COVID restrictions have felt a little sterile so may require a plan put in place that can be quickly arranged should conditions allow an event that provides better experience for leavers.
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6. AOB

Remote Learning

<u>Nursery</u>	Elaine Kinloch	<p>Online journals working well. Staff responses are great. Not possible to upload videos to parents' observations?</p> <p>Response from Mrs Young Staff currently looking at Online Classrooms and extending remote learning offering. Issues with video uploads are a restriction of the platform. Anyone wishing to upload a video should mail it to the school for the attention of Mrs Young who can organise the upload.</p>
<u>P1</u>	Jennifer Ross	<p>No concerns raised. Overall impression is very positive. Quick replies have been really great. Seesaw has been very well received. Pupils finding the platform very engaging.</p>
<u>P2</u>	Nat McGowan	<p>Mostly positive feedback. Voice messages are excellent. Question asked about other schools having Zoom calls with pupils?</p> <p>Response from Mrs Livingston No school is allowed to use the Zoom application. All cluster schools are the same. EIS advise there is no requirement for live video calls or lessons. Live check ins between teacher and pupils do not require video to be on. This is at the teacher's discretion and not something that they are required to do. School has a list of pupils whose parents/guardians have requested live check-ins and will work through them as quickly as they can.</p>
<u>P3</u>	Jane Dunlop	<p>Overall positive feedback. Would like a little more live interaction if possible, with teachers and/or classmates. Seeing classmates would be good.</p> <p>Response from Mrs Livingston Feeling is that some pupils may cope better with MS Teams than others.</p>
<u>P1 & P3</u>	Clare Stanfield	<p>Having the Learning Grid as early as possible is great help to parents in planning the coming week. Overall positive. Please continue reviewing what is and isn't working regards remote learning.</p> <p>Response from Mrs Livingston Teachers will all be doing a Virtual Learning walk where they look at what the other teachers are doing and seeing what they can learn from each other.</p>
<u>P4 & P6</u>	Gemma Taylor	<p>Really happy with MS Teams. Live interactions are great. Good to see teachers and classmates. Concern that tasks are coming from a number of sources which makes prioritising difficult. Some tasks are posted as assignments, some in chat sessions. No set timing of task setting which can sometimes be overwhelming. Would like to see a clearer prioritisation of tasks, Essential Vs Nice to Have.</p>

		<p>MS Teams can have lots of channels which can make tasks difficult to track.</p> <p>Need to re-iterate to all parents/carers that they can only do what they can, everyone has unique situations which makes the addition of remote learning difficult. Would like to see reinforcement of this from Parent council.</p> <p>Response from Andy Walker Will look at some ideas for trying to get this message across.</p> <p>Response from Mrs Livingston Will look to encourage teachers to be clear with prioritisation of tasks. Will try to get communication of tasks to allow as close to a daily planner as possible. Some classes with multiple teachers may post tasks in an order which is causing issue. Will look to improve coordination between teachers of classes in this position.</p> <p>Response from Mrs Young Some teachers are posting additional tasks should a pupil finish a task quicker than others and looking for more work. Will look at how this is made clear. Will look at how MS Teams chats can be tidied up.</p>
<u>P5</u>	Lesley Dunlop	<p>Overall very positive. Teams works very well. Check-ins have been excellent.</p>
<u>P6</u>	Jennifer Ross	<p>No concerns raised. Overall impression is very positive. Quick replies have been really great. Pupils finding the platform very engaging.</p>
<u>P7</u>	Alison Elliot	<p>Overall very positive. Much better organised than last year. Double daily check ins work really well. Teachers reading a story at set times has been very well received. Need to look to encourage all parents to help each other when dealing with issues.</p> <p>Response from Andy Walker At present Facebook and other parent led groups are best place for issues accessing materials and information sent out by the school. For anything which the whole class/year group is missing then the issue may lie at the school end, other things may be a much simpler fix or work around. Some issues may be specific to a particular platform Windows or Mac, iPad, iPhone, Android etc. Often best first port of call should be another parent.</p>
<u>P3ES</u>	Miss Elming	<p>Loved all the positive feedback. Really enjoying seeing all the work coming in from the pupils, especially the videos.</p>
<u>P3 & P7</u>	Andy Walker	<p>Very positive. Setup has vastly improved since last year. Seesaw is an excellent platform.</p>
	Everyone	<p>All parents present were unanimous in their praise for the staff in their efforts to provide the learning experience they have.</p>

7. Future Meeting Dates

- a. Monday 14th September – Complete agenda and minutes available on the school website.
- b. Tuesday 10th November – Complete agenda and minutes available on the school website.
- c. Monday 25th January – Complete agenda and minutes available on the school website.
- d. Tuesday 23rd March
- e. Monday 17th May