

**Minutes of Wallace Hall
2-18 Parent Council Meeting
Monday 26th April 2021
7pm via Teams**

Present: Louise Cochran (Chair), Caroline O'Hara (Vice-Chair), Christine Carson (Treasurer), Katrina Galligan (Secretary), Barry Graham, Melanie Halliday, Laura Weir, Anna Meredith, Euan Mack, Jillian Maxwell, Cathy Mackenzie, Ann Andreasen, Jane Valentine, Sharon Young & Larann Foss (School Estate, Education Officer)

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies: Charlene Henderson, Kerry Fry & Lynne Maxwell</p> <p>Welcome – LC welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Approval of the Minutes from last meeting Monday 8th March – Minutes approved and agreed as correct. Approved by MH & seconded JM</p>	
3	<p>A) PC Section has now been updated. Thank you to Finlay Park. LC stated, that Learning & Teaching & Fundraising groups should forward any information to Finlay that they would like in those sections.</p> <p>B) Wrote to Gillian Bryson regarding June timetable & she replied saying provided BG meet certain requirements Wallace Hall can start their timetable in June. Wallace Hall meets the requirements so new timetable will start in June.</p> <p>C) LC attended the Connect Training session on AGM's and Constitutions - very worthwhile & informative and some relevant points got from the session, as well as policies and information that was useful for the PC and on how to change the constitution. LC and COH will work on updating the Constitution between now and the June meeting.</p>	<p>BG</p> <p>LC COH</p>
4	<p>Connect Online Training Sessions are free. Would be useful for PC members to attend.</p> <p>Social and Fundraising Events – virtual fun and fundraising in COVID-19 times. Tuesday 4th May 8pm – JM will attend and KG to send info and booking link.</p> <p>Money Matters for Parent Groups and Treasurers – find out how to look after parent groups, AGMS and comply with membership Tuesday 11th May 8pm – CC will try and attend.</p> <p>Communications & Social Media – Working with parents Tuesday 1st June 8pm – JV will attend. KG to send info and booking link.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>CC</p> <p>JV</p>

	<p>Letter received from Head of Education John Thin regarding Partnerships and School Management. All PC members received a copy of this but does not affect WH. BG will come back if any changes crop up.</p> <p>Email from Vanessa Morris about National Parent Forum Scotland hosting questions and answers webinar Tuesday 4th May 7.30pm information for parents and carers. Link available if anyone wishes to attend.</p> <p>Development Trust Penpont to Thornhill Active Travel Path for all Thornhill residents They are looking for volunteers to get involved to share with networks. To be discussed at next meeting once the steering group has had their first meeting.</p>	
5	<p>Chair welcomed Larann Foss. KG forwarded on questions in advance to Larann Foss.</p> <p>Larann is the School Estates Education Officer. His responsibilities within D&G Council are managing capital investment inside the asset class schools.</p> <p>There are 114 schools within D&G, some are PPP (Public Private Partnership) like Wallace Hall and others sit within asset class and the rest are Strategic Projects – Dalbeattie, Learning Campus, Learning town phase 1 and 2 schools.</p> <p>Questions that were forwarded to Larann see Appendix 1</p> <p>1a) E4DG- Education for Dumfries & Galloway this was the name given to the funding body to pay for PPP Schools for the project in around 2005 and operation in 2009. They are similar to a bank that the council borrowed money from for the building of the schools and this is paid back monthly – 8 sites 11 schools.</p> <p>b) E4DG do not have any funding due to being similar to a bank. This funding is similar to a mortgage & includes all maintenance that is within the contract, i.e., Floor coverings, chairs etc. The problem is that the pitches have not been included in the contract which is where the issue has arisen.</p> <p>2a) It is the only option left, the only capital that education is able to access. Outside of this it is a request to Chief Executive & elected members to see if additional funding can be accessed to support as a project. Limited Capital funding available.</p> <p>100 schools in asset class, so the pitches sit in the asset class due to the pitches not being included within the PPP contract.</p> <p>In a PPP school floor coverings etc would be covered by the contract and in an asset class school this would be taken from the asset class funding. Around £4.5 million is allocated per year for the asset class funding and schools within this asset class value is around £450 million. 100 year life cycle to get round them all. To get investment into the right place a method of priority based investment is used. Surveys are done on these schools to do work on the worse schools and make them better. A 3 year plan is always in place so it is sitting in the books and account for all the money and ahead of this so all money is used and it is not taken by another department. 10% is unallocated for contingency projects which is used for reactive works if for example Education Scotland Inspection picked up something, this funding can be used to get this issue addressed. The surveys on school playing fields will be carried out under this scheme.</p> <p>3. The summer holidays will be the best time to carry this out. Unessential works have been unable to take place as they have been outside of D&G and this has meant other works are also behind. 7 schools playing fields will be looked at: Dalry Secondary, Wallace Hall, Annan Academy, Douglas Ewart, Castle Douglas High School, Kirkcudbright Academy and Sanquhar Academy. Dalry will be fine. Three of these are definitely a high priority. Although surveys have been carried out at Wallace Hall, these will be done again at all these schools to ensure consistently as they will be the same company. Through surveys we will be asking what level investment is required to get these playing fields to a set standard. That value will then be used to determine what the investment looks like. Hoping to get at least one pitch per year but that would be a guess.</p>	

	<p>b) Back to Committee in August, to go to elected members, to make decision on.</p> <p>4. It could be an option. Still requires investment and may be jumping the queue. It would take money from another project. If there is slippage it could be used for quick projects. A more engineered solution would be required to make the water have somewhere to go so that would likely not be an option. Higher investment would be required so it does not come back in the future. Could be done to a level of works so E4DG can then take responsibility for them the future. This is the difficult part.</p> <p>BG asked LF since there was evidence of conversations going back to 2011 of trying to get repairs done on pitches. Will this be taken into account, since this is not a new issue. LF stated that this could be taken into consideration and should be made clear to elected members. No other school has had an ongoing 10 year problem with it pitches. LF assured PC the pitches will get fix; it will happen.</p> <p>EM raised concerns with LF about pitches being surveyed in summer, when ours would be dryer. LF stated all pitches will be done within the same week or so to ensure consistency. Weather will impact how it looks while on site, but also we will look at how it drains, has any drains collapsed; the silt underneath and if any have any current engineering for drainage. Elected members will be presented with survey results and will rank them in order of best to worst.</p> <p>LF will work with PE Department and BG to ensure school is comfortable with process for allocating, and LF has all the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding the pitches to present to Committee and elected members.</p> <p>Chair thanked LF for attending the meeting to talk to us about the pitches.</p>	
6	<p>ELC Presentation from Laura Weir</p> <p>Wallace Hall ELC has had some recent process changes Added Staffing and built a team Changes due to COVID – 19 Using ClassDojo Doing staff training</p> <p>Appendix Two for full presentation</p>	
7	<p>A) Wee Blethers going great, have recently restarted with schools re-opening. Pupil Council have also been approached.</p> <p>B) JM has a few proposals. Thank you for approval for P7 Ties. Everyone agreed to ties being ordered for all P7s as a leaving present and have been ordered. Mrs Greene usually has a wee end of year party and wondered if PC could contribute to this as a Pizza and Ice cream party. Which would be some pizza and chips and one ice cream per child. 28 children £4 per pupil. Around £120 in total for this. Approval from everyone for the PC to cover this amount.</p> <p>JM and MH would like to do something for the entire school. Something like a lolly. <£1 a pupil. ELC to Primary around 215 pupils. Approval from everyone for PC to cover this cost. JM will come back with confirmed amount to CC.</p> <p>MH proposed a silent disco £130 for 30 headsets and you get these for 72 hrs. Delivered and collected from the school. Proposed to be used for entire school and be shared and wiped down. Concerns for risk assessment for COVID-19 if these are going to be shared. Issues due to singing in schools also. MH to look into it further and get back to PC.</p>	

	<p>Joint fundraiser with PC and House Captains. Each class will have 4 tubs whereby each captain and other pupils will bring in 10ps, and each pupil can bring in as much as they want. Each winner each week will be awarded points and extra play. This will continue until 18th June. Approval for PC to cover costs of items bought.</p>	
8	<p>As of 22nd April bank balance £4072.83 £2141.89 primary £1930.94 secondary Minus pledged available Primary has £1660 and Secondary has £1162 Does not include funds spoke about tonight. Lesley Beck has been contacted and said she is busy and promising our allowance in June. BG is now a signatory. Previous other signatories still to be removed. Treasurers annual report is nearly finished and will be on the website CC to follow up with Lesley via email to have proof in writing, before next meeting.</p>	CC
9	<p><u>ELC News</u> 5 new pupils Laura ELC manager has returned after a long isolation period</p> <p><u>Primary</u> Great to have everyone back and everyone delighted to be back in school and seeing friends and teachers. P6 working on initiative rights to respect school Thank you to Thornhill Gala for the easter eggs.</p> <p><u>Secondary</u> Poly Tunnels are up and running. It has a booking system to use them. Study Support timetable for senior pupils. After school support sessions. Full calendar and webinars about assessments. Thanks to all PC members for taking part & all their support</p> <p>See Appendix Three for full report</p>	
10	<p>Approval for P7 ties above</p> <p>Dux Medal presented after summer holidays like previous year.</p> <p>SY informed PC, she is not the lead for the Secondary Fundraising group, but CC is. Christine not aware that she was and said COH is. CC looking into raffle licensing, she has not yet discussed this with the Secondary Fundraising and will email group members about this. COH agreed that CC was confirmed as lead. CC will do lead for remaining for year.</p>	CC
	<p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting, Monday, 7th June 2021 at 7pm</p>	

Appendix One

Questions

1a) Could you explain what the terms E4, D&G & PPP funding are, that you mention in your emails?

b) Why is there no option for funding for the required works under those funding streams?

2.a) Why does our pitches sit within the wider school's asset class funding streams as it is used for refurbishment and improvement, when what we require is a complete new drainage system

b) Why do we need to sit within this large pool of other schools that are requiring refurbishment and improvements

3a) What is the timeframe of the independent survey?

b) Why are we going through this process when we are required works and as there was a survey done within the last year?

4. Why can't a short term cheaper solution be considered and funded in the interim period? As this has previously been suggested.

Appendix Two

ELC Presentation

Positive changes ...

- Moved to being an 1140 hours provider: August 2020
- Added to our staffing numbers and built a team
- Got creative when organising the setting into two separate rooms due to COVID-19



- We as a setting have gone through some interesting processes of change including:
 - Becoming an 1140 hours provider which increased each child's entitlement to a total of 30 hours per week.
 - This meant that there was a requirement for more staff to ensure child to adult ratios were being met.
 - We became a team of 8 apposed to the previous 4.
 - Worked together to develop a team which was effective for each individual child's learning journey.
 - Moved from one whole setting to two separate rooms – sunshine room and rainbow room to adhered to government guidelines relating to COVID-19.
 - Thought outside of the box to create two settings which provided opportunity in all areas of learning for children to continue their learning journeys.

Planning in the moment ...



- We have gradually moved to an approach called planning in the moment and continue to move forward with this approach to ensure it is being implemented effectively.
- Through this approach children lead their own learning journeys and staff facilitate their learning by ensuring that the environment provides many opportunities.
- The staff team work hard to ensure that there is progression available within the environment and through observation are able to assess if the environment needs to be changed to allow this.
- By using this approach staff are able to seize the moment when children first show curiosity and are able to support their next steps in that moment.
- This can have a massive positive effect on how a child views learning and their future learning journey.

Parental engagement ...



- A different approach due to COVID-19
- Making use of [ClassDojo](#).
- Introduction of focus weeks – benefits for children and parents

- A positive partnership between our setting and families plays a massive role in each child's view to learning.
- Parental engagement is of the utmost importance and of late we have had to take a different approach to how this is done.
- We as a team make use of an app called [ClassDojo](#) which allows us to share photos and information with families on the class story, it also has a direct message facility and each child has their own portfolio which staff and parents can add into which will follow them into P1.
- To ensure each child is observed and their needs are being met we have a process called a focus week.
 - This allows all staff to contribute to a child's learning and no learning opportunities are missed.
 - ALL staff gain knowledge on ALL children including achievements and next steps.
 - Due to this being a rolling programme all children have the opportunity to have a focus week at least once a term.
 - Parents/carers are involved in this process through a planning letter and a follow up telephone call. Parents know that due to this process that they will be able to discuss their child's progress in depth with the child's key worker each term.
 - Parents/carers are supported to continue to fulfil their child's learning journey at home through their identified next steps from their focus week.
 - We look forward to welcoming parents/carers back into the setting when possible but enjoy getting to know the families in the best way possible at the moment.

Staff training ...



- Anna Ephgrave
- Alistair-Bryce Clegg
- Developing Number Knowledge
- Early Years Team – Principal teacher assigned
- Progression Framework

- Staff continue to develop their own practice to ensure that they are able to effectively carry out planning in the moment.
- Some of the training which we have already participated in is –
 - [Anna Ephgrave](#) – Planning in the moment with young children (book and online CPD)
 - [Alistair Bryce-Clegg](#) – ABC Does (online CPD)
 - Developing Number Knowledge (online CPD) – numeracy in early years
 - Support from the D&G Early Years Team – advice available when needed
 - Using the D&G Progression Framework to enhance staff knowledge of the process children go through when learning – overarches all practice.

Appendix Three

Head Teacher's Report for the Parent Council –April 2021

ELC News:

- We have welcomed 5 new children to the setting since the Easter holidays who have settled in great and are adjusting to their new environment. They've settled in so well that we have been able to return to the nearby woodland areas for Welly Wednesday.
- The children are making the most of the lovely weather which we have been having and have decorated their own individual plant pots which they are going to learn to love and nurture to allow them to grow and develop.
- The team are currently participating in 3 developing number knowledge training sessions to enhance our knowledge and ensure we are promoting numeracy in the setting effectively. We have 2 sessions to go.

Primary News:

- It was wonderful to welcome back P4-P7 at the end of March, which meant we had the full Primary back
- Primary 6 are now having a weekly timetabled opportunity to meet as a steering group to work on our application for the Rights Respecting Schools Award. We hope to apply for the Bronze 'Rights Committed' accreditation before the summer holidays. Primary 6 pupils presented an assembly to P1-2, P3-4 and P5-7. They are choosing a different right to focus on once a fortnight and will share this learning with the whole school. Well done to our P6s for leading this important development
- The Thornhill Gala donated an Easter egg for every pupil. The children were overjoyed to receive their eggs and it was a really nice end to the term!

Secondary News:

- Good use is being made of our two polytunnels. S Hennessy is organising a group to make new plans for the Whapples orchard.
- We have been very impressed with the diet of workshops, webinars and study support sessions offered by e-Sgoil through Education Scotland. Many of our senior phase pupils linked into the Easter School sessions to help prepare them for their forthcoming assessments.
- The Alternative Certification Model for Senior Phase pupils has now started. Before the holidays we organised a webinar for pupils and their parents where we explained the process in detail and answered questions. We have also had a webinar for Transitions for P7-S1.