

Minutes of Wallacehall

2-18 Parent Council Meeting

7th May 2019, 7:00pm

Present: Ann Andreasen, Sharon Young, Caroline O’Hara, Donna Maxwell, Louise Cochran, Suzanne Renwick, Euan Mack, John Blair, Jillian Maxwell, Melanie Halliday, Kerry Fry, Christine Carson

Apologies: Mark Blount, Audrey Murray, Darren Burns, Carol Hamilton, Ray Fulton, Lynne Maxwell, Natalie Hare, Claire Wilson

| ITEM | | Action |
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| 1. | Welcome. Louise Cochran, acting chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. | |
| 2. | Approval of minutes of meeting on 11th March 2019. The minutes were approved without amendment: approved John Blair, seconded Kerry Fry. | |
| 3. | Correspondence, charity sponsorship. On Saturday 28 th September two Wallacehall pupils, Phoebe Murray and Aaron Martin, are organizing a Charity Ball in aid of Mental Health and raising awareness of mental health issues and effects and have asked for PC support. It was agreed that the PC would sponsor a table at a cost of £50 & help publicise the event at a later date (beginning of autumn term) to boost ticket sales if required. Individual members can donate prizes or purchase tickets (£35) if they wish. Table sponsorship includes publicising your organization at the event. | |
| 4. | Euan Mack presentation on mental health in the school. Plans are in place in the school to develop a strategic approach to mental health. EM updated PC on mental health work in the school. This year there has been a change from PSE classes to Health and Wellbeing classes in the Academy and now instead of all teachers having a PSE class, a smaller group of staff have volunteered to undergo additional training to take the Health and Wellbeing classes. A lot of pupil feedback has been sought. A review of mental health and the school’s policy and activities related to mental health is ongoing and includes canvassing pupil and staff opinion. There have also been a number of outside speakers invited to speak to senior pupils. Stress control is the program being used in the senior phase. It was done with S4, 5 and 6 this year, but in future will be done at the beginning of S4. It’s based on a program developed for schools by Dr Jim White, Consultant Psychiatrist, and is aimed at early intervention and encouraging pupils to manage their own mental health. Key aspects: talk a lot about how we know when we’re stressed and anxious and what effects this has on mind/body. Encouraging and emphasising importance of a good night’s sleep – putting the phone down. Key message: normalising – recognising that we all get stressed and the important thing is to get in place strategies for coping, particularly in establishing good wellbeing as a basis of exam success. | |

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| | <p>Evaluation: evaluation is based on a questionnaire given out to pupils with comparison of results. There have been improvements. Qualitative feedback has also been undertaken and will result in some changes to the program. Staff feedback was also gathered. The school have Gail Finlay, youth information worker, now based here on Tuesday. GF can provide one to one support, beyond what the Health and Wellbeing, pupil support teachers can provide. After that a pupil could be referred to the school nurse or referred to CAMHS (Child and Adult Mental Health Service) – and they are usually seen within 2 weeks. EM has weekly meeting with mental health worker from CAMHS. Next step is to update some of our resources and continue to use the strategies that have been put in place. Over time mental health focus will include younger pupils, S1-3 and upper primary. The Scottish government has an action plan for every school to have a full time school counsellor. There was a parents’ event on managing stress which was reasonably well attended and will be offered at the Senior Parents evening.</p> <p><i>Any questions or suggestions?</i></p> <p>The stress talk was very helpful/informative.</p> <p>Q. What is the time frame for filtering down the school? A. By the end of the year into BGE.</p> <p>The primary is also running a program to ask children to think about their emotions and to start to regulate their emotions throughout the primary. Some S5 and 6 pupils are going into primary and delivering parts of the program, as primary pupils respond well to the older children.</p> <p>There has been comparison of the health and wellbeing with one other school, comparing results to questionnaires.</p> <p>Q. Is there anyone gathering the information and comparing among schools in the authority. A. Not as yet, as WHA is a pilot program for the authority.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Headteachers Report</p> <p><u>Staffing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Romay has now left Wallace Hall Primary to start her new post in Kelloholm Primary School. • Mrs Meredith will teach the Primary 3 class on a Monday and on a Tuesday in term 4. • Ms Jack will return to Wallace Hall Primary to teach Primary 7 on a Friday • Miss Brown has been appointed as a permanent member of | |

our English team shortly before the holidays.

- Mrs Belford is currently on maternity leave following the birth of her baby boy.
- Mrs Robertson will be going on maternity leave very soon and Mrs Flint will be joining us on a temporary secondment basis from St Joseph's College to take on the role of Acting PT Pupil Support and teacher of Biology.
- Thanks go to Mrs Priestly, Mr Dickson, Mr McNay and Mr John Steele who will be leaving us at various points during this term and to Mrs Hamilton who has left to take up a post in the Procurator Fiscal's office in Dumfries after working for over 5 years in our school office.

Pupil Achievement

- The Wallace Hall Primary Accordion band took 1st place at the British Accordion Championships. Kyle Anderson and Darroch Wood both competed as individuals in the secondary sections, winning some first and second places in their relevant categories.

WH ELC News

Pupils in the ELC have been learning about Spring and enjoyed a visit from some real Easter Bunnies! Pupils have been learning about the life cycles and are starting to prepare to grow their own veg in term four.

The new start children are settling in nicely.

ELC pupils have enjoyed a campfire with homemade bread, jam and hot chocolate around the fire to round off our outdoor sessions for term three. They enjoyed a Forest school session with P1 and Mr Blair in the woods.

To promote Health and Wellbeing, pupils have taken part in Oral health talks, Hand washing box activities, launching the Daily Mile and taking part in the whole school Dance-A-Thon. ELC alone have raised over £400 to contribute to sponsor funds.

PC Gary Adair has also visited nursery.

The new topics in the ELC include Space and The Seven Seas which will be a joint learning context with P1.

ELC Parents/carers will also take part in the new reporting arrangements, using Learning Conversations as a means of reporting to Pre School Parents/Carers in May.

Primary News

P2 pupils recently went a walk around the village as part of their houses and homes theme. They looked at a variety of housing in the village and the different features of these.

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| | <p>Most of P7 recently went on an overnight residential trip to Edinburgh. During their stay they visited the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh Castle, Dynamic Earth, the National Museum of Scotland and watched 'Matilda: the Musical' at the theatre.</p> <p>After winning the Rotary quiz competition in our cluster, 4 members of the P7 class went on to compete at the next level. Despite not qualifying for the next stage the team worked extremely well together and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.</p> <p>As part of our health activities all classes participated in a sponsored dance-a-thon with Frances Forsyth from local company BOOGIE effect. Both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed participating in this event and finished the day with a whole school BOOGIE.</p> <p><u>Academy News</u></p> <p>The S6 Leavers had a fantastic time celebrating the end of their time in school. On the Thursday they visited the library for coffee and home baking with staff during break and all took part in a leavers' ceremony watched by parents/carers. On the Friday, the pupils visited Blackpool Pleasure Beach and had a brilliant day.</p> <p>We held a very successful Expressive Arts Showcase during the last week of term in the Bailey Hall. There were performances from Music and Drama pupils and pupils' art work and photography was on display. We also held performances of the National 5 and Higher Drama SQA pieces and these went very well.</p> <p>Sam Taylor played rugby for Biggar in the Scottish U16 Cup Final at Murrayfield recently. Although his team lost, Sam scored a try and was chosen as 'Man of the Match'. Sam continues to work his way through the Scotland U16 process.</p> <p>Team GLIC have returned from the World Robotics Festival in Detroit. Their robot won 3rd out of 72,000 entries for innovative and mechanical design and Neil Corrigan was awarded Best Coach. Both fantastic achievements.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Additional commendations for the robot from the Parent Council. Suggestion that the robotics team should attend the Thornhill Gala and inform/fundraise. They've also been invited to go into the Mechanics League, the league above the Lego League.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>A big thank you Jillian Maxwell thanked, on behalf of the primary fundraising group, Mrs Renwick for her support at the Dance-a-thon.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Dawn Stirk, Treasurer: bank balance £6812.21, PC balance, primary £5311.43 and academy £1578.00.</p> | |
| 8. | <p>Pitches Update. We are now dealing with Paul McCulloch, rather than Claire Renton</p> | Action: LC and CO to |

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| | <p>whom we've been dealing with for the past 5 years. Review of letters. Letter from 28th March 2019. Clarification of ownership. All 3 pitches managed and maintained by PPP contractor, E4D&G Project Co Ltd. One was constructed by E4D&G and has a fully functioning draining system and two were inherited with the requirement to maintain, e.g. grass cutting, but not to install any drainage. PC was advised by Paul McCulloch that the only solution is to fully excavate and install a fully functional drainage system at a cost of £300K and there is no available budget. Last survey of pitches was in August. LC recommended that we take up Paul McCulloch's offer to come and meet which will give them the opportunity to inform him fully of the situation. CO suggested inviting press at the same time. Question of what the details of the contract for maintenance with E4D&G. It has been difficult to get a hold of the contract. Even Oliver Mundell, MSP, has asked for details of the contract with E4D&G without success. CO said that although you might not be able to see the contract, you can ask for specific information within the contract. Question – who owns the land. Suggestion it might be Buccleuch estates. Not sure who owns the land. Louise Cochran...should we get an independent surveyor in? Conclusion: to ask Paul McCulloch to come out. Louise Cochran and Caroline O'Hara to meet with him. This has been going on for a long time - years. Discussion of costs, options, etc.</p> | meet Paul McCulloch |
| 9. | <p>School Crossing Email received from Mark to say that there are no budget changes proposed that will impact on school crossing patrols. Letter re school crossing was received from Michael James, Community Assets Manager.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>Road Safety Jillian Maxwell contacted LC about a bus (no. 236) driving too close to the pavement and slightly fast, near the War Memorial/Brownriggs. Two parents had come into the school to report the incident. They have been watching this for weeks and months and it is road safety issue. One wobble from the pavement or pupil inadvertently stepping off the pavement could result in an accident. Caroline O'Hara said that the Council has in the past, on request of Mr Dillon, cut back bushes to preserve maximum width of the pavement. LC said Parent Council can request Community Police Officer to observe. Euan Mack will report to Lyndsey Heron (school transport). JM mentioned signage, especially re speed (20mph) not obvious. CO suggested PC contact parents to encourage them to observe and report.</p> | <p>CC to draft letter to go out to parents asking for their feedback and that they can report to school transport. EM to</p> |

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| | <p>JM said we can send note out in school bags. Could also draft something for the notice boards.</p> <p>Euan Mack is meeting Community Police Officer, PC Adair, and will discuss this with him tomorrow morning.</p> | <p>discuss with school transport and PC Adair.</p> |
| 11. | <p>Bid process for primary and secondary Parent Council funds.</p> <p>Can we get a secondary fundraising group together? CC to ask parents to volunteer for secondary fundraising group. Discussion of bid system. John Blair said that he felt the bid system works, but needs advertised a bit more. When should we operate the bid system. Heads of department would make bids. JB said that the primary should have a bidding system as well. It was agreed that: bids will need to be considered at every meeting; bids can be quite simple but must include an amount, why, rationale/impact; awards will be determined by majority vote at the PC meeting.</p> | <p>CC to contact parents and ask if they would be interested in secondary fundraising sub group. Also to draft Bid Form.</p> |
| 12. | <p>AOCB. None.</p> | |