

**Minutes of Wallace Hall  
2-18 Parent Council Meeting  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
7pm via Teams**

**Present:** Louise Cochran (Chair), Katrina Galligan (Secretary), Jane Valentine (Treasurer), Barry Graham, Jillian Maxwell, Anna Meredith, Euan Mack, Maria Navarro de Sepulveda, Judi Park, Sharon Young, Mark Ingram, Claire Ingram, Caroline O'Hara, Lynn Smith and Suzanne Renwick

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies: Olivia Andreasen, Edward Smith, Ann Andreasen, Melanie Halliday, Kerry Fry, Lynne Maxwell, Laura Weir, Katharine Ellicott &amp; Laura Keenan</p> <p>Welcome – LC welcomed everyone to the meeting &amp; a special welcome to Suzanne Renwick P1-P7 teacher</p>	
2	<p>Approval of the Minutes from last meeting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Minutes approved and agreed as correct. Approved by JV &amp; seconded by LC</p>	
3	<p>Presentation from Mrs Suzanne Renwick on Primary Mathematics Appendix One</p>	
4	<p>Still no takers for position of Leader of L&amp;T or Secondary fundraising Lynn Smith agreed to be point of point for L&amp;T to forward us info report back etc Suggestion to put out info about all committees, as part of the info booklet about PC All agreed to info booklet.</p>	
5	<p>Email from Vanessa Morris – update about PC Have to continue online PC meetings until told otherwise Surveys from D&amp;G Council about Parents/Carers SQA Invigilator opportunities- contact KG for info &amp; Links Connect training opportunities – JV Sent Info about treasurers ones. KG going to secretary</p>	

	one Equality Training – contact KG for info & Links	
6	<p>a) Xmas Cards – Very successful and turned out really nice. Parents have requested we repeat us. Joint raffle with secondary went very well also. Nothing planned for this term. Summer term doing fundraiser with house captains. Will meet with them to discuss. Thanks to Lewis Gray for helping with raffle.</p> <p>b) Nothing to report</p> <p>c) Parent surveys and Primary Surveys received. Secondary pupil survey is going out next week beginning 31<sup>st</sup>, will start pulling document together and will get it out to BG and PC and get it in place. No update from council about site visit. Meet with LC about contacting Tony Topping again.</p>	
7	No Report as unavailable	
8	<p>Everyone sent Income/Expenditure report prior to meeting Almost £1700 in primary but with prior pledge closer to £1275 Just over £1000 in secondary due to raffle</p> <p>Received some of allowance from council But issues regarding allowance received one and been told 3 more have been paid but at present we are unsure which account they have paid these 3 allowances into. Also most likely been overpaid as they have split us into Primary and Secondary although they are aware we are a joint parent council. JV speaking to Jennifer Graham who works with Diane Jarvie who are going to help with looking into accounts. Also going to contact previous PC members Alice Bainbridge and Brian who may be able to help with old bank accounts. May also have to write a specific letter to them specifying we are a joint parent council.</p>	
9	<p>Draft Anti Bullying Policy documents sent out to everyone prior to start of meeting 3 documents that support primary's work supporting positive relationship approaches Document one – Primary Anti Bullying Policy and rationale Document two – Primary Anti Bullying Procedures – at a glance information Document three- Primary Anti Bulling useful resources and information</p> <p>Almost a year's work which Cathy McKenzie and Lynne Maxwell have been working on Parents and children have been involved. Wee blether groups held on zoom. Created using national and local guidance Positive feedback so far Next steps is launch this with pupils. BG is working with senior pupils to create pupil friendly version Easy accessible to everyone</p>	
10	Head Teacher's Report Appendix Two	
11	<p>Email from EM regarding dog fouling on school pitches to see if PC would be able to help with communication or additional signage or purchasing bins LC emailed a few people prior to meeting to get further information to see what we could or couldn't do Pitches unplayable due to issues as well as dog fouling issues not a new issue but now a worsening issue</p>	

	<p>Cllr Wood contacted to find out which dept. Replied saying Robert Piercy is the person to contact</p> <p>RP replied saying we could purchase our own but he could erect the standard signs, suggested we highlight the issue on Social Media, Community safety team is on the patrol schedule, also contacted community assets with no response as of yet.</p> <p>All agreed with standard signage. LC to email RP back.</p> <p>JM with the help of Findlay Park will highlight the issue in some form on Social Media</p> <p>BG Suggested pupils to all design some signs as well as the standard signs</p>	LC
12	<p>Update from Larann</p> <p>LC replied a response with questions as needed clarification on some of what he said</p> <p>See Appendix 3 for email and questions as well as Reponses</p> <p>LC and MI to meet up regarding letter so it is ready if needed.</p>	
	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>14th March 2022</p> <p>9th May 2022</p> <p>13th June 2022</p>	

**DNK Parent Council Presentation 7pm Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022**

<p><b>1. Insight into teaching of Maths @ WHPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Use a wide range of teaching &amp; learning approaches to meet the needs of learners</li> <li>* Wider areas of maths eg shape, measure, info hand using bundled Es and Os - blocks of teaching and some classes are approaching this through focus weeks - examples</li> <li>* Up to June No. element Big Maths - review</li> <li>* August 2021 - ELC-P7 all classes using DNK</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. What is DNK?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Approach to support dev of children's number knowledge</li> <li>* Dev in East Lothian and shared widely across Scotland</li> <li>* Now used by numerous schools in D&amp;G</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Why use DNK?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Approach which clearly links research to classroom pedagogy</li> <li>* Promotes shared conceptual understanding of how children explore and develop a secure knowledge of number</li> <li>* Promotes effective learning and teaching strategies to meet the needs of learners - posters also allows for personalisation</li> <li>* Aims to improve attainment &amp; confidence in numeracy through embedding an I can do mind set across ELC, Primary and beyond</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. What does it provide?</b></p> <p><b>Learning framework (example)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Links to acfe and I can statements - learners aware language - plan next steps</li> <li>* Demonstrates how to move children's understanding from one stage to the next</li> <li>* Provides an overview of number knowledge required to develop a range of strategies which are transferrable as children make progress across the school</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Pathway of progression (example)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Across Learning Phases - Early Level- Second Level</li> </ul>	<p><b>6. Resources (example)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Links to resources which support teaching learning</li> <li>Eg. * TJ resources-purchased by PC</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Support planning and teaching of numeracy learning experiences and monitor progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Heinemann text books + active online</li> <li>* Numeracy Launch Pads - QR codes</li> <li>* Numicon early years</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Assessment Materials (example)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Initial</li> <li>* Ongoing</li> <li>* Oral questions which directly link to progression</li> <li>* Booklet-written evidence</li> </ul>	<p><b>8. Conclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Staff - always open to new research and participate in professional learning opportunities</li> <li>* Adapt their learning and teaching strategies to meet needs, increase confidence and attainment of learners</li> </ul>

## **Appendix Two**

### **Head Teacher's Report for the Parent Council – January 2022**

#### **ELC News:**

- The ELC children have been looking at water and its many states. Children explored the liquid state, then froze some animals in water.
- ELC children have also been exploring air, wind and windmills.
- Music sessions with Emily Smith have started in the ELC. The children really enjoyed Emily's visit and are looking forward to future sessions.

#### **Primary News:**

- Last term we posted a countdown to Christmas Advent Calendar message on Social Media. Pupils and their parents/carers really enjoyed seeing these.
- Wallace Hall Primary were delighted to make it into the top three Dumfries and Galloway schools for their efforts in the Leg It to Lapland Challenge. The top pupil from each class was awarded a prize for their efforts.
- We are delighted that music tutors are now back in school for face-to-face lessons. Lessons are still available online for some pupils

#### **Secondary News:**

- Prelims have started and are going well so far.
- The S2 into S3 options process has started and pupil interviews are currently taking place with the Depute Head Teachers and the PTs Pupil Support.
- New re-cycling bins have arrived in school and placed in central areas. Black boxes have been allocated to all classrooms and the contents of these will be emptied into the larger bins.

## Appendix Three

Hi Louise,

Apologies for taking so long to come back to you, and Barry for you needing to come looking for the same info. Progress is being made, albeit slow. I know I'd previously mentioned the pressures the Councils delivery arm is under, through employment/job gaps, this unfortunately remains an issue and has been raised at committee level as a risk. Just mentioning it to give a bit of context and hopefully there's a bit of solace in the fact that it's not just this project, and maybe some reassurance that if it's happening across the board then there's possibly more chance of change being a higher priority.

That said due to this known risk, we do thankfully now have the ability to pull in additional adhoc resource as required through a Professional and Technical Services Framework, and that's the route being used for this task. Two packages of tender information have been pulled together, one very much focusing on the output requirements to meet educational expectations, which is very much tied in to Sports Scotlands standards, i.e. availability of provision throughout the year, level of utilisation, condition of surface, maintenance standards, number of cuts a year, sand slitting, fertilisation, aeration etc. The other package focusing on the evaluating of the existing spaces, asking for site investigations, trial pits, review of existing drainage in relation to it's age, capacity and remaining lifecycle etc. We had tested the market with all of this together as one request, but found that there wasn't a level of confidence around this being delivered by one standalone contractor, there was interest and specialism in the individual areas, but the sense was that it was a bit 'jack of all trades, master of none', hence why they've now been split in to two and will be pushed back out once finalised for responses.

We've started planning expenditure for next financial year and I've allocated out (with committee agreement) £200k for sports pitch works, which will be an annualised expenditure potentially for a number of years. I'm still hopefully that the surveys will be completed in time to inform the priority and the level of investment required at the various schools – all done in time to ensure the money is spent next financial year.

And sorry yes, I received the photos, so I've got them on file as supporting information.

Regards,

**Larann Foss**

**Schools Manager – Property**  
**Education & Learning Directorate**  
**Dumfries & Galloway Council**  
**The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries, DG2 9AW**  
**Drop Point: 230**

## LC Chair response below in black with Laranns response to those questions in blue

Good Morning Larann

Hope you had a good weekend.

Thank you for providing us with an update on the progress being made with the pitches for tonight's Parent Council meeting.

I have had time to think over your email over the last few days, and I have just gave it another read through. I would be grateful if you could clarify and answer a few questions I have listed below:

1) Paragraph 2, last line, referring to tender packages - When would you hope to have these pushed back out? What would be the expected timescale for response and deadlines? **This is in the hands of my colleagues in PEP, so out with the control of Education unfortunately. That said I would hope within a handful of weeks, as they can use the framework process for this.**

2) Paragraph 3, first sentence, you state, '...I've allocated out (with committee agreement) £200k for sports pitch works,' - Could you clarify if that is still to be agreed by the committee, or if you already have? And, is that the Education Committee? **The funding has already been agreed by Education committee, but it hadn't yet been slotted in to the capital programme or shown in the asset class budget— effectively once members agree it can be spent we need to look for gaps in the spend profiling or move things around to make the gaps. We are always have more money spent than allocated because things inevitably slip for one reason or another, so we've moved things around to make £200k available next financial year.**

3) Paragraph 3, the last sentence - While you state you are 'still hopefully the surveys will be completed in time...done in time to ensure the money is spent next financial year', which we all hope will still be the case, this for obviously reasons is a concern. If this were the case that the money was not spent in the next financial year, what would you foresee happening moving forward? For example, would the unspent money be transferred forward to the following financial year, allowing you to have more money in the pot that year to fix pitches? Or, would the whole project be pushed back a year? **That would be the intention, to have twice as much money next year. There are also cases in certain projects where you just can't get the spend to line up with financial years, and a project bridges two financial years. So it might be that the first priority only requires £150k, £50k is still in the pot, but the following priority requires £250k, we would spend £50k in one financial year, and £150k the next, but it still the same project. Or if there was slippage for one reason or another we might end up spending £100k one year and £300k the next. Sorry that's a bit long winded, but effectively the money will not be lost.**

4) Finally, from our previous telephone conversation, since there are still no surveys done, and February Committee Meeting is fast approaching, I am presuming you are now hoping to have all surveys, etc done for the June Education Committee Meeting? **We've actually got a March committee, so in an ideal world I'll like to target that, the only problem is the papers have to be written so far in advance that the information needed to create it may not be with us. Failing that though it would unfortunately roll to the next one.**