

**Minutes of Wallace Hall
2-18 Parent Council Meeting
Monday 24th March 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, Caroline O'Hara, Lynn Smith, Olivia Andreasen, Edward Smith, Ann Andreasen, Melanie Halliday, Grahame Arrowsmith, and Laura Keenan

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies: Kerry Fry, Laura Weir, Katharine Ellicott, Sharon Young, Mark Ingram, Claire Ingram and Sarah McDiarmid</p> <p>Welcome – LC welcomed everyone to the meeting & a special welcome to Grahame Arrowsmith</p>	
2	<p>Approval of the Minutes from last meeting Monday 24th January – Minutes approved and agreed as correct. Approved by JV and seconded by MNdS</p>	
3	<p>Presentation from Mr Graham Arrowsmith about Secondary Survey results 124 responses with 30 questions The questions came from Education Scotland, this enables the school to view performance against the Education Scotland requirements which will help if inspections are in future and will give some guidance. Results overwhelmingly positive and encouraging Looking at results and where more work required and next steps No and Don't know results over 20% is where work will be done and there is 5 key areas During May arrange focus groups and find out more information about these issues Exercise & Wellbeing Support with Optional Choices Feedback and Progress Learning at Home – Support Parent Views</p>	
4	<p>Dog Fouling Signs have been erected People have been patrolling the local area and this seems to be working and having a good effect. Community Assets could supply bins but they would not service the bins and would</p>	

	<p>need the school or someone at the school to empty these. Amey previously refused to empty bins when they were previously installed. However although there is not bins on pitches, there are bins on outskirts of pitches, on Station Road opposite entrance. All present agreed to not get bins installed. Will do a school campaign to encourage people to remove this and empty in nearby bins.</p> <p>LC will contact Community Assets team to let them know we do not require bins. Thank you to JM for previous Social Media video about Dog fouling.</p> <p>Info Booklet- draft copies of the wording have been sent out and checked LC will checked it one last time, read through and make changes Then LC will pass onto KG to make into booklet and then welcome letter added LC thanked Sub-Committee groups for supplying their info and to everyone that checked it</p> <p>KG attended Connect Online training Was good and informative. Many suggestions about storing info and how to pass on documents etc</p>	<p>LS</p> <p>LC</p> <p>LC</p> <p>KG</p>
5	<p>Email from Laura Weir asking to be removed from the Parent Council Correspondence list Wallace Hall 2-18 partners questionnaire submitted by JV and LC</p>	<p>KG</p>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) JM & MH Fundraising at Easter, Squares – names the Easter Bunny and then scratch and reveals the winner. MH has sourced prizes. b) CC is no longer part of this committee. LG working with secondary pupils to raise some money. Still no taker on leader. Previous 2 items approved in March 2020, but put on hold due to Covid - Easter Egg Raffle & Monthly Draw Squares. All agreed to Easter Egg Raffle going ahead this year. JV to get tickets. Car Boot PC interested in helping out at this, in joined fundraiser with school in the Autumn term - All Agreed. c) Plans to formulate for observing and giving feedback. In a mutually and supportive way and meet regularly. Format for observing. Secondary Staff do 15 minutes forum. Secondary and Primary staff to mix. d) Couple of bits of info still to come in, but in the meantime draft copy issued to BG for school feedback. There has been a delay in the work due to a change of teams. The agreed work is now going through the procurement process and hopefully we should get a confirmed start date soon. At the moment the flashing lights are unlikely due to maintenance costs that we would be responsible for, it is also looking unlikely we would get the funding. However, we have got the council to agree to put 20mph roundel and red strip entering into East Morton Street. This is in addition to the other works already agreed. Once all the work has been completed, we will access situation and can decide where we go from there. 	
7	<p>OA- Working with house captains in primary P7s meeting about Anti Bullying Policy and making posters for around the school. Going well. Working with Deputy Head Boy and Girl Future planning fayre 24th S6 and talk about what they're doing and how they chose etc. Plastic bins for plastic bottles Signs to encourage proper use</p> <p>LC thanked Head Boy and Head Girl for all their contributions and wished them Good Luck for their exams and all the best for the future.</p>	
8	<p>Primary Finance - £1,867.88 less £420 pledge for curriculum reading books - balance</p>	

	<p>£1,447.88</p> <p>Secondary Finance - £1,234.78</p> <p>D&G allowances: we have received 3 of the 4 allowances, just waiting for the cancelled cheque to be reissued.</p> <p>JV has located bank details for the academy account once the cheques have been lodged the account can then be closed. At this point the D&G allowances account will be amalgamated and we can rename the Primary bank account to Wallace Hall 2-18 Parent Council. Barry and Katrina have forwarded contact details for Brian Johnston as he will need to sign paperwork to close the account.</p>	
9	<p>Head Teacher's Report</p> <p>Appendix One</p>	
10	<p>Nothing from Larann as of yet</p> <p>LC and MI have met and have started compiling a timeline</p> <p>LC and KG checked the Education Committee agenda for their March Meeting and we were not on the agenda</p> <p>Letter is in progress</p>	MI
11	<p>Funding Bid from Primary</p> <p>Was forwarded prior to meeting</p> <p>See Appendix two</p> <p>Reply from concerned parent before meeting about low responses – AM says this is actually significant response</p> <p>A lot of research about App very positive. Troqueer primary using this already</p> <p>Looking for match funding £200 paid by PC and £200 by School for 3 years</p> <p>Cut down on school emails</p> <p>Allowing parents to be more connected to classroom</p> <p>Good for reminders for example – don't forget we are going on a trip to Ice Skating tomorrow</p> <p>Very good integrated app</p> <p>Suggested we start this in August at start of new year</p> <p>Also suggested a trial period with one or a few classes</p> <p>Also financial aspect to consider</p> <p>AM to think about the points etc and contact the company about a trial</p> <p>Funding bid not agreed at this point in time.</p>	
	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>9th May 2022</p> <p>13th June 2022</p>	

Appendix One

Head Teacher's Report for the Parent Council – March 2022

ELC News:

- **Outdoor space development** - The ELC have recently purchased some new bikes. All children have had great fun building obstacle courses with cones, ramps and check points.
- **Numeracy and Literacy developments** - We are working closely with the Primary 1 teachers to establish clear pathways when children transition from ELC to P1.
- **Children's rights** - As well as taking part in the UN Rights of the Child walk, ELC have been looking at ways in which their rights can be voiced.

Primary News:

- **Rights Respecting Schools** - The Pupil Council have produced two short videos about 'The Wallace Hall Way' as a pupil friendly way of sharing the 4-focus rights in the primary whole school charter with primary pupils.
- **Transition** - Primary 7 are taking part in lots of transition activities.
- **Creating a reading culture - literacy development** - Love of Reading week/World Book Day was celebrated in the Primary and ELC with lots of activities taking place.

Secondary News:

- Wallace Hall Academy has won a fourth ALBAS Award. This was for our projects associated with producing fruit and vegetables in a sustainable manner and providing produce with low food miles.
- Wallace Hall Academy won the overall school award in the recent Scottish Schools Burns Competition. Thanks to Keith Dickson and Louise Girvan for preparing the pupils for their performances.
- We held a very successful Zoom webinar last week for S4-S6 pupils and their parents/carers. Dr Fulton presented the latest SQA information and guidance and Mr Lees highlighted effective revision techniques that pupils can use in preparation for their exams.

Forthcoming Car Boot Sale and Wear What You Want Day shared with Charities Committee

Fundraising – Lewis Gray

Appendix Two

March 2022 – Primary – Parent Council Funding Request – SchoolApp

We are seeking £200/annum, initially for a trial period of three years, to purchase an App to connect Parents and Carers more directly with the learning taking place in the classroom and to improve the efficiency of our communication. This App is to improve our home-school communication with parents following parent and carer feedback obtained in Nov 2021. The information below sets out the reasons for this request.

November 2021: The Parent Council Communication Working Group decided to survey parents and carers about how the Primary school communicates and what could be improved.

The main points from parents and carers were that:

- In general, school communication was good but it was felt that communication connecting parents and carers to their child's learning in the classroom could be improved.
- Covid has presented a number of challenges and parents and carers are looking forward to a return to face to face communication.
- A significant number of parents and carers felt disconnected from the classroom since the removal of the App, ClassDojo.
- Many parents and carers valued the short, snappy style of ClassDojo and feeling connected to the classroom. They also valued being able to contact the teacher directly.

January 2022: In discussions with staff about home-school communication, the main points were as follows:

- Staff agreed with parents and carers that they would like to connect more directly about learning taking place in the classroom.
- Staff felt that an App is a good way to do this as it is instant and a great way for parents and carers to start conversations with their child about their learning.
- Staff felt that the App must be easy to use and manageable for both staff, and parents and carers.
- Staff really value building positive relationships with Parents and Carers and are really looking forward to being able to meet face to face again as soon as possible.
- Staff are easily contactable through the current methods of calling or emailing the school office and all messages are passed on and responded to in a timely and appropriate manner.

Overview: Primary Communication Survey

40 responses representing 38 families. 24 of the 40 respondents left written comments.

3. Please indicate how satisfied you are with the information provided about the following:

[View Details](#)

Very dissatisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Neutral Somewhat satisfied Very satisfied



6. Please indicate how you feel about the following statements;

[More Details](#)

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree



7. Would you prefer information from your child's class teacher to be communicated to you:

[More Details](#)



Jan/Feb 2022 - Information gathered about two Apps that could be used to improve communication.

'Parent Hub' and 'School App' – both UK based apps, fully compliant with GDPR.

The details of the Apps were shared with the Parent Council Working Group and Staff, including the pros and cons of each.

It was agreed that 'School App' was the better solution for the Primary school enabling clear navigation of important information (dates, news, class messages), easy to use for parents and carers, is used by other schools in the authority and is better value for money. While it isn't possible to contact the teacher directly, it is possible to send an email to the school office through the App.

The total cost is £400/year including the app, support, Parent/Carer user guides and staff training. We would like to ask the Parent Council if they would consider funding half of this cost, £200.

Timeline for implementation

April 2022 – Purchase 'School App'

April 2022 – Staff training

May 2022 – The App goes live to Parents and Carers

November 2022 – Evaluate the effectiveness of the App in improving communication between home and school, in particular in connecting parents to their child's learning in the classroom and to make communication more efficient.