

Attendees: Morag Everest (PC Chair), Maggie Shearer, Beverley Thompson, Scott McGarva, Sandra Vickers, Jen James, Neil Robson, Louise Fraser, Claire Palmer, Jenni Curson, Alison Saxon, Lorna Doran, Lynn Meah, Andy Kerr, Belgin Davidson

Apologies: Deb McHaffie, Zoe Allen, Louise Russell, Joan Haig, Charlie Welsh, Rod Buchanan-Dunlop

1. Minutes of AGM held on Monday the 11th of September 2017 were agreed

2. Parent Council Report

Morag Everest presented a review of the past year from the perspective of the Parent Council and highlighted the ongoing work of the PC / PTA and staff as WLPS. The Parent Council would like to thank all PC and PTA members as well as the wider parent body for their hard work and support throughout the school year. A special note of thanks is extended to Chris Knight who administered the Parents of WLPS Facebook page and helped support the WLPS website over the last few years. Karen Milne has kindly taken over this role and is doing a great job.

Thanks was also extended to all WLPS staff for their ongoing commitment, hard work and enthusiasm to the entire school community. Special praise was given to the approach that the staff have in terms of openness, innovative approaches and teamwork.

Throughout the previous school year there had been various staff changes at WLPS

- Mrs Jill Doyle said goodbye to WLPS in Dec 2017. Whilst Mrs Doyle was a sad loss to WLPS, we wish her well in her next endeavor. Thank you to Mrs Saxon for taking the helm whilst a new Headteacher was sought (and doing a fantastic job!) and thanks to the whole teaching staff for their professionalism and positivity during this time.
- Goodbye and thank you to Graham Connor. Integral part of the WLPS who will be greatly missed. Our loss is Priorfords gain. Congratulations to Walter Scott who has taken the role of WLPS Janitor.
- Goodbye to our NQT Miss Sives and Mrs Fraser. Mrs Fraser is now running Outdoor School Learning courses in the local area.
- A temporary goodbye to Mrs Turner, Support for Learning teacher, who is now on maternity leave. Mrs Laura Denson, due to join to cover Mrs Motley's (P4 teacher) management day (Wednesday), will deliver Support for Learning on a Wednesday and Thursday (pm.) Mrs Ruth Scott, a familiar member of the WLPS staff will be working with Primary 4 on a Wednesday.
- NQT Miss Skinner remains with WLPS to cover Mrs Butlers maternity leave.
- Congratulations to Mrs Smith – she will be leaving for maternity leave at the October break.
- Last but not least, a warm welcome to Ms Curson, our new Head teacher.

The Parent Council wanted to make mention of the following highlights occurring within WLPS. This is not an exhaustive list as there are many great activities ongoing:

- Welcome To School Event – PTA led. Always a welcoming, fun way to start the new academic year.
- Pupil lead Initiatives including all the exciting “Ministers for” Activities Sport / Competition/ Literacy / Nutrition. It’s lovely to know that these roles will continue in 2018/2019 and we look forward to hearing about the wide and varied activities planned for this academic year.
- Various teacher / parent led groups including:
 - Ukulele Group; Choir – Junior & Senior. Thanks to Mrs Ingles & Deb McHaffie, Charlie Welsh & Susie Compton.
 - Bikeability - Thanks to parent helpers.
 - Recorder Club – Thanks to Mrs Doyle & Mrs Haynes.
 - Various Reading Groups – Thanks to Tamsyn Weston & Mrs Saxon.
 - Keyboard Technicians – Thanks to Mrs Ingles.
 - Chess club.
 - Home work Groups.
 - Nutrition, Health & Cooking – thanks to Mrs van Aswegen.
 - Forest Schools – Thanks to Mrs Fraser.
- Young Engineers – Huge thanks & gratitude to John Levine & Gail Jackson for their support & commitment. The West Linton Water Dragons represented the UK in the European Championships in Tallinn. They won the Referees Special Award. Well done!
- Sport!
 - Netball – P5/P6/P7. Thanks to Victoria Harburn for her hard work with this. This continues in 2018/2019 with Mrs van Aswegen as coach.
 - Running Group – continues to grow! Thanks to Kirsti Hubert & Karen Rogers.
 - Involvement and success in cross country, hockey, football & rugby. Thanks to the Wolfendens for their support.
 - All these groups rely on parental involvement for them to continue to run, grow and help support our children. We hope more parents can be involved where possible

School Plan & Matters

- Focus areas in 2017-2018 were: Spelling, problem solving, PLP development, outdoor learning, reading for enjoyment. WLPS implemented several great initiatives: Spelling workshop, Fresh Start, raising children with confidence.
- Ongoing Initiatives within WLPS across all age groups were: Growth Mindset & Resilience
- During 2018-19 session WLPS improvement agenda will continue to focus on three main priorities:
 - Development of Early Level Literacy methodology
 - Implementation of Languages 1+2 (French)
 - Further development of Personal Learning Profiles (PLPs)

In 2018-2019, the PC wanted to highlight the following future PC focus areas:

- SBC Schools Estate Review. Primary SBC Contact – Donna Manson. SBC have implemented a Secondary School Individualised Strategic Plan for Peebles High School (PHS). Review on progress due in Oct 2018. Given the impact to WLPS pupils as a feeder school to PHS, we will be monitoring this closely. PHS is expected to reach 95% capacity in ~4yrs (2022).
- Family Learning – how to support parents & carers: Numeracy, Literacy, Spelling, Health & Wellbeing
- Reporting to Parents
 - Continued development of the PLPs & continuous reporting on pupil progress (parent teacher consultations, open afternoons, assemblies, Café Conversations).
- Scottish Government – Education Bill. Feedback & outcome will be communicated as information becomes available.
- Safe Travel To School – remains a hot topic. WLPS PC again urges all parents & carers to be mindful of how and where they park when dropping/collecting pupils. We encourage everyone to consider 'Park & Stride'
- Playground project – PTA leading this in concert with the school
 - Currently seeking funding to aid improvement to playground infrastructure

Parent Council Treasurers Report

Opening Balance for 2017 / 2018 was £447.45 as of the 15th of August 2017

Incoming

- £300 all from SBC Grant

Expenditure

- Web hosting £35.93
- Staff Leaving Present £53.00
- Auditor £21.99
- Welcome day Entertainer 2016/ 2017 £275.00

- PC donations to Lego League gifts £40.00
- Total Outgoing £425.92

Balance

- £321.53 as of 15th of August 2018

All audited and signed off: 15th of August 2018

3. PTA Review

AK provided an update on what the PTA had achieved last year and what they hoped to achieve this year.

The primary focus for last year and continued focus for this year would be stage lighting and tablets along with benches playground equipment.

Tablets: there is one outstanding issue remaining over the compatibility of iPads and the support they could get from SBC. This was down to a firewall preventing Apple products connecting to the school Wi-Fi. SBC don't support Apple products. The PTA and Mrs Curson have been working with the School business support partner to investigate the option for the iPads to connect to the public Wi-Fi instead of the School Wi-Fi.

The concern over not going through the firewall and school network would mean that the iPads would need to have the appropriate parental control installed. If this could not be guaranteed there was still an option to go with a Microsoft Tablet alternative. iPads are still the preferred product as they have a very intuitive Classroom learning app which is very highly regarded.

Good progress has been made on this and there is a big move within the region towards pupils bringing in own devices to High School.

Acquisition of Tablets is a matter for further discussion with a decision expected in the coming few months.

Another focus on funding for the PTA has been for Stage lighting. The PTA have been liaising with a local lighting expert who has reviewed the three quotes provided and will provide a recommendation at the next PTA meeting. The initial advice related to the choice of Control unit (which provides future proofing) the units range from £1,800, £2,500, £4,500. The initial advice would be to opt for the middle of the range unit. The PTA consider this to be a sensible option.

AK advised that there was a healthy bank balance but there is money which is committed to the following - playground, tablets, stage equipment (benches if tablets not an option) - see Treasurer update for more details.

The PTA have been working with the Co Op. The initial application for additional funding was turned down as the PTA didn't have a named Secretary. The PTA have now appointed Jen James as Secretary and will update the application to address this. The Co Op fund is worth approx £2000 so is seen as a very good source of income and worth persevering with.

Travel fund for school trips has been agreed between PC and PTA including clause on Teacher discretion for entitlement.

PTA Treasurers Report

Request from PTA to agree a new year end as it isn't possible to have accounts reports and audits complete before the AGM

Balance £11,600 + school trip fund

£4000 surplus

£3600 sponsored bounce, £1,400 Christmas event

Spend on playground survey, shed for lose parts

School trips went down from £2000 to £600

Spelling resources and forest school and cookery classes

commitments - SB to be spent on tablets £3,600, stage equipment £1,200 (easy fund raising and art show)

4. Head Teachers Review

School Improvement Plan 2017-18

At the beginning of the school year we set out to deliver on the following priorities:

- Raise Attainment in Literacy esp. Spelling through:
 - (i) Increased teacher confidence in the teaching of spelling.
 - (ii) Improved learning experiences in this aspect of literacy.
 - (iii) Improved pupil attainment for all over time.
 - (iv) Narrowing of the attainment gap in this area of literacy.

To deliver on these we began a process of peer observations and modelling as well as training in overlearning opportunities for spelling. A structured approach to teaching spelling using grapheme marking and comparing sounds and their spelling was used. This led to teacher confidence and pupil's enjoyment in spelling. "At West Linton Primary School, we spell on our fingers!"

We assessed the pupils in August – February – June and almost all pupils attained higher scores than their previous scores showing that this teaching methodology was showing progression in learning. Many children increased their score exponentially with an average of 34% of the pupils across all 10 classes increasing their Standard Age Score by 10 points or more.

A very successful improvement.

- Development of high quality Personalised Learning Profiles which accurately reflect significant attainment and achievement in all aspects of a young person's life through:
 - (i) Shared understanding of standards to ensure consistency across classes
 - (ii) Moderate these standards across school
 - (iii) Work with Parent groups and stakeholders through Café Conversations

To deliver on this aspect of our School Improvement Plan, we agreed the shared purpose and expectation of the PLP. We agreed with parent community (Parent Council,) that this would constitute the pupil report and would give key learning in the core elements of learning e.g. Literacy, Numeracy. We gave opportunities within the staff collegiate sessions for moderation of standards and used the PLPs as a way to discuss learning at Parents Consultations and during Café Conversations.

Our assessment of the priority was through a Parent Questionnaire, which was overwhelmingly positive, with 82% of respondents saying that the PLP showed evidence of learner conversations with a key adult; 75% saying that the PLP recognises and values personal achievements; 71% of respondents saying that the PLP showed regular dialogue between children and their peers; 78% of respondents saying that it was clear from the PLP which skills the pupils were learning.

The areas we felt from the questionnaire we need to continue to develop are:

- Next steps in learning
- Pupils setting their own targets
- Increased personalisation and choice in learning

As a result of this and with our commitment to PLPs being a rigorous and robust way of monitoring progress in learning, we will continue to have PLPs and their development on our improvement agenda for session 2018-19.

- Raise teacher confidence in Numeracy esp. Problem Solving through:
 - (i) Improved learning experiences in this aspect of numeracy.
 - (ii) Improved pupil attainment for all over time.
 - (iii) Narrowing of the attainment gap in this area of numeracy.

To deliver on these we assigned a key member of staff to lead the development and began a process of peer observations and modelling as well as collegiate working based on an agreed mathematics vocabulary progression pathway.

A structured approach to teaching problem solving strategies and a way for the pupils to tackle any word problem was adopted and a Problem of the Week was used in classes to encourage dialogue.

Maths will continue as a focus for our Tweeddale Cluster and staff will continue to develop problem solving and inquiry-based learning opportunities in their classes.

Priorities for session 2018-19

- Emerging Literacies – WLPS have been chosen to pilot an approach to teaching literacy beginning in the early level and progressing through first and second level in order to raise attainment in literacy esp. reading
- PLPs, which we have discussed already. Paying close attention to the points raised in the questionnaire.
- Finally to align with the entitlement for all pupils to learn a modern language in Primary School by 2020, we will begin a staged approach to teaching French from P1-7.

Good News Stories

We have pulled some good news stories into key areas:

Partnerships

- Whitmuir, Heriot Watt University – Feedback project which has resulted in a close relationship and a ‘trophy’ being gifted to the school. This trophy will be awarded to a P6 pupil each year who has shown excellent learning (use of the learning powers, metacognition etc. not necessarily academic attainment.) Peebles High School – 3rd year student work experience, Scottish Book Trust (filmed Ministers for Literature, why is reading an important part of our curriculum, why it is important to read for enjoyment.) Tweeddale Development Team, Co-op (oldest and youngest pupil – Opened the new refurbished co-op), Local Fire Brigade (CPR training) Local Police who supported us through Safer Internet Day.

Trips

- Thank you to the Parent Council for helping fund trips. Due to the additional funding pupils at WLPS have been able to visit Our Dynamic Earth, Crucial Crew, Risk Factory, National Museum for Scotland, Royal Observatory to name a few.

Events

- World Book Day, Sponsored Bounce, National Maths week, Founders Day, Mental Health Awareness Week, Safer Internet Day, Thinking Day as well as again many others.

Visitors to school

- Penicuik Youth Band, Buglife Scotland, Professional musicians, Wild About Scotland, Various parents helping with workshops e.g. healthy cooking.

This is all over and above the core learning that teachers tirelessly plan for the pupils in class.

Snow days

- Proud of the fact there was no interrupted learning and that the resilient team had us up and running in line with all other areas in Tweeddale and across the Scottish Borders.

A huge thank you to all on the Parent Council and PTA who support the school in every way they can to ensure we continue to develop as a school.

A personal thank you to you all for welcoming me to the school too, and I look forward to my first full year at WLPS.

5. Parent Council 2018/2019

- Chair - Morag Everest
- Deputy chair - Maggie Shearer
- Secretary – Scott McGarva
- Treasurer – Louise Fraser
- Staff reps - Lynn Meah, Louise Russell
- Committee - Neil Robson, Emma Downie (tbc), Claire Palmer, Joan Haig, Andy Kerr

6. PTA 2018/2019

- Chair – Andy Kerr
- Treasurer - Sandra Vickers
- Secretary - Jen James
- Staff members - Loran Doran,
- Committee - Zoe Allen, Jen Grant, Beverley Thompson, Deb McHaffie, Jen James, Gillian Bronsvort, Jess Dunlop, Belgin Davidson

7. Parent Council - Dates for 2018/2019 @ 6:30-7:30pm

- Mon 24th Sept
 - Mon 29th Oct
 - Mon 26th Nov
 - Mon 21st Jan 2019
 - Mon 25th March
 - Mon 20th May
 - WLPS PC & PTA AGM: Mon 2nd Sept 2019. 7pm.
- Meetings are at school library, 6.30pm – 7.30pm (6.15pm for tea/coffee)

8. PTA – Dates for 2018/2019 @ 7pm.

- Mon 24th Sept
- Mon 29th Oct
- Mon 26th Nov
- Mon 21st Jan 2019
- Mon 25th March
- Mon 20th May