

MINUTES**WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS COUNCIL**

Date	26 November 2024
Time:	6.00pm
Location:	West Linton Primary School and Teams

ATTENDEES	INITIALS	ATTENDEES	INITIALS
Chair: Lynsey Pollock	LP	Julie Naysmith	JN
Head Teacher: Jenni Curson	JC	Alex Scott	AS
Louise Russell	LR	Hazel Ferguson	HF
Hazel Whitefield	HW	Jilly Smith	JS
Jean Heath	JH	Natalie Hepworth	NH
Claire Ferguson	CP	Fiona Philippi	FP
Tristan Compton	TC		

APOLOGIES
Louise Fraser; Alistair Hodgson; Jude Anderson; Claire Palmer; Louise McDonald

1	INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES	
	New members of the Council were welcomed.	
2	MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING	
	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.	
3	TREASURERS REPORT	
	<p>Business Account balance: £3,455</p> <p>Hardship Fund/Opportunities Fund balance: £1,000</p> <p>It was discussed and agreed that the name of this fund will change to the Opportunities Fund going forward.</p> <p>The Council thanked CF for her assistance in organising the Loose Change Jars and Christmas crafts. It was noted that the amounts received from the jars were reducing given the decline in the use of cash however it still generated an income and would continue for now.</p>	
4	PTA UPDATE	

	CF advised that the counting of the jars had begun and the final sum would be reported in due course. There would be upcoming income generated by the Christmas cards and Christmas fayre in December.	
5	HEADTEACHER UPDATE	
	<p>5.1 Staffing Update Mrs Welsh left in October and her post will be readvertised in the new year following a lack of applications. Mrs Wallace will be going on secondment at Broughton/Newlands Primary School until the end of the school year and her replacement is currently undergoing pre-employment checks. Ms Johnston is a student teacher will be supporting P2/3.</p> <p>5.2 School Improvement Plan Update JC advised that there was an urgent need to replace most classroom white boards. The meeting was surprised to learn that SBC provides no replacement funding especially when they are such a vital educational tool in the classrooms. It was agreed that this should be an objective of the PTA with the message expressly communicated to parents that the school is expected to cover these costs with no input from SBC.</p> <p>5.3 SBC Way Breakthrough Curriculum Staff have been engaging with the Writing the SBC Way with a more focused approach on sentence level writing including sophisticated grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary. After Christmas, the focus will move to Mathematics. Staff will also be taking part in Cluster moderation activities with colleagues at Broughton/ Newlands and PHS in writing planning, implementation, and evaluation. This will include visits to other schools so that teachers can share practice using the Education Scotland, Moderation Cycle.</p> <p>5.4 Raising Attainment and Achievement A new QR code has been implemented for pupils and families to share their child's achievements in and out of school. OPaL groups – the whole school working towards moving the School Sports Award from Silver to Gold. There has been huge support from community partners.</p> <p>5.5 Early Learning and Childcare All Early Learning settings are being brought in line with the SBC Way. This is ongoing and will young people's prior knowledge and attainment to be shared with Primary 1 teachers ahead of a new school year.</p> <p>5.6 Good News Stories JC summarized a huge variety of events and initiatives taking place across the school.</p>	
6	ELC Hours	
	<p>JC advised that the extended hours or wrap around care for ELC would be stopping in August 2025 because SBC considered the uptake on the extended hours to be low over the last five years and therefore SBC would return to the asymmetric model (from the asymmetric plus model currently in</p>	LP

	<p>use). There is one “hub” per cluster and for WLPS this is in Peebles.</p> <p>It was highlighted that there is minimal childcare provision already, particularly in rural settings and therefore the issue should be revisited. It was agreed that the concerns of the Parent Council and potentially involving Community Council should be brought to the attention of SBC and ask the authority to consider a hub model.</p> <p>It was noted that the number appear to be the same for enrolment, year on year.</p>	
7	School Wish List for PTA	
	<p>PTA to consider the funding that could be raised to support the school wish list.</p> <p>As mentioned previously, there are a number of school SmartBoards which require to be replaced with no budget to do this.</p> <p>TC asked whether other functionality including casting could be used, similar to that used in high schools. It was agreed that P1-3 at least would still require interactive functionality.</p> <p>A question was asked on whether there were any “big spend” items to be foreseen over the next few years. JC confirmed that there was nothing particularly at the top of her mind, but that she would give it some further thought, but perhaps an audit of reading books could be done.</p>	JC
8	SBC PC Fair	
	<p>LP confirmed she had attended this Fair and found it to be incredibly useful. She met Lesley Munro, Director of Education (SBC) at this fair and discussed the broken partition in the gym/dining hall and the negative impact it was having on school life. LR advised she since emailed Ms Munro as a follow up. JC confirmed that Ms Munro had subsequently been in touch with her regarding the issue and previous quotes. LP to re-contact Ms Munro to ensure the issue does not get forgotten about.</p> <p>Other “stalls” at the Fair included representatives from catering (and a question was asked from PC about whether we could enquire about the portion sizes), SBC licensing, and Dyslexia awareness. (A question was asked about a recent assembly on Dyslexia Scotland, which JC confirmed had been to increase awareness.)</p>	LP
9	AOB	
	<p>iPad</p> <p>FP raised that several P7 children had been able to access unsuitable material on their iPad. JC confirmed this had previously been brought to her attention and a fix had already been implemented. SBC was constantly doing its best to catch these errors when the fire wall failed.</p>	
10	Date of Next Meeting	
	<p>13 January 2025</p> <p>11 February 2025</p> <p>18 March 2025</p> <p>12 May 2025</p>	

	10 June 2025 AGM 2025 TBC – WLPS PC and PTA	
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ACTION POINTS:

NO.	ACTION	OWNER	DATE	UPDATE
1.	PTA fundraising— school wish list. JC to email ER details of items in detail including netball nets that were previously mentioned to PTA.	JC	29.1.24	
2.	JC to pass ER a list of the groups currently running in school e.g. Pupil Voice, Eco Committee.	JC	29.1.24	
3.	Update reception area. E.g. remove the thermometer fundraising target, replace with pie charts or other display perhaps showing where latest PTA fundraising was spent. Keep this updated and current.	ER LP	29.1.24	
4.	PTA to ascertain quotes for stickers. Perhaps also include new logo on these.	ER	29.1.24	
5.	“Big ticket items” ER and JC to discuss and present ideas to next meeting.	ER JC	29.1.24	
6.	JC to investigate option of a Business Partner from SBC being invited to present at a PC meeting to answer questions about the replacement of Smart Boards.	JC	29.1.24	
7.	Add the organising of a parent/carer social evening to next meeting's Agenda.	LP	29.1.24	
8.	HF to discuss with ER the option of representing PTA at PC meetings if ER cannot attend.	HF	4.3.24	
9.	JC to look at wording of Composite Classes leaflet to parents.	JC	4.3.24	
10.	LP to find out what format we need for the Parent Council banner and then liaise with JC to collect the winning entries and have the banner produced.	JC LP	4.3.24	
11.				
12.	HF to work with PTA to pull together a list of PTA purchases from the last few years and work with JC to put photos together.	HF JC	4.3.24	
13.	Connect template on what PC do to also be pulled together and brought along.	LP	4.3.24	

14	LF to pull together a list of PC Achievements	LF	4.3.24	
15	LP to send email round asking for volunteers to man the stand at parents' evenings.	LP	04.03.24	
16	ELC Hours – contact SBC re lack of childcare provision	LP	26.11.24	
17	LP to re-contact Lesley Munro re dividing partition	LP	26.11.24	
18	AGM 2025 – WLPS PC and PTA	LP		