



MINUTES – Parent Council Meeting Monday 9th September 2024

Attendees:

Sandra Dargie
Anne Scott
Kirsty Gallen
Emma McLoughlin
Angie Millar
Marian Cruickshank
Sarah Hall
Laura Perry
Karolina Towers
Camille Gordon
Jo Drever
Al Millar
Ashley Coutts
Farah Huzair
Hayley Keeley
Rosie Fara
Gordon McIntyre
Suzanne Gilhooley

Apologies:

Amanda White
Rachel Liddell
Morag Morrison
Shabnam Hussain
Mary Bisset
Fern Findlay-Greene
Rachel Lynch
Jon Lofthouse
Danitza Molina



1. Welcome (Sandra - 5 mins):

- a. Welcome to all & PC members update.
Two new PC members – Hayley Keeley and Rosie Faragher (email addresses added to PC mailing list).
- b. Quick introduction to Parent Council for anyone new to school / PC.

2. Discussion Papers (45 mins):

- a. Updates on PC initiatives so far this term:
 - i. Connecting families to year-group WhatsApp groups - Update (Sandra)
The year/parent WhatsApp group appears to be a success at connecting particularly new parents to the school with more than 23 adds
 - ii. Welcome Committee - Update (Mandy, Fern, Sandra)
Positive response to this and always open to new members
 - iii. Fundraising meeting on 28th August (Fern, Anne, Angie)
Earlier fundraising meeting resulted in a good turn out and positive ideas to move on into 24/25. 'Good shape for a good vision' **additional notes at end of minutes**
 - iv. Boutique – Update (Sandra)
At point of PC meeting, the boutique had been well used and was looking a lot lighter. Whilst donations aren't officially requested (nothing to be left at boutique), parents are always welcome to contact PC members to organise handing any contributions in directly.
 - v. Nursery windows – complimentary cleaning (Mandy)
'not all heroes wear capes' – Danny Stein (dad and cleaning ace) cleaned the nursery window for free!
- b. Gardening Day plans (Mandy / Sandra)
This was set for 15 September 2024 10am-12pm. Family day (no painting). Replanting, general tidy up after the summer break. Nursery has also asked if they can be involved.
- c. New After-school Club proposal:
 - i. Update (Sandra)
Skiing was suggested but deemed too difficult to arrange transport and expensive. Chess club – Edinburgh Chess academy £4.50-£5.00 per child per class, approx. £50 per term. There is currently a waiting list.
 - ii. Suggestion (Laura P)
Alternative idea – Young Engineers Club. Covers ages 3-11 across different levels of classes. Classes would be 45min – 90min and would be straight after school, likely a Tuesday or Thursday. This would cost around £7.00-£9.00 per child. GP room would appear to be the most appropriate space and not used to the same extent as hall.



LET has to be applied for and this may impact additional costs however PC could subsidise to see the interest initially. Mr McIntyre to look into LET.

Laura P to poll (via Chair for approval) to gauge interest. Looking for timing clarifications and once interest is polled, more details will be available.

- Sally P has offered art classes – non-payment. She would be looking for help in order to take this forward.
- Karolina T offer of craft classes is still available but would be after January 2025.
- Rosie F has shown interest depending on set up.

d. Football Teams – Update (Emma / Sandra)

After school activity – Foot Forward no longer on.

Emma Mc's work over the years has sustained the after school teams. These are volunteer led.

P7 - Unfortunately the P7 team aren't training as they don't have a coach. Others have approached Emma to join team but Emma has declined in order to limit 'subs' on sideline.

P6 – Danny Stein continuing to coach and this seems to be functioning well.

P5 – no interest

P4 – Forrester's in the only place that trains. There may be a team in the new year. The kit is floating about the school somewhere.

e. Quintin funding request – nursery playground (Sandra)

Due to outdoor policy, the equipment has been well used over the years.

Council reviewed nursery playground equipment and deemed it unsuitable and now been removed.

Quintin has requested funding for a Wendy House type unit and it has been establish £1000 would be sufficient.

Suggestion of looking into Tesco tokens to raise funds.

3. Regular Updates (30 mins):

a. Treasurer Report [see attached Treasurer report] (AI)

AI – advised £10k is the rough amount the PC council makes each year. Tea Towels were popular. Rag bag is an ongoing task with a view to improve its stature! Rag bag sounds a little negative and often ends up with rags and rubbish!

Current balance is £5200.

b. Headteacher Report [HT is additionally asked to comment on the following as far as possible]:

- i. Are there plans to re-start choir?



Yes – Mrs Haxton has contacted previous choir members and looking to start up 23 September 2024

- ii. Could school create an online calendar for important dates / events?

There is a year planner on the school website

- iii. Are there any plans to review current format of children's reports?

Context of this question is unclear. There are no plans to change format but always keen for feedback and this is encouraged.

Level of detail is considered very strong. Teachers support each other and read over each other's reports. As each teacher is different, they are encouraged to use their own language without losing the importance of the message.

The checklist has been noted as a bit 'jarring' but this is the reason for the detail to support the tick box format.

- c. CEC update (Euan Hyslop) [Cllr Hyslop is asked to comment on the following as far as possible]:

No details from Euan to report.

4. Fundraising (Fern - 10 mins):

- a. Plans for 2024 – approve dates for school let applications

Fern provided update on this in her absence.

P6 – to possibly use summer fair to raise funds for Lagganlia

5. A.O.B (5 mins):

Safer routes to school – ongoing meetings regarding road safety. Drumbrae crossing, Parkgrove Terrace/Road improvements. The other side is not currently covered. The ongoing drop off/parking is still an ongoing problem.

The access only lights at Terrace/Road have been reported several times as not operating. Gordon to check the timings.

Considered that times or vehicular access be made more visible, particularly to 'new' users.

The drain on the road outside the nursery blacks regularly but this is council issue, not school.

Mobile phones – this was raised to Chair as a question prior to meeting regarding school policy. The current process is mobiles are collected at the classroom door and securely stored. They are then available to collect at the end of the day when school is over. No access to phones throughout the school day.

Gordon to put an update out on policy.

School uniform – this was raised with the Chair prior to the meeting. There was a strong push to encourage school colours being worn to school. Not necessarily with the logo as this can be expensive but the purple school colours are encouraged. PE days children still wear appropriate clothes but with a school jumper.

No team sport strips (football, rugby etc)



Lagganlia – Incredible time had by all. Steve the drummer always a hit! Team at venue had high praise for the year group. Kids super power – kindness!

Gordon to look into getting the Steve the Drummer in for parent classes!

Funding for Lagganlia - £256 bake sales

£2500 running team

£1000 from optional payments through ParentPay

£400 Lion King profits

£300 popcorn sales

Donations

£1200 John Watson

£675 Munro Centre

£4000 from PC

£300 cairngorm Travel Grant

Over £10500 raised!! With all that support, every child that wanted to go got the chance. 26 children were covered fully or partially. With all the additional funds, there is a refund to all those that paid in full of £50.00. This leaves a surplus of £869 which is there to cover those that are still paying. If deficit, school will cover. If left, option to put that to the P7 leaver dance. Based on current position, this could be around £200-£300 surplus.

Lagganlia 2025/26 (current P6s) – likely to be April/May 2026 as logistically better for confirmation of numbers and also allows a longer period of time for paying.

The 'unforeseen' pot of £32500 has now been removed from the school budget hence the need to be able to allow more time forgetting funds in place. Potentially an 18 month notice period for parents for next trip.

PC keen not to be linked to Lagganlia trip in away was as it causes issues with ongoing years funding and support.

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Fundraising Meeting on 28th August

There were 12 people that turned up and contributed to the planning of our fundraising calendar at the Drumbrae hub. It was very productive with lots of great ideas and volunteers to organise different events throughout the year. We have a WhatsApp group and are happy for anyone interested in helping at any of the proposed events to join. If you are interested, please just leave your name and number with Sandra.

Tonight, we would like to at the very least confirm the plans up until Christmas.

Our proposal was:

Christmas Cards – Templates are with the school and due to be completed by Thursday 12th September. I will collect Friday 13th September in the morning and take to post office. We are hoping to have the order forms back in time to distribute before the October holidays.

Halloween Dress up and Pumpkin Competition Friday 1st November (ParentPay donation) led by Sandra and Mandy



- Does this date suit school? **Approved**
- Sweet prizes needed? **Yes**

Autumn Disco Wednesday 6th November (£2.50 cash includes snack, drink and fun – NO GLOWSTICKS! NO THEME or COSTUMES!) led by AI and Angie

- Does this date suit the school? **Approved**
- Is Mr Lithgow happy to continue sharing his DJ skills? **Suzanne to contact**
- Decide on split p1-4, p5-7? Would P1s be invited this early in term? **Numbers to be checked for balance across groups. 17:00-20:30 (17:30 – 18:30/19:00 – 20:00)**
- Worries about reuniting children with adults in the dark – proposal is to line up kids in class order as before in the gym hall (however we would encourage children to stand with their younger siblings using announcement via microphone e.g. “Anyone with a younger brother or sister in P1 please go and stand with them”. We would also then invite P1 parents to come into the dining hall and use the connecting doors between gym hall and dining hall to collect their kids as we have done before at back of school. Once the P1s (and older siblings) have been collected process would be repeated with P2, P3s etc. We could have parents enter through back door and leave out main entrance or vice versa so that there is still a one-way system in place to prevent blocking exits etc. **pick up – parent would collect child directly from hall to prevent rushing out.**
- We have a Disco plan in place that has been used the past 2 summer discos that could be followed so not much planning required other than snack buying, advertising (posters) and recruiting volunteers.

Christmas Fair and Raffle Saturday 7th December led by Ashley, Susan, Laura and Fern

- Does this date suit the school? **Approved**
- Do we have any more willing volunteers to help organise? – ideally looking for 2 people. **Same kind of set up – names down for preferred stalls**
- We would also like to hear from anyone that would be interested in running a stall but doesn’t want to get involved in the full organisation.
- We are planning an online meeting on Wednesday evening to iron out details and decide on who is leading what. The plan is to split workload between the organisers so not 1 person has too much to do.
- Once we have decided on the plan and who is doing what we will circulate with the school and wider PC.
- We will need to come to the PC to ask for money for expenses once we have sorted out what is happening – we intend to keep costs as low as possible! Using last year’s model for reference.

09:00 – 13:00 for Fair time 10:00 – 12:00

The other proposed plans for events throughout the school year were:

- Family ceilidh to be held sometime in January or February. Led by Fern and Max **TBC**



- Crazy hair Day Friday 7th February led by Sandra and Mandy **£1 optional donation**
- Rag bin Competition Friday 4th April led by Anne and Fern – PC would provide bags and encourage kids to bring a bag of unwanted good quality clothes , for every bag they bring the get a point for their house? – Is the School ok with this kind of competition? **Approved**
- Superhero Dress up day on either Friday 25th April or Monday 28th April(Superhero Day) led by Sandra and Mandy **World book day 6 March so considered too close.**
- Spring/Summer Disco Wednesday 7th May led by Angie and Al
- Summer Fair with potential sports day/football tournament/jumble sale/Car boot sale Saturday 31st May or Saturday 7th June. led by Kirsty, Hayley, Kirsty and Fern **Sports day – tea/coffee stand?**