

# **Lanark Primary School Parent Council Parent Council Meeting Minutes**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 7pm  
Lanark Primary School**



Item	Discussion	Actions
Attendees	<p>LPS: Farah Crook (FC), Marguerite Elkin (ME), Melissa Ross (MR)  PC: Helen Logan (HL), Kimberley Philip (KP), Alison Campbell (AC), Kirstin Leitch (KL), Kerry Freel (KF), Olivia Masters (OM), Moira McMahon (MM)  Guest: Laura Cruickshanks(LC)</p> <p>Apologies: Lorraine Newbigging, Jan Towers, Gillian Thomson, Victoria Jack, Vicky Simpson, Jane Gracie.</p>	
Welcome	<p>HL welcomed everyone to meeting.</p> <p>Minutes from the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were approved, proposed by HL, seconded by AC.</p>	
Road Safety	<p>HL welcomed LC, Living Streets Co-ordinator to the meeting. The PC had invited LC to attend the meeting to discuss the safety concerns that have been raised regarding the lack of barriers where the path near the ELC exit meets the road, Rhyber Avenue. LC works with Living Streets to promote active travel to school and safe routes to school.</p> <p>LC visited LPS today, 15/01/24. She viewed the area in question and agreed that it was concerning that the path seemed to merge with the road with no clear demarcation of where the path ends and the road</p>	

	<p>begins, i.e. no barrier, no kerb and no markings. To add to the risk the school car park exit is also there. LC tries to work in partnership with SLC to make streets safer for walking. She has set up an appointment with SLC for next week to discuss it. LC asked if there had been any complaints or incidents in the area.</p> <p>HL informed LC that the PC were not aware of any official incidents and the concerns had been raised a while ago (before the covid pandemic). An initial enquiry to SLC had been made by previous office bearers and we do not have a copy of any response that was received at that time.</p> <p>FC agreed that there had not been any official incidents and that LPS had not received any complaints. FC stated that there are issues with Rhyber Avenue and the number of cars that are parked. That in combination with increased traffic around drop off and pick up times can make crossing the road potentially hazardous.</p> <p>LC thanked the PC and LPS for their input and will raise it with SLC.</p> <p>HL thanked LC for her help and for joining the meeting.</p> <p>LC left the meeting.</p>	
Head teacher's report	<p>FC wished all PC members a very Happy New Year.</p> <p>FC apologised to the PC and all helpers at the Christmas gift sale for booking an after school club in the assembly hall the day of the gift sale which meant that the gift sale had to be tidied away in a hurry.</p> <p><b>P1 Enrolment</b></p>	

	<p>Enrolment continues for children due to start school in August 2024. SLC have continued with online registration this year. FC began contacting parents by phone on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan to explain arrangements for transitions. All parents will be sent a copy of the LPS Handbook and will be able to access a virtual tour of LPS. FC works with the ELC to ensure that no one has forgotten to register. The number of children registered to start at LPS in August 2024 needs to be sent to SLC by the end of January along with FC's proposed class configuration for the whole school. This then gets looked at by SLC. With current budgetary consideration SLC need to try and have as few classes as possibly to reduce number of teaching staff required. FC anticipates that LPS will continue with 10 classes in the next academic year.</p> <p><b>Staffing</b></p> <p>There has been a support worker on long term absence since the summer. Unfortunately, they feel unable to return to their post and have resigned. This 3 day post was funded by PFT money which is only available until the end of March. It has been agreed that 3 of our current support workers will all do an extra day each until the end of March to cover the post.</p> <p>Mrs Sophie Logan has now returned to the ELC on a part time basis after her maternity leave. Mrs Louise McKay is going to work the other 3 days of this post.</p> <p><b>Secondary School Transport</b></p> <p>SLC are reviewing mainstream secondary school transport. The consultation on the proposal to alter the distance that a mainstream secondary school pupil must live from their catchment school in order to qualify for free school transport is under way. The proposal is to change the distance from more than 2 miles to more than 3 miles runs until 1<sup>st</sup> March.</p>	
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	<p>This has been shared via the LPS School app. More information can be found on the SLC website, <a href="https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200140/education_and_learning/2196/secondary_school_transport_-_consultation">https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200140/education_and_learning/2196/secondary_school_transport_-_consultation</a> . Paper copies are also available via the school.</p> <p>SLC need to reduce costs and transport in education is a significant cost at present.</p> <p>HL asked if they were only looking at transport for secondary school children at present. FC stated that she is only aware of the consultation regarding secondary school children.</p> <p><b>Adverse Weather Planning</b></p> <p>SLC do not have blanket all school closures unless there is a red/severe weather warning affecting the whole council area. This is due to the geographical spread of the council area.</p> <p>The council and the schools work in real time, considering met office predictions when making decisions to close schools.</p> <p>At LPS the main issue with opening the school in adverse weather is often the staff being able to get to the school. As most children at the school are within walking distance, they can usually make it in. LPS need to have a Janitor who can open the school and make sure the paths within the school are safe. FC will always endeavour to give as much notice as possible for any school closure or delayed opening. She would aim to do this by 8am. It can be difficult if staff have been unable to get into school to open it up to access the systems that send messages out via the School App and the text message system. As soon as any decision has been made to close the school or delay opening the school they will let SLC know via an emergency number so that this can be shared on the SLC social media pages. FC appreciates that all staff go above and beyond to try and get to school to ensure it can open for the children.</p>	
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	<p>SLC have reintroduced the policy that if staff are unable to attend their own school during adverse weather they should attend their nearest SLC school if possible. This policy was paused during the covid-19 pandemic but has been reintroduced this year.</p> <p>FC appreciates parents' patience during adverse weather and encourages them to check the school app, and text messages and check SLC social media during periods of adverse weather. FC reminds all parents that they should not access the LPS car park during adverse weather due to hazardous ice.</p> <p>Parents are also reminded to be careful on the paths around the school as LPS staff are not permitted to clear or grit these paths and they are often slippery in cold conditions.</p>	
Treasurer's report	<p><b>Current balance:</b> £7055.37</p> <p>Lottery license has been paid – not heard back from SLC but the cheque has been cashed.</p> <p>Elaine Brown has paid the Scottish Opera and KL has reimbursed the school with £900. This is less than the expected £1080 as the school do not need to pay VAT.</p> <p><b>Christmas Gift Sale</b></p> <p>On the day £3131.85 was taken in. We had £1578.88 in expenses leaving a profit of £1552.97. This year we had more expenses than in previous years. PC members are asked to look out for any bargains during the year that may help to keep costs down for next year.</p>	

	<p>OM gave very good feedback on the Christmas Gift Sale. This is the first year her children have been at the school and she said they loved buying their gifts and have gifts to give their family that they have bought independently. She also thought it was a great opportunity for the children to consider budgeting. MM also seconded the positive feedback. Her mum had helped on the day and had enjoyed her day greatly.</p> <p>FC reiterated how much all the children love it and appreciates all the hard work that goes into it.</p> <p>HL welcomed the feedback and offered her thanks to all parents and grandparents who helped in the preparation and on the day.</p> <p><b>Lucky Numbers</b> January lucky number was drawn today and is still to be paid out, £40.</p> <p><b>Allocation of funds</b> Commitments: £820 still to be paid to LPS to cover the panto and ELC treat LPS cups for P7 leavers Ties for P7 leavers Cards for P7 leavers</p> <p>Given the healthy balance HL asked FC what her priorities would be for the funds to be spent on. FC said that any contribution towards school trips would be greatly appreciated to keep them free to all pupils.</p> <p>HL proposed £5 per head towards class trips and £250 towards the ELC. This was seconded by KL.</p>	
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SLC Curriculum Focus Group	<p>HL submitted a response, on behalf of the PC, to the SLC curriculum questionnaire.</p> <p>HL attended an online meeting for PC chairpersons in December with Carol McKenzie, new Education Director for SLC. Carol McKenzie gave an overview of her priorities. HL will share the slides with the PC. The priorities include improving health and wellbeing, have a rich and stimulating curriculum, giving our learners skills for the workplace and becoming more sustainable.</p> <p>Carol McKenzie also discussed savings that SLC need to make this year. The SLC budget consultation is open until 19<sup>th</sup> January if anyone would still like to participate.</p> <p>Carol McKenzie also discussed education reform. The Scottish Government are reviewing the SQA and a change in the way exams, in secondary schools, are conducted. This however has been paused as the new cabinet secretary for education wants to look over this.</p> <p>There was also discussion on the complexity of needs seen in schools following the covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>SLC are going to be running courses for PCs in Feb which will cover roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>The Parent Sounding Board is being re-established. This is where parents can raise questions before going to the education board.</p> <p>Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>(KL had to leave the meeting)</p>	

<p>Scots Night</p>	<p>LPS Scots night is scheduled for Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. Doors will open at 6:15pm, aiming for a 6:30pm start.</p> <p>ME informed the PC that preparations are well underway with all classes now hard at work practising their poetry. 2 finalist will be chosen from each class to perform on the night.</p> <p>Children from P5-7 were asked if they had any Scottish talents that they would like to perform on the night. There has been such a high number of children wishing to perform that auditions will be held to select performers for the night. There have been requests from children younger than P5 to perform on the night but unfortunately there would be too many performers for the time that we have available. We look forward to seeing these performers once they reach P5!</p> <p>Last year the PC donated £50 and ME has bought some Scottish themed decorations.</p> <p>In school on the Monday before the Scots night the finalists will perform in front of the whole school. The staff will then vote for the winner of the Mairi Muir award which will be presented at Scots night.</p> <p>There will be no cost for the event. Donations can be made on the door.</p> <p>Although there will be no tickets sold for the event there is a need to know anticipated numbers for fire safety and capacity. FC suggested that a number of tickets are sent home with the performers. Any unused tickets can be returned to school and then we will know how many tickets are available for general release.</p> <p>KP will produce tickets.</p> <p>PC to ask for donations to make hampers.</p>	
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	<p>Elaine Brown is going to ask Neil Cowan if he can play the bagpipes again this year.</p> <p>Olivia Masters offered to help on the night. Many thanks!</p> <p>KP will email all PC members and put a message on the FB page to ask for more helpers.</p> <p>KP to produce message to be sent out via School App.</p>	
Fundraising	<p>HL proposed that we do the Easter eggstravaganza again this year. This was agreed by all the PC members present.</p> <p>Plan to continue with guess the name for the ELC and guess the birthday for the lower half of the school. Easter eggs will be available for the upper school. Raffle tickets will be 50p each. More than one ticket can be purchased. PC members are asked to look out for suitable cuddly toys.</p>	
AOCB	Nil	

Next meeting date	19 <sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in LPS.	
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