



Blackwood Primary School & ELC Parent Council

Blackwood Primary School, Carlisle Road,
Blackwood, Lanark, ML11 9AT

Blackwoodparentcouncil@gmail.com

BLACKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 4th October 2023

Present

Laura Watt, Jo McGuigan, Lisa Tweed, Christine McMillan, Jenny Bowman, Alyson Bennie, Kimberley Miller, Tori Summerville, Susan Wayt, Donna Neeson.

Apologies

Wendy Thomson, Vivienne Colquhoun, Chris Forbes, Erin Illingworth, Ashley Meldrum, Cllr Ross Lambie, Cllr Mark Horsham, Cllr Ross Gowland, Fiona Harrigan, Louise Grattan, Maggie Neilson, Emma McGeachie, Claire Black, Pamela Mitchell

Welcome

Laura opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming.

Correspondance

Lisa advised there have been a few items received;

- We have received the hall let confirmation for the rest of the school year, for the planned face to face meetings. If any of the online Teams meetings change to face to face, then a new request will need to be submitted with as much notice as possible.
- Ross Lambie emailed about the road markings, following the discussions at the AGM meeting. He had received a response from the council to state that the completion of the markings had been delayed due to adverse weather, and that the work was due to be completed in the next few weeks. We can note that this has since been completed, and we hope it will make a difference to drivers in the area.
- Evelyn Swan from the Gala day council has been in touch and wishes to attend one of our meetings to discuss the role of the gala day within the community. It was too short notice for her to attend this meeting, so she has asked if she could be invited to the November meeting on Teams. There were no objections to this.

Treasurer's report

Jo gave us a financial update starting with the closing balance from the last meeting of £6746.82.

Income

- £350 grant from the coordination group to cover the cost of Forest School for the Year
- £118 from the bonus ball syndicate
- £121.03 from Easy Fundraising

Outgoings

- £70 for Forest School

Giving us a current balance of £7265.85

We are due to pay out £887 for the Sumdog subscription and approx. £120 for the Sumdog competition trophy and prizes.

Head teachers report

Thanks

- Thanks to the Parent Council for purchasing Sumdog. This is being used in all classes.
- Thanks to the Parent Council and Cllr Lambie for chasing up the road markings. Hopefully, this will be a visual aid for traffic on Carlisle Rd.

SLC

- Beat the Steet has been very motivational for the children.

Staffing and Classes

- Congratulations to Miss Meldrum (PT) who will be on maternity leave from 17th November. We are in the process of recruiting an Acting Principal Teacher.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

We have started our SIP journey for the session with;

- Forest Schools – P3 just completeing theirs, and P6 start after October holiday
- Maths week Scotland 25th September – disrupted due to industrial action
- Loose Parts training for some staff along with a grant for £500
- NELI training for all ASN staff – intervention for speech and language
- Listening and Talking introduction to all staff. This will be the focus for the November inset.

General

- Taster sessions- karate and judo
- Football/Netball a termly match – festival - focus on P7 – run by active schools
- Transition with LHS – Orienteering, Cross Country
- Gala Day survey for P1 & P7 pupils to take part
- Halloween Day on 30th October – Request for apple treat to be purchased by parent council

Parents Portal

- If you have not done so can you please sign up for this system of communication asap- any problems please contact the school office.
- This has taken place and has caused a bit of disruption. The staff are now learning the new operational systems.

Any other business

Halloween

- Activities will take place in school on Monday 30th, the hall is due to be decorated on Sunday 29th and Jo has arranged for access between 2 and 4pm. Parent helpers are required to assist with this.

Sumdog

- This will be run as competitions through the classes
- 7 months of the year to be sponsored by the parent council
- There will be a trophy for the class with the highest engagement
- Children in the winning class will each receive a pencil, engraved with "BPS Sumdog Champion"

Drawstring bags

- Mrs Bennie asked if it might be considered that we possibly provide drawstring bags for the children to carry their juice and snack, when they are going to Forest School etc. It can be difficult getting a whole class of juice bottles in carrier bags up to the forest area, so it might be an idea to have individual bags that the children could easily carry themselves.

Parent Council Support

- The dwindling numbers at meetings and low parent interaction with the parent council are becoming a worry. We need to try and think of ways to encourage more interaction from parents, and try to get more support and improved attendance at meetings. The newest attendee at the meetings is a P4 parent, so we need to try and gain some support from the lower end of the school. Also, with 3 out of the 4 of us on our final years in post, we will be needing volunteers to take over these roles next year.

Next meeting

Wed 22nd November.

This was agreed that this will remain as an online Teams meeting.

Hopefully this will give more parents the opportunity to join us.

Close

Laura and Christine again thanked everyone for coming.

Blackwood Parent Council 2023/2024 –

Wendy Thomson (Chair), Laura Watt (Vice-Chair), Jo McGuigan (Treasurer), Lisa Tweed (Secretary)

In support of -

Blackwood Primary School, Carlisle Road,

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Head Teacher – Ms Christine McMillan

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In collaboration with -

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