



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 2nd October 2024

Present

Emma McGeachie – P5/7, Donna Neeson – P7, Susan Wayt – P7, Lisa Tweed – P2/5, Tori Sommerville – P7, Julie Smith – P7, Jenny Bowman – BPS, Ruth Colquhoun – BPS, Erin Illingworth – BPS and Viv Colquhoun – BPS

Apologies

Christine McMillan, Kimberley Miller, Laura Watt, Jo McGuigan, Chloe Semple, Sainie Hobchell, Cllr Ross Lambie, Ross Gowland and Wendy Thomson

Welcome

Emma opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming, we discussed the small number of parents attending the meeting again and the problem we might have next year as many of the regular parents only have children in P7 now (4 out of 7 attending this meeting).

- We discussed the parent survey results, which were useful to note but not as beneficial as hoped as only 9 families from 186 in the school and 29 in the ELC responded and three were at the meeting!
- Discussion around ideas for recruiting more parents/carers to get involved:
 - Change the day/time of meetings
 - Meetings held after school
 - Always have an online option
 - Pupil involvement
 - PC attend assembly's / parents nights
- PC to attend the parent's night on the 10th Oct
 - Leaflet to be created and given out describing what the PC is, what we do, examples of what the PC has paid for, how parents/carers can get involved or help raise funds, ie bonus ball, easy fundraising, ASDA rewards, etc
 - Survey on ipads to be available to ask parents to complete

Correspondence

Emma advised on Kimberley's behalf there have been no new items received into the PC email.

Treasurer's report

Donna gave us a financial update -

- Little movement from the balance from last meeting on 28th August.
- Easy fundraising payment for £44 received
- Two bonus ball payments received for £59
- Closing balance as at 30/09/24 was £6,281.55

Head teachers report

Jenny chatted through the Head Teachers Report in Christine's absence

Since our last meeting –

Thanks:- *Thanks to the Parent Council for purchasing Sumdog. All classes are using this resource.*

Transport - Update from SLC

Kirkmuirhill/Blackwood/Auchenheath to Lesmahagow High School – safe walking route assessment outcome

Following the approval to implement the new policy on mainstream secondary school transport (distance eligibility of more than 3 miles) from August 2025, we have now assessed the walking route between Kirkmuirhill, Blackwood and Auchenheath to Lesmahagow High School.

The assessment has determined that the route is unsafe.

This means that current pupils and new pupils who live in the Kirkmuirhill, Blackwood or Auchenheath areas will continue to be eligible to receive school transport.

Walking route assessments are ongoing for other areas and further information will be provided to parents in due course.

Staffing

- Most of this term we have had a 0.4 FTE absence which has been managed internally as per SLC policy with no paid supply provided.

School Improvement Plan

- Priority on CLPL on Numeracy 3 staff members have started training on Maths recovery. Last week was Maths week Scotland and Mrs Colquhoun launched this for our school with an assembly. All classes participated in a range of activities.
- All teachers have participated in Stephen Graham training on Guided Reading - 2 of 5 sessions completed.
- 2 further staff are trained for bike ability this term
- Parental workshop for Primary 1 parents took place on 18/9. Mrs Robinson also hosted two open sessions.
- Attachment Pledge - School has achieved Pledge 1 – thanks to Mrs C Forbes and Mrs Bowman. Submitted Pledge 2 has been submitted.
- Using ICT – many of our classes are engaged with online activities to support and enhance their learning eg P4/3 Dinosaurs Alive.
- SLC focus on attendance - we are working on addressing this. For us the pattern is odd days and family holidays.

Participatory Budget: £3000:12

- 93% of our pupils voted of which 88% voted for paid excursion
- 8% of our Parent forum voted of which 93% voted for paid excursion
- P2-4 in our mainstream classes have been to the Science Centre today

- Discussions underway for other opportunities for P5-7 and P1

Photographs

School photographs have been taken and this included staff. On receipt of the photographs a staff page will appear on our website. – Good idea from the PC.

On goings: -

- P6 will complete their Forest Schools next week. A feasibility assessment will take place to see what is possible in term 2.
- P2 have been out and about in our community
- Most classes including the ELC are visiting the Library this term as part of our Reading Schools work
- Flu Jabs took place on 25.9.24
- Masterclasses for P7 & 6 – with a skills focus including bike ability
- Lunch time clubs – choir, netball, football, mindfulness
- Football/Netball festival is on this Friday

Looking ahead

- Parents 'Night 10.10.24 with a PC presence
- Transition with LHS beginning – first visit on 11.10.24
- Halloween day – 31st October ...
- Read, Write & Count Family workshop will take place in November - date to be confirmed.
- Christmas plans Ongoing. P1 will lead the Christmas Nativity. Carols Around the Tree will be afternoon performances only.

Any Other Business

- Preparations for the 150th celebrations will need to start
- There is a spelling version of Sumdog available, Ruth to look into this with the possibility of the PC funding the license as they do with the maths Sumdog
- Ruth looking at developing a library in the school to bring all the books dotted about into the one place so furniture might be needed and PC can pay for this
- Emma gave Jenny details on the Water Smart Schools Award (The Water Smart Schools Award is accredited by the RLSS) and chatted through the information she had on this and the statistics that go with it around accidental drowning amongst children. This is a free accreditation programme delivering knowledge and skills on water safety in an age appropriate and engaging way. Jenny to speak to Christine. Website for more information – www.rlss.org.uk
- We also discussed a possible Christmas fayre/toy drive being held as a community event, keeping it very simple, with the house captains and others helping to run it.

Next meeting

- Dates of next meetings
 - Wed 27th Nov – Online on Teams
 - Wed 12th Feb – Online of Teams
 - Wed 7th May – Face to Face

Close

Emma again thanked everyone for coming, and for their input.

Blackwood Parent Council 2023/2024 –

Emma McGeachie (Chair), Laura Watt (Vice-Chair), Donna Neeson (Treasurer), Kimberley Miller (Secretary)

In support of -

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