

LVPS Parent Council Minutes

Thursday 16th September 2021

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| Attendees | <p>Vicki Stocks (VS) Nicola Hamilton (NH) Gordon Gilchrist (GG) Vanessa Slater (VSL) Lesley Fraser (LF)</p> | <p>Lorna Clyne (LC) Carol Smith (CS) Nastassja McGregor (NMCG) Caroline Gibb (CG)</p> | |
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| Welcome | Vicki Stocks welcomed all to the meeting and handed over to Nicola Hamilton for Head Teacher Report | | VS |
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| Head Teacher Report | There has been a good start to the school year. P1's have settled well, with the enhanced transition over the summer, facilitated by the ELC staff, contributing to this. | | NH |
| | There was good response to the school survey looking at the school values sent to parents before the summer break. Vision, values and aims have been refreshed based on response to these questions. The responses showed that everyone wanted to keep the school values and the school moto has stayed the same. | | NH |
| | School is putting together some Sway videos to bring the curriculum to life. These will be available shortly. | | NH |
| | Improvement Plan – based on West Lothian Council focus on agile learning. The school has been working with an external consultant who has been looking at data and coaching staff to develop an agile learning culture. | | NH |
| | Children's voices in learning are also listened to and the standout comment from the Pupil Wellbeing question 'Is learning fun?', was 50% said 'yes' and 50% said 'no'. This may be a symptom of the last year. NH wants the children to engage more. Agile learning should help. | | |
| | Play curriculum is being developed in P1 and P2 classes. Focus for improvement on writing, with writing being made relevant (genres and structure). | | |
| | Mrs Fraser is working on the 'Resilience for All' programme with the P6 class. This will be cascaded to the other classes and teachers when ready. | | NH/LF |
| | NH has requested some parent volunteers to review the Scottish Sexual Education materials. It is important to obtain different views. The materials will be shared with all parents after review. | | NH |

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| | <p>COVID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and Safety risk assessment being updated in response to changes announced by Scottish Government - Letter from NHS team will be emailed to parents advising current requirements for close contacts. | NH |
| | <p>Health & Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pagoda currently taped off for safety, overtime the wooden pillars which are grounded into soil rather than the tarmac have rotted and become unsafe. - 7 new posts are required, the school has obtained quotes and the work will be funded from the school budget - The cost is £1,836 (including VAT), £1,350 (ex VAT) | NH |
| | <p>School 20 years Birthday Celebrations are progressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mrs Ford, the first head teacher visited recently - Children are working on various projects in classes. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions parents can't come into school to share in the celebrations but the hope is to be able to display the children's work along the fence - 20th anniversary is China, so children will get to decorate a china mug on 29th September - There are plans to get a plaque for the back garden to commemorate the anniversary and plant a tree. Discussions and decisions are still ongoing | NH |
| | <p>Access to the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents can come in for planned meeting - Community groups will be allowed to restart at the end of September. Risk assessments will be completed - Cleaning will be part of the risk assessment | NH |
| | The school basketball and football teams are up and running. | NH |
| | Newsletter will be emailed to parents soon. | NH |
| Chairperson's Report | <p>Fundraising is still limited. Due to remaining restrictions a Halloween Disco in school is unlikely.</p> <p>School planning party in classrooms for Halloween like last year.</p> <p>VS asked what the schools needs help with for fundraising purposes.</p> <p>Committee for fundraising for the back garden has been put together and will meet separately. Anyone interested in assisting with this please get in touch.</p> | <p>VS</p> <p>NH</p> <p>VS</p> <p>VS/GG</p> |

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| | <p>Greggs (the bakers) provide community grants of up to £2,000. These grants focus on outdoor learning and easier access to outdoor and enhancing learning and wellbeing.</p> <p>Fundraising group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jennifer Falconer happy to continue fundraising activities from previous years (guess teddy bears name, how many sweets in jar) - Suggestion for dress your window for Halloween competition. Take a photo and send to PC. £per entry - Volunteers to help with fundraising are needed <p>Handed over to Mrs Smith for update on plans for playground and garden area.</p> | <p>VS</p> <p>VS</p> <p>VS</p> |
| Playground Update | <p>Parent Council have previously said they are keen to get something more interesting in the playground for the children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority is the pagoda - Looking at improving loose parts play e.g. tent's, pipes, crates, pegs, ropes etc... the possibility of using the area at far end of playground outside P7 classroom is also being looked at, but the ground is not solid or level and is badly overhung by trees - Could PC support in fundraising for pots and plants for around the pagoda - Children to be consulted for use of pagoda e.g outdoor learning, reading corner - Storage at site of pagoda need to be improved, for resources for use in playground and pagoda <p>Trees & Hedging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School won trees and hedging in a competition, entered by Mrs Armstrong from ELC. There is a large number of trees (saplings) to be planted. The best time for this is November. They will be planted in the back garden and if possible in large pots in the playground to introduce some greenery - Fundraising for large pots would help the school - Any trees not used will be donated to other schools <p>Back Garden clean up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteers are needed to help clear the back garden and woodland area just outside this area and accessed by back gate - School looking at possibility of organising a skip - Help planting containers also required - The school does not have a dedicated janitor, so any assistance with practical tasks in the garden is helpful | CS/NH |
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| Treasurer Update | Gordon Gilchrist confirmed the closing balance is £1933.03 Only recent activity was a donation to the school for last years P7 yearbooks and money raised through Easy Fundraising - £20.93 in April and £31.07 in September. There was also a refund from the Christmas Cards company. | GG |
| AOB | <p>Parents night – will this continue online or be in person?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - October meeting will be online and going forward parents will be consulted on whether they continue online or return to face to face when allowed. Due to complexity of booking system, it is not possible to have a combination of face to face and online in future, it will need to be one or the other <p>School Camps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Last year P7 got money refunded as camp had to be cancelled - P6 (2019/2020 P5 class) deposit not refunded but any additional payments are held in school accounts. P6 camp moved to next May. NH hopeful this will be able to go ahead - Other camps not being booked until situation changes to avoid loss of deposits - NH interested to get parents views on booking camps in the current circumstances <p>Panto has been booked at Howden Park Centre for December. The school is holding off paying for this for as long as possible until the regulations and situation becomes clearer. The cost is £2000 and is non-refundable. Payment required by end of October to the venue, so the decision will be deferred until as late as possible.</p> <p>WLC Bulletin magazine mentioned funding for an extension to LVPS. What will this be?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NH advised she had had initial meeting with contractor and plans are progressing - There will be a small extension to dining hall located at the side of the school <p>NMcG asked if fundraising Christmas Cards were going to be made by the children again this year. NMcG to provide PC with details of company she has used and recommends.</p> <p>CG asked about availability of breakfast at Breakfast Club?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NH advised that breakfast is available until 8.20am each day and often later than that with fruit and yoghurt being left out. | <p>VS NH</p> <p>NH</p> <p>NH</p> <p>GG</p> <p>NH</p> <p>NMcG</p> <p>CG NH</p> |

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| Next meeting dates | AGM Thursday 28 th October 2021. Anyone interested in taking on a role or getting involved please contact the Parent Council via email LVPSParents@gmail.com | VS |
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