

Elphinstone Primary School Parent Council



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & ANNUAL REPORT [draft version]

Thursday 17th September, 2009 at 7.00 pm

Present: Jo Beveridge - Head Teacher Alan Thomson - Chair
Judith Dunn - Treasurer Helen Forlow - Clerk
Katharina Skwara Shena Thompson
Marlyn Ross Liz Drysdale (teacher)

In attendance: Paul Nixon (parent) Mike Pacione (parent)
Melanie Collier (teacher) Liz Moore (teacher)
Louise Darcy (teacher) Helen Thomson (teacher)
Angela Nixon (parent)

Apologies: Ruth Currie, Kenny McLeod, Jim Gillies and Donald Grant (East Lothian councillors)

The meeting was initially chaired by Alan Thomson. Following elections, meeting was then chaired by Judith Dunn.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Jo Beveridge introduced Alan Thomson as the current Chair and thanked Alan for all his hard work and support over the past 2 years. Jo Beveridge also introduced the staff in attendance, who came particularly for the AGM.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM:

Minutes of the previously held AGM were not available on the night but were circulated afterwards.

CHAIR'S REPORT by A. Thomson:

1. East Lothian Council Efficiency Savings/Budget Cuts

The campaign against the proposed efficiency savings by ELC, took a disproportionate amount of time and energy for all involved. Irrespective of Elphinstone Parent Council being a small school, Elphinstone parents made a protest at the official opening of Sanderson's Wynd Primary School with Fiona Hyslop, Education Secretary in attendance, sent in a petition, gave out pro-forma letters for parents to send, lobbied local councillors and MSP, attended meetings and contacted the press with their concerns. On behalf of the Parent Council, Alan Thomson thanked Judith Dunn for organising the campaign. Judith thanked the PC and the whole parent forum for their teamwork.

2. Fundraising

The school needs significant amounts of fundraising to be done, to pay for transport for outings which has become very expensive. The other aim is to provide discos and social events at as low a cost as possible. Fundraisers this year have included:

Table Top Sale

The Table Top sale held in May 2009 raised £762.00. All parents and school staff were thanked for their help and support with this great event. Hope to hold another in 2 years time if enough volunteers to organise it.

Tiny Treasure Hunt

The aim of the sponsored "Tiny Treasure Hunt" was for children to fill film canisters with as many small items they could find. This fundraiser accumulated £727.10 - once again families, staff and parent council thanked for their enthusiastic support for this.

Clairvoyant Evening

This successful event was organised by Marlyn and Betty outwith school. The PC gratefully received the £408.00 raised by it.

Other events (non fundraisers):

Discos

Two discos were held: Valentines and the School Leaver's disco. Parent Council also volunteered their time to go along to Sandersons Wynd leavers disco to allow Elphinstone p7 pupils to take up this invitation to join in.

Beetle Drive

The PC was in agreement that whilst not intended as a fundraising event, the Beetle Drive is a fun social event. The Beetle Drive brought in lots of parents, carers and children taking part and created a good community atmosphere.

3. Parental Involvement

The Parent Council aim to try and involve parents/carers as much as possible and to encourage more parents to attend meetings. We hope that there are enough opportunities to be aware of events. Parent Council/fundraising business and correspondence etc can be found via the Parent Council Website, external notice board and newsletters. This year we will try again to involve more parents in the PC.

4. Treasurer's Report

Judith summarised the year's income and expenditure. There is currently £1829 in the bank account with most of this already committed to pay for transport costs for school trips.

Alan highlighted that at the time of the previous AGM, there were negative funds (ie PC owed the school money) so fundraising has done very well.

5. ELECTIONS:

Alan Thomson stood down as Chair whilst remaining a Parent Council member. Following this, Judith Dunn was nominated by Alan as Chair, and duly seconded by Katharina Skwara. Judith Dunn was then elected as the new Chair and welcomed to her new role.

Katharina Skwara was nominated by Judith Dunn for the role of Treasurer, duly seconded by Shena Thompson and thus elected as Treasurer and welcomed to her new role.

Angela Nixon had expressed her interest in becoming involved with supporting the school/Parent Council. Angela therefore put herself forward as a parent representative, was

seconded and elected to her new role. The group welcomed Angela Nixon to her new role within the Parent Council.

6. Coverage of Parent Representatives

Representing nursery - Katharina Skwara & Angela Nixon

P1/2/3 class is represented by - Judith Dunn and Audrey Fleming

P 4/5 class is represented by - Alan Thomson, Shena Thompson and Marlyn Ross.

There are currently no representatives for the p6/7 class and the PC will try to recruit a parent/carer for this role if possible.

7. Other

Jo Beveridge stated that Jacqui Dillon and Carol Malcolm from the nursery, are going to invite parents and carers to a coffee morning - an opportunity for parents to get involved. If successful, this is something that could be done for each new intake of nursery pupils.

Coffee mornings will be held with relevant people to give more information on a range of topics. Ie ADHD, Perceptual Motor programme, dyslexia etc The school can also provide a leaflet on the Perpetual Motor Programme leaflet [PMP].

At this point the AGM was closed and the Parent Council meeting commenced.

Please visit: pc.elphinstoneprimary.co.uk for parent council news and fundraising events