



## NEWTONGRANGE Primary Parent Council & AGM – minutes

LOCATION: Newtongrange Primary School	
DATE: 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2022, 7.15pm	
PRESENT: Tricia McNicol (chair), Catsy Moffat, Rebecca McCosh, Sarah Burrell, Alison Lyles (minutes), Kerry Dolan, Laura Cameron, Arantza Henderson, Julia & Robin Gossip, John Drummond, Ashly Young, Liz McCabe, Nynke Halbesma, Josie Isles, Sam Hadden, Mahri Brown, Irene Smith, Michael Wylie, Candice Wylie, Ianthe Sutherland, Kirsty Hirst, Paul & Pamela Cook, Ben Miller, Rebecca McCosh	
APOLOGIES: Kirstie Corbett, Kirsty Timms, Ashwyn Melmoth, Rachel Geddes	
MATTERS ARISING:	ACTION
<b>1.Minutes from last meeting</b>	
Minutes were agreed as an accurate representation from the meeting on 9/5/22. Action points from previous minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School wish list - completed</li> <li>• Discretionary fund of £500 per year - agreed</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Election to parent council</b> TMc gave an overview of the parent council & parent teacher association to all present. In relation to the annual general meeting, all present were in witness and election to the following nominations to the committee positions for the Newtongrange parent council & parent teacher association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PC/PTA Chair: Tricia McNicol nominated with second vote by Alison Lyles; Kirstie Corbett nominated as co-chair (not present in the meeting) with second vote by Catsy Moffat</li> <li>• PC/PTA Treasurer: Catsy Moffat nominated with second vote by Tricia McNicol</li> <li>• PC/PTA Secretary: Alison Lyles nominated with second vote by Tricia McNicol</li> </ul> It was highlighted if any other parents are interested in any of the committee member positions over the forthcoming scholastic year, to get in touch with the committee position holders to discuss further and/or to arrange shadowing or succession planning.  AL highlighted, as per the parent council constitution, that all present at the AGM would form the parent council body for this scholastic year. All present would be placed on the circulation list for meetings and minutes for this scholastic year unless the PC are informed otherwise. Email contact lists of PC members are held according to GDPR regulations.	



### 3. School update:

Laura Cameron & the SLT gave an overview relating to school update:

#### Staffing

- Welcomed Kerry Dolan DHT, Emma Stables P5, Caitlin Hogg P1C, Greg Peacock NCCT.
- ELC, welcomed Lauren Martin and Ashley Sinclair.
- Lynda Thomson retiring at the end of the term.
- Welcome back to Becca Thomson in October
- Lynsay Mitchell will be going on mat leave.
- Catering Supervisor changes. Sylvia moving to part time post and Becky started this week.

#### School Improvement Plan

- SIP Summary – Lit/Nurture – Kerry, Num – Sarah, Digital - Laura
  - School Priority groups – developing action plans
- What has been happening? 28 days since Summer....

- Establishment Phase and Whole school project
- Reintroducing assemblies and recognition board
- Building resilience
- In person meetings returned
- IEP and MAM meetings involving all staff
- Forward Planning – focus on all areas of the curriculum
- Wider Curriculum sessions started
- Lunchtime clubs
- Digital Learning Technologist Visit – chrome books for P3
- ELC – Stay and Play
- ELC – Surveyed parents and introducing first names
- ELC – outdoor area under review
- P3s and P4s – Drumming sessions
- P7 Super 7s supporting across the school
- P7 trip to High School – Modern Langs
- New ASG PT for Literacy support
- ASG – Practitioner Enquiry
- Maths Scotland week – P2's trip to Mining Museum
- Meet the Teacher

#### What is coming up?

- School Photographs
- Moderation sessions
- SLT Class visits
- Quality Assurance Visits
- Harvest assembly – support from P5 and Rev Gayle
- Kindness award – P7
- Decision Making Groups – new model involving all pupils
- Extra - Curricular Clubs to begin Term 2
- Parent Consultations 8th and 9th November (in person)



<p>· Book Week Scotland, Road Safety Week, Internet Safety Week</p>	
<p><b>4. Music Tuition:</b> AL highlighted concerns over fairness/ equitability given to the current primary 7 year group regarding music tuition. Last year the previous primary 7 year group were give priority for music lessons in light of lost opportunities to COVID19 with many primary 6 learners being placed on a waiting list. This year, communication has been received suggesting the current primary 6 year group will be given priority for music tuition this year without mention of the now primary 7 waiting list. LC explained that music tuition is not directly coordinated by Newtongrange primary school but she would liaise with Alexander Knox, Music Tuition coordinator for the region.</p>	<p>LC</p>
<p><b>5. PTA fundraising/update:</b>            TMc gave an overview of some of the up and coming fundraising activites over the course of the scholastic year. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly bakesales – to be held in the playgroup after school on a Friday               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ First of which to be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct “Halloween”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Art projects for schools               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Christmas card art project – children have produced Christmas themed artwork in school which has been sent off for scanning. Christmas cards &amp; other products will be available to be ordered in November. Details will be shared in due course. Purchases of these products enable generation of fundraising as the school gets percentage of sales from Art projects for schools</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Winter fayre: 12<sup>th</sup> November, Dean Tavern</li> <li>• Sponsored event within the school – March</li> <li>• Gala day stall</li> </ul> <p>TMc explained that PTA meetings (specific for the running and organising of fundraising events will be held on the first Friday of every month in the school at 9a.m. Ideas and help is greatfully received no matter what level of input you are willing to give.</p> <p>CM gave an overview of the financial update relating to PTA funds and fundraising.            Currently there is £5883 in the PTA bank account (£1500 is ring fenced money donated by the coalfields trust – this needs to be spent on a creative/art based activity for the school)</p> <p>Over the course of the scholastic year, the PTA aims to fund the following recurring costs within the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- P7 leaving gifts (scientific calculators) £365 approx</li> <li>- P1 book bags £375 approx</li> </ul>	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School parents app £420 approx</li> <li>- £500 discretionary fund</li> </ul> <p>Fundraising produced over and above the recurring costs usually funds specific items for the whole school. This year the school has highlighted the following items that the PTA are in agreement of funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whole school panto (visiting theatre company)</li> <li>- Mobile/folding chairs to provide additional seating for events within the school.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. School playground fundraising</b></p> <p>It was raised that this is a long standing and ongoing area of priority for school improvement which has taken a back seat in recent years due to limited PTA support and COVID. The parent council agreed that this should be an ongoing agenda item which requires further coordination between the PTA (or off-shoot of the PTA) and the school. It was agreed this requires more discussion at the next parent council meeting following some further blue sky thinking around what level of fundraising and parental support would be required in order to bring improvements to fruition. There are limited funds available from Midlothian council so a large element of fundraising is likely to be required. Some ideas voiced included whole school consultation over what improvements to the playground might look like; scoping of options and costing as well as drumming up support from local counsellors and Newtongrange Development Trust.</p> <p>It was agreed that the next PC meeting should include a further focussed discussion regarding this and that those interested in this initiative share ideas.</p>	<p>School/ PC</p>
<p><b>7. AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It was suggested that producing a directory of parental community/ fundraising contacts and/or professional expertise may be of value to the school and/or parent council. Further discussion is required to ascertain who is best to coordinate and take this forward.</li> <li>- AH made the suggestion of involvement of the PC/school community in an “angel tree” community kindness initiative. LC suggested this was worth the PTA and Lee Grieve establishing link on. It was suggested that Lee should be invited to the next PTA meeting to discuss this in more detail.</li> <li>- It was suggested that communication from the school could be improved. It was noted that the absence of seesaw may also impact upon this over forthcoming week and that a more targeted approach and or review may be required.</li> </ul>	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>PTA meeting</p> <p>School</p>
<p><b>Date of next meetings:</b> Parent council: 7<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm PTA: 7<sup>th</sup> October, 9a.m.</p>	