

minutes of meeting held on: 24 April 2012

LEITH ACADEMY SCHOOL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24th April 2012

Present: Diane Anderson - Co-chair (DMA), Christine Wallis - Co-chair (CW), Jack Simpson (JMS), Mellissa Berry (MB) part meeting, Sheila Ralston (SR), Carol Bullock (CB), Chris Horton (CH), Trisha Emblem (TE)

Action

Apologies: Bridget Linton (BL), Jackie Beer (JB), Marjorie Thomas (Cllr), Robb Munn (Cllr), Louise Lang (Cllr)

1. Welcome and Introduction

DMA opened meeting and welcomed new parents. Group introductions followed.

Agenda

Minutes of Previous Meeting

AOCB - One item was missed from the previous minute regarding a parent asking about a Snowboarding trip as opposed to a biennial skiing trip that the PE Department take to the French Alps. JMS spoke to the PT of PE and Mr Pye reports that there is no reason why this could not take place however the ski slope would require twelve pupils to make it financially viable to coach.

1. Matters arising

Matters arising are included as agenda items. See notes below.

1. Headteacher's Update

a) **Mandarin** – JMS attended a week long trip to China sponsored by Learning and Teaching Scotland. It is hoped that greater links will be established between

Edinburgh and China. However, Leith Academy needs more staff to allow Mandarin classes to grow and JMS is unsure at this point if extra teaching staff will be funded.

b) **Diversity Workshops** - these take place on Friday 11 May 2012. All S1/S2 pupils will take two workshops each. CW asked if parents can get involved, JMS to ask Sue Cook if this is possible. DMA/CW on behalf of the PC, reminded the group that flowers are still to be organised and given to Miss Cook as a gesture for all her hard work and commitment involved in organising Diversity Events over the last few years.

c) **Spring Fling (22 March)** – this was a great evening of entertainment and showcased the talent that LA, Craightinny and Hermitage Park pupils are gifted with.

CH – the Spring Fling wasn't publicised very well as he only found out about it because his child was involved. A wide ranging discussion took place regarding notifying and reminding parents of such events. JMS pointed out that this event is included in the Calendar of Events and this is posted out to all parents at the beginning of the session.

d) **Sports Relief (20 April)** - a non-uniform day raised £1048.

e) **Samba Drumming Event** – Joanne Simpson is to attend a Samba Drumming Competition in London.

f) JMS attended the induction of the new Minister Iain May at South Leith Parish Church on 18 April. Iain's predecessor Ian Gilmour was a great support to the school and JMS hopes the link with the SLPC will continue.

g) **Jet Programme Ceremony** – 20 pupils all graduated on 19 April. All pupils participated in a one day a week Work Experience for the duration of the course and some pupils have been offered part-time placements. Unfortunately the current economic climate has affected the possibility of permanent work being offered to pupils.

h) **Proposed Changes to School Day** – Morning Registration has been proposed and parents have been informed by text message and letter. This new system is intended to contribute to improving our attendance and punctuality rates, while retaining an element of personal support through tutor group. It is scheduled to start on Wednesday, 6th June 2012.

i) **Staffing:**

- Sarah Gibson (English Teacher) left on maternity leave earlier in the session and has given birth to a boy.
- Debbie Millar (PE Teacher) had just gone on maternity and she too has had a baby boy.
- Doreen MacKinnon (Senior DHT) has been seconded to Currie Community High School as Acting Headteacher as 8 May. It is a 23 month secondment and a replacement for the DHT position here is being sought.

j) Jim Wyllie (CDT Teacher)– News reached school during the meeting that Mr Wyllie, who was in the ITU at the Western General Hospital, having suffered a second cerebral haemorrhage, had died earlier in the evening.

1. Finance Update

In Jackie Beer's absence DMA reported that the bank balance stands at £1448.48.

1. Workplan Updates:

Fundraising Issues including Sports Funding Applications

Funding Applications News

Mel Berry reported that there was some success/unsuccessful bids with the funding stream.

- The £10,000 applied for from The Lottery Fund was unsuccessful. However, good feedback was received that may help with future bids LA submits. It turns out that lottery money was funded to trampolining and Netball projects as the Lottery Fund was focusing on female sports.
- On a positive note MB and Edinburgh Lions Basketball put in an application for £1,000 to Active Sports. Basketball is really taking off at Leith which is projected in the numbers attending. At present 90% attendance is from the Leith Cluster. The money will be used towards starting an under 16 Club to allow smooth transition from younger clubs, facilities and development.
- Basketball Outdoor Court

The favourable bid from Edinburgh Fabrications, to undertake the basketball court contract has been accepted. The company has been asked to proceed. Work will hopefully be complete by the end of May. Both DMA/CW thanked MB for her effort and support in helping Leith Academy achieve this new facility.

Successes

- Euan Morrice, has been selected to undertake a modern apprenticeship in the Culture and Sports Unit. He successfully competed with 80 candidates for the apprenticeship and will be trained with an overview of sports across the Edinburgh.
- Under 14 Basketball team won the North Neighbourhood League. The Team will be presented with the trophy at the Evening of Celebration. Next year the team will enter the Scottish Cup.
- Cross Country – Unfortunately LA didn't retain the trophy this year but will try again next year.

- Basketball – Congratulations to Sean Nealon and Alexander Ferguson who have been selected to represent Scotland for their age group. They will be going to play in a tournament in Sweden in May.
- Dance Groups – S1, S2 and Seniors entered a Dance Competition at Broughton HS for the first year ever. This is great news for LA and shows how successful Dance at LA has become.

MB/AM

CH asked MB how the after school clubs were advertised to parents as he had not seen any information. TE agreed that if parents knew more about clubs they could encourage participation. MB – a timetable (TT) is given to all pupils at the beginning of the session and clubs are advertised in Leith Links. JMS suggested that the TT should be advertised on the school Website. MB will be given access and a password to input the TT on the website from Gordon Cookson (Multi Media Technician). After discussion it was agreed that the After School Club Timetable could be emailed to parents at the same time as the minutes at the beginning of the session – MB to forward electronic copy to AM.

SR

Breakfast Café

The Parent Council granted a £300 cheque to SR to spend on items for the Breakfast Café. SR thanked the Parent Council and will submit receipts for items that are purchased and provide a copy of the evaluation that is to be produced for the original funding. SR reported that growth in pupil numbers attending is slow but gradual with about 20 – 30 pupils dropping in. SR hopes that pupils will eventually take ownership of this initiative by involving senior pupils.

Fundraising - Quiz proposal– DA is working on this and hopes to have it organised soon.

Increasing communication with the LA parent forum – This is ongoing. Parents will be approached and asked for up to date information at events throughout the year. The next event is the Evening of Celebration on 27th June 2012. DMA suggested a text message to all parents requesting an up-to-date email address. A costing will be carried out and AM will report back at the AGM in June. SR suggested the PC design a slip requesting email address and she would be happy to distribute it to her Registration Class. After wide ranging discussion a slip is to be organised to collate information and will be distributed through registration classes when the new system commences.

AM/DMA/CW

Parental Interests

This is ongoing.

Positive Destinations– Information received so far to be collated for the AGM in June. JMS – The Edinburgh Guarantee was introduced to offer apprenticeships / positive destinations to young people in Edinburgh. However with the current economic situation this has not happened.

Cafeteria –SR met with Laura Nesbitt who suggested that the cafeteria meets current guidelines and set standards. After wide ranging discussion JMS offered to mention this item at the next Headteachers’ meeting to gauge the situation with other schools. JMS pointed out that there is not a partnership link between LA and the catering company and assumes all schools are the same. CH suggested applying pressure to try and change the situation.

AOCB

LeithLinks - CB asked why pupils are not involved all the time in the design of Leith Links. AM – this is time consuming, and would involve an editing committee. It was decided that a special edition of Leith Links should be produced with the help of pupils and parents in December 2012. AM to contact printers and report back at AGM. Any parent interested in getting involved should make contact with the PC. JMS

DA/CW closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Date of next meetings:

Wednesday 13th June 2012

AM