



**Burnside Primary School Parent Council Meeting
5th February 2025
Minutes**

In attendance – Gayle McDonald (Head Teacher) , Lynne Mullen (Deputy Head Teacher), Lynsey Shakespeare (Chair), Pam Dick (Communications), Carolyn Paterson, Tang Mak, Lynn Goodall, Monica Tinney, Laura Taylor, Katy Bhatia

1) Welcome

2) Apologies – Alise Middleton (Library co-ordinator), Susan Summers, Lesley Anne Gibson (Treasurer & Pre-Loved Uniform), Ross, Fraser & Lisa Bedwell, Julie Brown, Alison Burns, Councillor Robert Brown

3) Chairperson Update – Issues raised by other members of the PTA

Glenlui Parking – Large amounts of cars parking at pick up time, Head teacher has put out a reminder not to park here but problem is still occurring. Group are wondering how to escalate, can we ask parking wardens to attend? Are we able to email registration numbers of reoffenders?

Action: LS to ask RB

P1/P7 Buddy plans for remainder of the year – Apart from lunches, nothing planned officially for remainder of year, plans very fluid and just as opportunities arise.

Outdoor Classroom Fundraising – GMD has had companies able to build the outdoor classroom out for a site visit. No groundwork is required, cost is currently £10.2k. Need to decide on location for the classroom, potentially space in car park (consider safety due to cars), or in main playground.

Feedback from PTA – Question on how much parent council will contribute towards this? 50:50 between parent council and school? Over how many years will we fundraise? PTA agreed we don't want to take funds away from other areas that we currently pay towards.

Put forward to ask Spittal Primary how they raised funds for their outdoor classroom.

Tesco local blue disc funding put forward as an idea to enquire about.

Local grants of £500 through council are available. Investigate how to apply.

Reading schools qualification – Need outdoor spaces for this, could launch around world book day and say the outdoor classroom will be an outdoor reading shelter.

Soft Start in Morning – Calderwood Primary started a “soft start” to school approx. 1 year ago. Doors are open and children enter school as they arrive (from about 8.50am) to get prepared and start ready for 9am.

GMD worked with this system at her old school and is a fan of this. However it is currently difficult to implement due to working time agreement, there is not enough staff to supervise areas. Need staff outside and inside for this to work.

Could parents potentially help run this system? – Might work and be more useful for younger years, P1 & 2. And for these years we'd have enough parent support. GMD to investigate and discuss further with LS.

4) Head teacher update –

P4 & P7 classes have recently taken part in the Scottish National Standardised Assessments. The school use these results to help focus teaching on areas of underperformance.

Results show vast majority of children in P4 and P7 at Burnside are performing at or above national average.

There is the opportunity to include P1's in this testing but this is not currently being done. The school is having discussions on whether this would be useful to do approaching the Summer term.

P6/7 Athletics Team won gold at the CamGlen finals – Thanks go to Miss McKinnon who runs the club and Mr McKenzie who also assists.

Chef Robert from Kids Kitchen – Has been teaching the P6 pupils how to cook. Robert was great with the kids and for giving ideas on how to cook and eat healthily. The school can apply and ask for him to come every 3 years. Funded by local authority.

World book day – literacy staff meeting tomorrow to plan for start of March. Alise has arranged for Author & Poet Simon Lamb to attend the school and perform a reading.

Promoting positive relationships and understanding distressed behaviour – Part of school improvement plan, SLC have published new guidelines that align with new Scottish legislation. Every school has to review their policies. The aim is to make staff and family aware of why students may be showing distressed behaviour, a staff working party is being put together to review the school policy which is outdated. GMD looking to obtain feedback from PTA:

- Q1 What do we know about the current policy. Answer PTA know nothing about existing policy.
- Q2 If there is a problem with a child's behaviour then the school currently sends home an orange slip, is everyone happy with this? Answer All agreed that an orange slip isn't ideal, we'd rather be called / phoned / spoken to directly if there was an issue. That way we can understand and discuss what is happening.
- Q3 Would we feel comfortable to share private information with the school? Answer Depends upon the parent and possibly their previous interactions with the school. A large number of parents already phone or email the school with family updates but depends on the person.

PTA suggestions - Perhaps at start of year you could ask parents/guardians how they would like to be contacted if an issue needs discussed: Phone, email, letter etc.

Funding request –

- 1) Eco committee have raised the issue of rubbish in the P4-7 playground. Request for a new bin for this playground. A pupil has researched bins and put forward a bin at £100 to purchase. PTA council will vote on whether to fund this bin.
- 2) Louise Douglas – Request for hockey sticks, current sticks are too light. Require full weight hockey sticks, full set are £300 for a class. GMD will pass on details for PTA to vote on.

5) Updates –

- a. **Update from Treasurer (Susan / LAG)** – Account balance is £12,977, of which £1,190 is P7 fundraising. Thanks to Alison Burns who works for Barclays, they fund matched what the P7 class raised.

Quiz profits 640

The PTA have agreed to fund approx. £3,000 for school trips.

Including the buses for swimming, the bus for the Lockerbie trip, and some other items, £7,000 is accounted for.

This leaves £4-5k in account.

Susan is to meet with Lesley-Anne to meet to hand over books

- b. **Preloved Uniform –**

Laura and Lynsey have sorted out the pre-loved uniform. Spittal Primary have been given a large number of uniform items for their pre-loved uniform.

Pam will put a monthly reminder out about pre-loved uniform, and in run-up to parents evening.

Will try and establish a rota going forward to keep neat and tidy.

- c. **Library** – Poet visit organised. New graphic novels being purchased. Large number of books have went missing, pupils only allowed to attend library if they return their old book to try and encourage them to return their book.

Library may look to establish a proper system for taking out and recording books.

Pam will put a note out to remind parents about books.

- d. **Quiz Night** - £640 raised. Night well attended. Issues with heating, ongoing problems with heating in venue. May need to look at a new venue for next year. Scout hall a possibility.

6) Upcoming dates

- a. **Disco** – Thursday 13th Feb. Charge for entry £3 cash. Katy is organising snacks. Require parent volunteers. P1 timings 6.15pm – 7.15pm, P4-P7 7.30 – 8.30pm. Require cash on door, still to investigate card machines.

- b. **Car boot sale** – date set for 31st May.

Group to be put together to brainstorm ideas for the car boot sale.

Notes from previous minutes “P7 need to fund raise, perhaps bake sale, however note last year’s contributions to the bake sale were very poor.

Would be good to have other stalls to raise funds for the school and expand what’s on offer.

Ideas - Face painting and balloon modelling. Stalls – beat the goalie, soak the teacher etc.

Could we change the title of the day to appeal to more people?”

- c. **Parents evening idea** – could P7’s sell items at a stall to fundraise
- d. **Outdoor classroom fundraising launch** – date proposed possibly w/c 31st March. Eugenie will be taking a tour of grow 73 items in school playground. Stevie has provided tree cutoffs to act as stools, has also provided hammocks. PEF money being used to purchase storage shed.
- e. **Food bank collection** – the school collection went well, thank you card received from the food bank, St Anthony’s & St Marks food bank. The group have asked if we can raise awareness that they can provide card payments to tide folk over for gas/electricity until next payment comes in. Pam will put message out about this, and school can put this out in a message.

Look to repeat food bank collection around Easter holidays.

7) AOB –

- a. Could school calendar be updated on the app, as well as on the newsletter.

- b. **School photos** – samples shown of an alternate company that seem to be better value for money and offer different poses. Provide a free copy of photos to school, and provide extras for gifts/prizes etc. PTA very impressed with examples shown. Will be investigated.

Date of next meeting – Monday 10th March.