



LASSWADE PRIMARY SCHOOL - PARENT COUNCIL

43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MONDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2014

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Introduction

1. As outgoing Chair, I would like to thank everyone for coming along tonight to our AGM.
2. The Parent Council is essentially a forum for all parents who would like to volunteer to get involved in helping the school to provide the best possible learning environment and learning experience for all of our children, in order to give them the best possible start to their education. I would like to start by giving you a brief overview of the main objectives of Lasswade Primary School Parent Council as stated in the constitution.
3. These objectives are as follows:
 - a. To promote co-operation between parents and teachers in everything pertaining to the well-being of the school and the pupils.
 - b. To encourage the development of social activities among parents and teachers.
 - c. To co-operate with other Parent Councils among the Scottish Parent Teacher Council.
4. During the 2013/14 session, the Parent Council did well to deliver and uphold these values and objectives. The following are examples of some of the tasks and activities that we are involved with:
 - a. Fundraising
 - b. Teacher Interviews
 - c. Midlothian Council Forums
 - d. Raising concerns from parents with the school
 - e. Working with the school to improve the facilities available
 - f. Giving input where required to assist the school in making decisions
 - g. Reporting back to the Parent Forum
 - h. Parent Representatives for all stages

5. Our last AGM took place on 30th September 2013. At present, the parent council is supported by around 15 active committee members (plus 4 staff members), who generally meet once a month throughout the calendar year. Many other parents get involved by assisting with the set up, organisation and running of the events. We have however, lost a number of members through children progressing to High School etc, so there is plenty of room for new members with new ideas. You can either attend as committee members who are prepared to offer comments and suggestions; or as members prepared to get involved at events in active support for the school and its pupils; or better still - both.

6. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, which begin at 6.45 pm. The first 45 minutes deals with fund raising issues and from 7.30 pm onwards dealing with school issues. As you can see, this doesn't take up a lot of time so it is hoped that, should you have a preferred area of interest, you can divide your time and choose between the different discussions.

7. Dates and times of all planned meetings are listed on the school website and they are also listed on the handouts. Even if you decide not to attend meetings, new ideas are always welcome and will always be discussed.

Fundraising Events and Activities

8. Looking back over 2013/14 the Parent Council successfully organised and ran a number of events which provided both social and fund-raising opportunities within the school. The following is a summary of the events and activities supported by the Parent Council:

9. The first event of the year was our Autumn Fancy Dress Disco, which was well attended by pupils and parents and was very popular. This was followed by our Christmas Fair which was held in the Lasswade Centre, providing an ideal venue and attracting a huge amount of interest. The Ceilidh night in February was held in the Roses Club and was also well supported by pupils and parents who all gave very interesting dancing exhibitions. The final event of the year was the bi-annual Summer Fair which was also a great success and popular with everyone who came along. (As usual, next year that event is expected to be replaced by the variety spectacular that is Lasswade's Got Talent!).

10. The Parent Council also raised funds from the sale of class calendars and a very popular Grand Prize Raffle for prizes such as a mini iPad. A school uniform service is also provided by us.

11. As you will imagine, these things all take a huge amount of planning and organisation, on top of all of many other school events. They only succeed with the hard work and support of the many parents and teachers within our school.

Contributions

12. As you will see from the Treasurers Report, we have been able to use the monies raised to contribute to the staging and the school projector, both widely used by all pupils, making things a lot more practical within the school and adding great value to the learning experience. We also assisted in with costs of the panto and the P7 Leaving Party, making these fantastic fun events more affordable to all pupils.

School Issues

13. The Parent Council also support the school by attending Midlothian wide meetings with other Parent Council members. We have had our local councillors along to some of our meetings including Lisa Beattie and Ian Baxter and we have been in discussions with them and the local council regarding the school building to keep on top of repairs and maintenance. This has had some success in driving the main issues of repair work that have now largely been carried out. But these things are governed by available budgets and it needs a strong lead from the Parent Council to

ensure that our voice is heard amongst the other schools in the area. We will continue to strive for the service that our children deserve.

14. We have also been involved in teacher interviews. We have parent council class representatives for each year group within the school and we also help maintain the school's wildlife garden. The ongoing maintenance of this outdoor activity will be discussed at the meeting which we will be having immediately after this, and to which you are all welcome to attend, even just to see how the meetings run.

Thank You

15. Special Thanks to Jill Doyle and her team for their continued hard work, professionalism and commitment to both the parent council and the school during the past year. And a fond farewell to Julie Fox who has promised to keep an eye on our progress in her new employment.

16. To the janitorial staff who help prepare the school before and after our events and also to our auditor Jude Brown.

17. To all the Parent Council members (and to those who have assisted at events) for their hard work in organising the events and making things happen, particularly those who are leaving us this year and who have served the school so well for so many years. And to you for coming along and supporting our school.

Summary

18. As I've mentioned, we are all volunteers who want the best for our children, and we do what we can to assist the school in delivering that. We will be having a Parent Council meeting after this meeting. You are all welcome to come along, just to have a look at how the meetings work, or better still, to become a member and represent your child. The best way to help shape and improve things for all of our kids is to get involved. Please get involved. Thank you.

Stevie Small
Chairman
29th September 2014

Future Events	
Wed 29th October 2014	Autumn Fancy Dress Disco
Mon 1st December 2014	Christmas Fair
TBC	Ceilidh
TBC	Family Quiz
TBC	Summer Fair
TBC	Lasswade's Got Talent
TBC	<i>Any Other Suggestions Welcome</i>

Future Meetings ...	
Mon 29 th September 2014	After AGM
Mon 3 rd November 2014	6.45pm @ The staffroom
Mon 24 th November 2014	6.45pm @ The staffroom
Mon 12 th January 2015	6.45pm @ The staffroom
(TBC) February 2015	6.45pm @ The staffroom
(TBC) March 2015	6.45pm @ The staffroom
(TBC) April 2015	6.45pm @ The staffroom
(TBC) May 2015	6.45pm @ The staffroom