

Williamston Primary School Parent Council

Date	13 th June 2016
Time	7 pm – 8:30 pm
Location	Williamston Primary School, staff room
Present	Regina Murphy (Acting Chair) Wendy Hay Dawn Davis Gillian de Felice Susan Cooke Christine Burns Craig Hunter Diyana Swingler (taking the minutes) Mrs F Hollands (HT) Miss T Noble (Acting DT) Mrs R Thompson (Acting PT) Councillor L Fitzpatrick
Apologies	Alan Livie
1	Pupils Presentations
	<p>Keira and Amy who are P7 and are the Head Girl and the Depute Head Girl were present. They showed a Power Point presentation talking about what every Pupil group had been involved in and what their achievements were over the school year. Here are some highlights of the work of every Pupil group:</p> <p>Eco group – they raised £300 towards adopting a snow leopard; had been monitoring litter in the school playground;</p> <p>Fairtrade group – worked with Mr Mount from the Livingston Fairtrade to judge and choose a Fairtrade Mascot and Birthday card/cake competitions;</p> <p>Health group – organised a Sock’s Day to raise awareness of Down’s syndrome and raised money for Down’s syndrome charity; a new initiative was the “Fruity Friday” that encouraged pupils to bring a piece a fruit for snack which earned 5 house points for every piece of fruit brought;</p> <p>International group – they were very interested in continuing the e-twinning project that had been started already, WPS has a partnership with a school in Mumbai, India;</p> <p>Outdoor Pupils Learning group – in a partnership with the local Coop who were the sponsors of the project, a mural had been created and painted on the wall of the big hall; they had been thinking of how they could make the outside school area more attractive for play and friendlier for pollinators (bug friendly);</p> <p>Safety group – they had been discussing staying safe online, discussing what could be an unsafe situation and whom to contact in such a situation; they had looked into road safety, too;</p> <p>Pupil Council – their priority had been the playgroup outside and how to make it a lovely place for the rest of the school; they had helped with ideas for the new playground marking; behaviour policy for out/inside school had been discussed and agreed upon, too;</p> <p>Rights and Respecting School group – had been raising awareness of what it is to be a RR school; they had raised awareness of the refugee crisis in Europe and the right these people have and prepared posters used around the school on this topic;</p> <p>Technology group – their priorities had been using education apps for supporting learning and developing projects with this aim in mind;</p> <p>All of the Pupil groups had thought about next steps for their future meetings and learning, which was very impressive.</p> <p>As the Head Boy and the Depute Head Boy, Aiden and Joshua, were not present the girls read short reports on behalf of the boys that gave us more information about their highlights of this school year.</p>

	<p>Some questions that were asked and comments made after the presentations:</p> <p>Gillian commented that the “Fruity Friday” was a great success with her own children as they were very keen to earn house points for their respective teams. She hoped that this initiative would be continued.</p> <p>Susan wanted to know more about the e-twinning project.</p> <p>Regina asked about the Fairtrade games that the P7s created themselves to teach the P1-P3 pupils. The idea was the games to have been played in the PE lessons. However, this had not been done due to lack of time.</p> <p>Regina asked the girls how they felt at the end of the school year, after presenting and being the face of the school. Did they feel more confident and different in themselves? The girls agreed that they were more confident than ever before.</p>
2	Apologies
	Apologies had been received from Alan Livie.
3	Minute of the Parent Council meeting held on April 2016
	There were no matters arising.
4	Headteacher’s report
	<p>The Acting Chair took the opportunity to congratulate Mrs Fiona Hollands for her successful interview for the position of the Headteacher of WPS. Mrs F Hollands was appointed as the Headteacher of WPS as of 8th June 2016.</p> <p>Please, find the Headteacher’s report attached as a separate document.</p> <p>Some questions that were asked and comments made after the presentations:</p> <p>Mrs Hollands gave extra information about how the composite classes were formed as some parent worry about their child being in one. Mrs Thompson reemphasised the information given by the Headteacher that the topics for the composite classes would not be repeated and that the stress was on learning transferable skills.</p> <p>Mrs Hollands explained that because of the recent problems with the building contractors in some schools in Edinburgh, the WLC checked the structure of the new hall that was built 7 years ago and all was well.</p> <p>Wendy had a question about the school budget as for the new sessions (16/17 and 17/18) the budget is reduced from £22.50 to £18.50 per child. Wendy asked if it would be possible money raised by the PSA to be used for supplementing the supplies for the school. Mrs Hollands explained that there should not be an expectation for the parents to provide more money in this situation and that the PSA would be using some of the raised funds for organising free, one-off events part of the school calendar. Then the changed budget would be managed by prioritising wisely.</p> <p>Susan asked which the supplier used for buying school supplies were. Mrs Hollands clarified the WLC works with particular suppliers and that the quality of the supplies is taken into consideration.</p>
5	Councillor L Fitzpatrick update
	<p>Councillor Fitzpatrick drew attention to the fact that the calendar for the next school year 2016/2017 is online and ready to be used for planning holidays etc.</p> <p>Another new document the WLC have completed is the Parental Engagement Framework.</p>

	<p>Finally, Councillor Fitzpatrick reminded us that the Children and Young People (Scotland only) Act 2014 would be implemented and the part that would affect the day-to-day running of the schools in Scotland was the Named Person Bill.</p> <p>Mrs Hollands clarified that every child in Scotland under the age of 18 will have a Named Person. For children up to the age of 5 that person is the health-visitor, thereafter the Named Person is the Headteacher of the Primary or Secondary Schools where the child is. If the child is not in education after the age of 16, another person is allocated to every child who has left formal education.</p> <p>Some people in the meeting expressed their concerns about the implementation of this Bill and its impact on the workload of the staff.</p>
6	AOB
	<p>Diyana took the opportunity to thank Regina and Christine for their faithful support and involvement in the Parent Council for the time their children had been in WPS.</p> <p>Christine agreed to continue to look after the web page of the Parent Council for which we were very grateful.</p> <p>Regina had been very instrumental in different projects, to name at least one, the handmade Mural for the Common Wealth Games in Glasgow 2014 designed by the pupils and put together by some parents.</p> <p>We would miss their contribution!</p>
7	Dates for next meetings for 2016/2017
	<p>Monday 12th September 2016 (AGM all welcome)</p> <p>Monday 14th November 2016</p> <p>Monday 16th January 2017</p> <p>Monday 24th April 2017 (PSA meeting also on this day)</p> <p>Monday 12th June 2017</p> <p>Everyone was content with the dates.</p>