

Present	Hilary Gorrie, Ellie Bird, Ana Morais, Roger Walpole, Gillian Meek, Sue Widdicombe, Dee Parish, Laura Thomson, Chas Booth, Sam Murrell.
Apologies	Gordon Munro, Mark Downie, Jim Campbell, Rachel Hamada, Tanya Bolton.
Date	Wed 24th January
Chair	Sue
Minutes	Gillian
1) Previous minutes / actions	
These were accepted.	
2) Treasurer's Report: current balances:	
PC: £734.25 PTA: £5683.29	
3) School accommodation/interim plans – Because of the Xmas break, there's not much progress to report on the new building. Laura will book another meeting of the parent/pupil/staff engagement group once the plans are available to share. Ellie will chase up Crawford McGhie for details of the build timeline. Laura will chase up the architect for the playground measurement. The contract for the temporary unit has gone out to four companies for tender and Laura has had some meetings to discuss the interior. These will be fitted out but will not have any PCs. Laura will check that the amount of remaining playground space won't differ between providers.	
Action – Ellie and Laura.	
4) School report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are 40/42 prospective P1s next year. We have asked for 11 classes with 12 teachers. Our class structure has been submitted and is waiting for approval. - Current roll is 266. - We have a new EAL teacher, three Fridays a month, for those who have a first language other than English – around 80 children in our school. - P5 and P5/6 are taking part in an Intergenerational Project. They have visited the living memory space at Ocean Terminal and will be interviewing older people and recording the conversations. - There are plans that Victoria will be the first school in Scotland to do have digitised log books and registers. - There is a Lego club for P2s and Lego groups starting in P1 and P2. - Recorder class after school on Thursdays is not going ahead at present. 	
5) School inspection – This had a very narrow focus – it looked only at attainment/achievement in literacy and numeracy. The report is being written up at the moment. The high level messages are likely to be available in February and the report in March.	
6) Parental engagement/Empowering schools – Plans are being proposed that the General Teaching Council will disappear. There will be more responsibility for head teachers and more parental engagement needed. We will discuss this in more detail at our next meeting. In the meantime, Gillian and Roger will read the Empowering Schools paper and draft a response on behalf of the parent council if required.	
http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/11/9712	
Action – Gillian and Roger.	
7) Hi 5 award – a new award scheme for P5 is being introduced – it looks good and we plan to take part.	

8) Janitorial review – St Ninian’s school have asked us to write to the Council with our support as they try to argue against the change to their janitor hours as part of the janitorial review. We didn’t have time to discuss this fully or make a decision at the meeting.

9) Behaviour in class –

We discussed the school policy on disruptive behaviour in class – this is on the rise across the city. Laura and Hilary explained that the approach is different for every situation and made the following points:

- Each class drafts a charter at the start of the school year, covering how the class should operate.
- Golden time is an incentive to behave well in class.
- There are PSAs in most classes to assist the teacher.
- All staff are trained in de-escalation strategies.
- Options include sending the child to a peer classroom, to spend time with Laura or Hilary or to work at an individual workstation. The child may have a ticket to absent themselves to a safe space.
- There are various reward systems in place, including class, playground and dinner hall points.
- The children can discuss classroom behaviour at circle time and the resilience programme can offer tools to help them to self-regulate disruptive behaviour.
- The golden time slips (used when children have time deducted) have recently been redesigned to incorporate the school values. These should be signed by parents and returned to the school.
- If the disruptive behaviour continues parents will be asked to a meeting with Laura or Hilary to discuss.
- Any parent concerned about disruptive behaviour at school should contact the teacher or Miss Herbert, followed by Laura or Hilary if the situation persists.

10) Councillors’ update – There is a review underway of schools in South West Edinburgh.

Ellie is involved in the year of the young person which launched last week. She would like to meet with our young ambassador – Oliver Lamb.

Chas mentioned that the funding exercise – ‘Leith chooses’ will take place this year on 3 March in the Kirkgate Centre. We passed a flyer to the PTA in case they want to apply for any funding.

11) Committee update – Leith, Harbour and Newhaven Community Council may have to review their support for the Xmas Tree Lighting in future due to rising costs. They will keep us updated.

12) AOB

Sam asked if we could consider a crossing patrol outside Sasso. Chas will look into the process for requesting this..

Action – Chas.

Next meeting date: 21 March 2018

Time: 19:00

Venue - PC Room