

**Echline Parent Association
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 7 November 2023 6.45 - 8.15pm
Meeting held at Echline Primary School (and by Teams)**

Present:

In person:	By Teams:
Charlotte Davie (Chair) (CD)	Richard Oakley
Jana Reuter (Vice-Chair) (JR)	Rachel Cairns
Libby Hulme (Treasurer) (LH)	Rania Serifi
Jude Moir (Head Teacher) (JM)	Melissa Fish
Lauren Scott (Secretary)	Katie McRae
Simon Bergenroth	Amy Ure
Julie Fraser	
David Flint	

Apologies: Rachel Goater; Stacy Taylor; Ali Walker

Discussion	Action
<p>1. Welcome – Charlotte welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting</p> <p>a. Minutes of meeting on 21 September 2023 were approved.</p> <p>b. Actions from previous meeting:-</p> <p>i. To follow up on ‘missing’ Council funding – in progress; expect to receive before the end of the year.</p> <p>ii. To pull together survey for parents/carers to seek their views on what they want from EPA – delayed because of other discussions with school on comms strategy (JM working on how to engage with wide pool of parents/carers in meaningful and inclusive way). Agreed to combine EPA survey with schools comms survey/discussion. CD to plan with JM. Progress Jan/Feb. (Side note - Head Teacher updates are not being received by all as ending up in spam folders. JF recommended JM put some text in the body of his emails, rather than only a link, and this may help.)</p> <p>iii. EPA to send out email to gauge interest in the setting up of a sub-group to draft response to catchment change consultation – email sent but no responses received. Discussed lack of response. Could be that changes may not affect current children at school too much. Also aware some individuals submitted their own responses.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>CD/JM</p> <p>N/A</p>

<p>iv. Panto – Mr Moir to discuss with Pupil Council and some parents/carers to gauge thoughts. JM confirmed he did consult with children, parents and carers and staff. Conclusion reached was that it would not be possible to arrange a trip to the panto this year, or to arrange for a company to come into the school to perform. This is for a number of reasons – cost, inclusiveness, resourcing etc. Having said that, JM is keen to consider theatrical experience as part of wider curriculum experience/bigger conversation (doesn't want to be tokenistic). Scottish Opera, Ed Fringe, Uni drama groups, Forth Dimensions all mentioned as organisations who may be able to assist. Agreed to start discussion again in summer term.</p>	<p>JM/CD</p>
<p>v. Mobile phone pact - EPA to send out email to gauge interest in the setting up of a sub-group to consider further and report to next EPA. Email sent, a couple of people indicated an interest. Graeme Keir (GK) leading. Meeting arranged 24 November and will report back to next EPA meeting. Let us know if anyone else wants to be involved.</p>	<p>GK</p>
<p>vi. Musical instrument tuition – JM to escalate. Position has changed recently. Did have temporary woodwind teacher, but now permanent teacher is back (note, these are not staff employed by the school so JM has no direct management). JM made point that can't ever guarantee children can continue with tuition when reach High School. JM had discussion with teacher about whether children could pay for their own instrument and then receive tuition. Council's position is that families should not pay for their own instruments, and that the service is offered through assessments. So, what more can we do? Woodwind teacher does have more capacity to take on more pupils, but need more instruments. Agreed EPA may be able to help. JM to speak to teacher to find out how much capacity there is, and what instruments are needed. EPA can then consider making contribution towards cost. Also discussion about demystifying the assessment process (recent violin assessment used as example). Agreed details would be added to termly newsletters.</p>	<p>JM</p>
<p>vii. P6 buddies – Mr Moir to update post P1/6 teachers' meeting – buddy system has now been implemented, much to the delight of the children. How can this be expanded (particularly for children who are transitioning into the school)? Agreed Miss Conway (GC) to explore setting up for current nursery children.</p>	<p>GC</p>

3. Chair's report

- a. Much of what Charlotte intended to mention has been/will be dealt with elsewhere during this meeting.
- b. **Halloween party** – big thanks to all who helped make the two discos such a success! The children all enjoyed them. DJ was great. (Note for future years – some children found the music too loud, and the quiet areas were perhaps not that quiet.)
- c. **Xmas jumpers** - plan is to have Xmas jumper swap on Friday 24 November (to be held in playground, or inside if weather bad). In run up, children are encouraged to donate their outgrown, clean and in good condition Xmas jumpers (take to office, or teachers can collect). On 24 November, come along and grab a replacement jumper. No cost, any donations to EPA welcome. School to send email and EPA to post info on Facebook group. If any left after the event, perhaps Ferry Elves would gratefully receive.

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Libby explained that for year end accounts, she is still waiting for some receipts from the School. Have till April to file, so no concerns.
- a. As at 1/11/23 balance was £8213. Some commitments still to go out e.g. £100 per class previously agreed and Little Parlour has still to send invoice for P7 end of year ice cream. Also need to buy nursery/P1 Xmas gifts and prize for festive colouring competition. Left with £6072 before income from Halloween discos (small profit after costs), Xmas cards, raffle and Quiz night takings.

5. Head Teacher's Report

- a. **Teaching and learning** – JM and staff have spent a lot of time considering how to achieve the highest quality of teaching and learning. Classes have been discussing what makes a really good lesson. JM was impressed by the childrens' considered responses. Also to take into account latest research and feedback from inspection. Aim is to develop a new policy which will be shared with parents and carers. Skills based approach is also part of this plan – teaching the children why skills are so important. New values characters will also feed into this, as will connections with local community and businesses.
- b. **'Leading the learning'** – JM keen for the children to have more of a voice, and consider how the school can build in more opportunities for this. Implemented examples include Language Leaders, being a Rights Respecting School, the Eco-Committee, House Captains (their first project is to help

<p>the Ferry Elves). In relation to the Pupil Council, JM thinks everyone should be able to play a part in this.</p> <p>c. Education Scotland is reviewing the consultation on the proposed school catchment changes and the building of the new Kirkliston High School (exclusively in the context of the educational implications of the changes). They would like to meet with children, staff and parents/carers on 16 November to discuss. They are looking to speak with 6 or so parents/carers. Agreed School to send out an email with the details, and EPA will promote.</p> <p>d. JM expressed his thanks to those who helped organise the Halloween discos.</p> <p>6. Fundraising Update</p> <p>a. Quiz Night - planned for 1 December. Further details to come out soon.</p> <p>b. Raffle – this year, being held on a smaller scale. To be held and drawn on Quiz Night. Still looking for prizes. Please hand any into the School office.</p> <p>c. Family ceilidh – to be pushed into later next year.</p> <p>d. Festive events – Xmas cards, colouring competition etc all in hand.</p> <p>7. Items Raised/AOB</p> <p>a. EPA constitution - some time since it was last reviewed/updated. Think there are areas where it could be improved. Hope to update. If anyone else would like to help with this, please let us know.</p> <p>b. Grounds maintenance</p> <p>i. Bushes down at nursery – overgrown. Council difficult to pin down. CD/JM to explore solution. [Post-meeting – a parent has already kindly cut the bushes back down at the nursery – thanks!]</p> <p>ii. Uneven ground outside office – query whether anything came of risk assessment. JM advised slabs have been recorded (for some time) as something which needs resolved. JM not able to advise if/when anything will happen with this. Parents/carers may wish to contact the Council directly on this.</p> <p>c. Community Council thoughts on catchment changes – David Flint of QDCC explained that it did submit a response to the consultation. They are ‘really concerned’ about the proposals. There is a concern that children will not be able to get to School safely (whatever the catchment changes</p>	<p>JM/CD - Done</p> <p>CD</p>
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<p>are). See extract of QDCC discussion overleaf. Discussion about signalised crossing in Scotstoun. David indicated QDCC happy to take up those specific concerns.</p> <p>d. Echline Community Woodland – David explained the land was donated by Miller Homes. QDCC was given responsibility for maintenance. There is only a small band of volunteers helping maintain the woodland. There was a maintenance session last Saturday but only a handful of people turned up. Woodland is maturing and so becoming harder to maintain (may need to engage contractor). Next clean up session planned for Spring. How can more support be drummed up? Suggested QDCC make contact with School/EPA nearer the time and we will share details in hope members of school community will step up to help.</p> <p>e. Ferry Fridge – Charlotte explained this is launching on 18 November at Queensferry Parish Church. Food will be donated from Tescos, Scotmid, Fairshare etc. Fridge will be open when the café is open and also when there are other events/classes being held.</p> <p>8. Date of next meeting</p> <p>18 January 2024 (this will be in person and over Teams) subject to checking there is no clash with High School events.</p>	
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ACTION LIST

07.11.23	Initials	Action	Date
1.	JM	To follow up on 'missing' Council funding – in progress; expect to receive before the end of the year.	End 2023
2.	CD/JM	To pull together survey for parents/carers to seek their views on what they want from EPA	Jan/Feb 2024
3.	CD/JM	Engage with School to discuss theatrical experiences (see Panto discussion)	Spring 2024
4.	GK	Mobile phone pact update - Graeme Keir to report back at next meeting.	Jan 2024
5.	JM	Musical instruments - JM to speak to woodwind teacher to find out how much capacity there is, and what instruments are needed.	End Nov 2023
6.	GC	Miss Conway to explore setting up buddies for current nursery children.	End Dec 2023
7.	CD	Explore updating EPA constitution	Spring 2024

Extract of recent QDCC meeting re catchment changes

“After our discussions on Monday evening I agreed to put a few words together to submit to CEC on behalf of QDCC.

Please note this is on behalf of the collective Community Council and does not in anyway represent the views of the wider community.

Response to Builyeon Road Primary School Catchment Area

On behalf of QDCC we have considered both options and feel that neither are suitable proposals.

Option 1 will split up the South Scotstoun Development which goes against the principle of integrating new developments into the existing community as well as leading to an even more complicated situation which potentially isolates residents of social housing within the development even more.

We firmly believe that despite the intentions of CEC to mitigate road safety concerns as outlined in the LDP the proposal to ask children from Scotstoun West to travel along Ferrymuir Road and cross Echline Junction is simply unacceptable.

We have similar concerns relating to the relocation of young people from Ferrymuir to the new Builyeon Road Primary School.

Option 2 is again not fit for purpose for similar reasons and whilst some mitigation is already in place for families in the Ferrymuir Gait development, road safety remains the major concern.

Overall we believe Option 2 is the lesser of two evils but feel a hybrid version of Option 2 should be explored further by looking again at the position and numbers for Queensferry Primary School.

Response to Kirkliston High School Proposals

On behalf of QDCC we have considered both options and feel that neither are suitable proposals.

We firmly believe that CEC have backed themselves into a corner on this proposal to the point that a solution must be found in the short term.

The Community Council is of the opinion that the solution to the current situation is to build a new High School in Kirkliston however recognise that the results of earlier consultations indicate a rejection of the proposed site by local residents. We believe an alternative site should be vigorously explored.

However, we also feel that the proposal to extend Queensferry High School is unsustainable and against the wishes of Queensferry residents who have to this point expressed an opinion and as such QDCC reject this as a viable alternative.”