

**Blackhall Primary School Parent Carer Council**  
**Meeting – 8 May 2024**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present**

Willie Malcolm	P1 rep		
		Kate Walker	Secretary
Chloe Riddell	P3 rep (from item 3)	Jane Browning	Chair
Emily Orr	P4 rep		
Caroline Irvine	P6 rep		
Tashya Abhay	ASN Rep		

**Other Attendees**

Kirsty Martin	Head Teacher	Barbara Gabmayer	Class Teacher
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**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Julia Pearson, Sine Munro, Linda Rennie, Ian Cameron, Colin Chisholm and from Councillors Hal Osler and Max Mitchell.

**2. Approval of minutes and action points from last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 21 February 2024 were approved. Action point on renaming the Parent Carer Council was noted as closed. Action point on cycle of meetings for 2024/5 was covered under item 6 below. Action points on materials for care-experienced families and on the travel plan were carried over to the AGM.

**3. Head Teacher Report**

The presentation is available on the school website. The following points provide additional information to the slides.

*Resourcing*

The school has some current vacancies/staff on career break; however there are no permanent vacancies at the school. Mrs Middlemiss is due back in August. The school roll is falling. The situation with PSA staff is in flux.

*Classes*

Classes will be mixed again for the 2024/5 school year. Class groups and teachers will be known in June. The school is hopeful that they will be able to run 15 classes next year (which would include a P2/1 composite) but the Head Teacher reminded everyone that the school roll and therefore class composition can change up until September.

### *Upcoming Events*

Per slides. The children will not go to the Royal Highland Show this year; it is intended that P2-6 will go every other year.

### *Parking*

The police had been out to the school a couple of times which was helpful; however it is not realistic for them to come out regularly. The Pupil Council is looking to organise a walking bus to demonstrate that walking to school (or from a same drop off point) can be an option. P5 parents/carers had suggested a Road Safety Audit similar to what is being run at Cramond Primary – the Chair undertook to find out more about this.

**ACTION: Chair** to contact Cramond Primary PCC to find out more.

### *Sports Day*

Some parents/carers had suggested splitting Sports Day over two days (one for P1-3 and one for P4-7). This would not be done for 2024. There was discussion that this may be more inconvenient for parents/carers with children in different year groups; however the Head Teacher was open to views. It was agreed that providing a map of the Sports Day field/rotations would help parents/carers to navigate trying to watch multiple children on the same day.

### *Pupil Reports*

These were underway and would be emailed out to parents/carers with a separate link for providing feedback. Parents/carers were reminded not to reply directly to teachers. Feedback from last year about the format of the pupil reports has been taken on board in preparing ones for this year.

### *Bikeability*

This school usually runs this for P6/7 pupils via Cycling Scotland; however it requires trained people to deliver it. Parents/carers can undertake training (the course runs on a Friday afternoon). Each group of 6 pupils needs one trained person; the school can help to co-ordinate rotas for this if they have enough volunteers.

**ACTION: Year reps** to see if any parents/carers would be willing to do the training for this.

### *School grounds*

Part of the Wonder Woods has been cordoned off due to being unsafe and quotes to repair are costly. The pond area/sensory garden is still useable.

### *Playing Field*

A Just Giving page has been set up to contribute towards the costs of upgrading two parts of the playing field, with donations at approximately £2,300 at the time of the meeting. Grant applications have also been made to various organisations including Tesco and Blackhall Children's Sports Committee – decisions are awaited. There was the possibility of a Sports Scotland grant.

It looked likely that we would be able to upgrade at least one area of the field, hopefully before next term. The local MSP had been written to about the current state of the field. It was also noted that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 would be coming into force in July 2024, and that may give scope for writing to the City Council in terms of the right to play under Article 31 of the Convention. It was agreed that the Parent Carer Council and PSA should write joint letters highlighting the issue of the field to local councillors, and the City Council.

**ACTION: PCC/PSA** to write letters to local Councillors and Edinburgh City Council (P3 rep can help with the wording)

**ACTION: Year reps** to remind parents/carers of Just Giving page for any who wish to contribute to this.

#### *Attainment Data*

There are some figures within the data that need to be tackled and the Head Teacher will be working with class teachers on this.

#### *Budgets*

The financial position for the year ahead is looking challenging. The Finance Committee is meeting on 14 May. Procurement is always a challenge for the school in purchasing items as they have to go through agreed suppliers who may be considerably more expensive than for example Amazon.

### **4. Playing Field**

This was covered under item 3.

### **5. Updates from year reps (on items not already covered above)**

#### *Lunch time*

There are two sittings at lunch time, meaning that some children need to be called in from the playground. Some children may delay in doing this and some may say they have already eaten a packed lunch. The school would make efforts to ensure that all children were having lunch; however it was generally hard to police this for every child.

#### *P3P Consultations*

Dates and times would be issued this week.

#### *P3 Reading Books*

There had been a suggestion from some parents of paying to supplement the current collection, which was a bit tired/out of date. The school would prefer that they supply these and will look into purchasing them with some available funds.

### **6. Council membership and cycle of meetings for 2024/5**

Year reps should have a think about whether they wish to stay on for next year – members would be elected at the AGM in June. It was agreed that the cycle of PCC meetings this year “missed” the

Edinburgh City Council budget process. Next year meetings will take place in September, November, January and April (with AGM in June) – the January meeting should catch the budget process.

**ACTION: Year reps** to consider if they can stay on the PCC for next year and let the Chair/Secretary know.

## **7. AOB**

The Chair asked if anyone has suggestions as to topics of whole school interest that should be covered at the AGM.

**ACTION: Year reps** to consider/ask if anyone has suggestions for these.

**Dates of next meeting:** AGM Thursday 13 June 2024 (TBC)