



Flora Stevenson Primary School Parent Council

Wednesday the 7th of February 2024
6.45 pm – 7.45 pm, in person.
25 people in attendance

Website: [FLORA STEVENSON PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL](https://www.florastevensonpc.com)

Contact: florastevensonpc@gmail.com

Easy ways to raise funds for the school:

1. **Easyfundraising:** Easyfundraising partners with over 7,500 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.
2. **Stikins:** Buy Stick On School Name Labels For Clothes & All Personal Items. Use Code: 7394 and school receives a donation.

Parent Council: Areti Chavale (Co-Chair), Catherine Steven (Co-Chair), Ruth Prowser (Club & Event Co-ordinator), Fiona Kelly (Treasurer), Julie Addington (Secretary), Brandy Frazier (Events), Vikas Garg (Club Coordinator). 7

Parents: Elaine Elcock (P1A & P3A), Vitalija Vitality (P1C & P6B), Caroline McIntyre (P4B & P7A), Jenna Podilchak (Nursery, P2A & P5A), Billy Hynes (P1A), Sue Atkinson (P6A), Lorna Thompson (P5A&P6A), Jane Houston (P1A&P3A), Mike Callaghan (P3C), Caroline Dodds (P3C), Kate Ostrander (P3B), Willa Lynn, Colin McGill (P1C & P2A) and Diane (P6A). **(14 parents, every year group represented.)**

Staff: Susie Morgan (Acting Head Teacher), Eleanor Dickson (Depute Head Teacher), Mark Aitchison (Acting Depute Head Teacher) 3

Councillor Max Mitchell 1

Apologies: Councillor Hal Osler, Ryan McGill - Active Schools Co-ordinator, Chris Thompson, Chair of FSASC.

Minutes from previous meeting: Approved by Areti Chavale.

[Parent council meeting slides - Google Slides](#)

Ref.	Item	Action required
1.0	<p>Head Teacher Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It has been a busy few weeks in school; the Scots' celebration has been a big focus. - Library reopening: <i>This is an excellent example of the Parent Council working with the school to effect meaningful change.</i> The school now has a beautiful library full of books and a system for checking them out. This links to an item in the School Improvement Plan, 'Encourage children to get a lifelong love of reading.' The benefits of reading for children, even for a short time each day, are varied and life-changing. You can read more here. - The school has achieved UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools - Silver. Mr Atchison led this and was a big part of the school's work last Monday. It is granted by UNICEF UK to schools that show good progress towards embedding children's rights in the school's policy, practice and ethos. - P7 experienced 'Scottish Opera', a wonderful experience with much joy shown by pupils. The Parent Council funded this and showed how we can work together to elevate pupils' life experiences. 	<p>House Coffee Morning feedback (office.com)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School has been hosting ‘House Coffee Mornings’, this is an exercise in ‘Parental Engagement’, which is part of the school improvement plan. Social time was built in for parents to chat with one another. The Parent Council has supported this. The school would appreciate feedback on these events: House Coffee Morning feedback (office.com) - The School Senior Leadership Team have had attainment meetings with each teacher to determine how each child is progressing. - There will be a learning community thematic inclusion review on Monday 26th Feb; looking at the four pillars of inclusions: strengths, challenges and next steps. - The school has a new behaviour policy, ‘Relationships, Learning & Behaviour Procedure.’ You can view it here. This was updated in January 2024, and staff are working together to Flora’s values: Ready, Respectful, and Safe. The intention is for all staff at Flora to have a common language around expected behaviour, which goes hand in hand with us being a ‘Rights Respecting School’. - There are flowcharts for staff to use when behaviour does not go to plan, which includes sanctions, etc. - The school have been using Bonos thinking hats as a review technique with children: Six thinking hats technique. 	
2.0	<p>Current Parent Council Projects: (see slides for images).</p> <p>NOTE: This is how the money raised by the Parent Council translates from a Bake Sale to the Christmas fair; it all helps. For example, buying a cake = a book for the library.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Playground re-development project: The re-development progress is slow because we must work with the council, get permission, authorise funds and make and place each new feature. The Parent Council will continue to work on the playground. - A Tree Guard (see images in slides). - Library update: Brandy Frazier has led this project and describes it as joyful. The library is making kids more excited about reading. Thanks to all involved. - Murals: Designed by PSA’s Ms Pearson and Ms Phillips (both artists). One will be down by the side of the after-school club, and the aim is to brighten up the side of the building. Another mural is planned for the side of the school that faces Orchard Brae, but it is more complicated because it will be ‘Street Facing’, so we are exploring how to gain permission. The theme will be ‘Flora Stevenson’. <p>Parent comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I appreciated the message about what the money is spent on – it makes it tangible and puts it into context. - Send a link to the minutes via class WhatsApp. Send links to various items via the WhatsApp groups, i.e. Clubs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Send a link to the minutes via class WhatsApp. Send links to various items via the WhatsApp groups, i.e. Clubs. - To volunteer in the library or donate books email: admin@florastevenson.edin.sch.uk
3.0	<p>Discussion around ‘Future Projects’:</p> <p>Option 1 – Develop a Science room.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Form a STEM / Science group of parents to help progress.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Science room next to 6C needs lots of equipment, including a tap. There is no sink. The vision is to create a STEM room. Find out more about STEM here. - There are no facilities for cooking in school, this room would need an oven, hob, fridge & freezer. In addition, much other equipment, for example, grater/chopper/storage etc. This room could enable the school to do more. <p>Option 2: Continue with the playground and do a big sandpit with a sitting area.</p> <p>Parent comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A previous sandpit was neglected; a new one would need a canopy and cover. It's a high-maintenance piece of kit. - The sandpit doesn't appeal to the whole of the school. - Can really see the added value of the science room for the whole school. - (Colin McGill) He knows various sources of funds available for the science room, and universities are always throwing science equipment away. - Kids love cooking, and it brings back fond memories. <p>Action: Form a STEM / Science group of parents to help progress. Appeal to parents via WhatsApp groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appeal to parents via WhatsApp groups. - (Colin McGill) He knows various sources of funds available for the science room, and universities are always throwing science equipment away.
4.0	Catherine Steven: Budget cuts have been proposed for schools. There is a petition that can be signed. Contact the Parent Council if you would like to discuss this further.	You can sign the petition here .
5.0	<p>Councillor Max Mitchell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There have been some proposed financial cuts to schools. They were proposed last month, but no agreement was reached. - The Council must cut 20 million. A Council Tax freeze has been suggested; if that goes ahead, the council will lose that money, too. - Regarding Finance House, a building in Orchard Brae, there has been a notice of application for student housing. There will be two public meetings about this on Thursday 29th February. For details, contact Max: Max.mitchell@edinburgh.gov.uk. 	
6.0	<p>Events Update: Ruth Prowser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The recent Bake Sale raised £300. - The biggest upcoming event is the 'Summer Fair' on 8th June. <i>We always want parents' ideas and input to make this a brilliant community event and fundraiser for the school. We always need volunteers.</i> - Parent comment: The Beanbag toss was very popular. - We need to raise money for a new Bike Shelter. We have a grant from Cycling Scotland and money from the school, but we have some more money to raise, and we are looking for money-raising ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We always want parents' ideas and input and always need volunteers. Any help is always very much appreciated. Fspcevents@gamil.com - Cycling Scotland and money from

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The biggest earners in the Parent Council's work are 1. Christmas Cards (organised by Brandy) and the Winter & Summer Fairs <p>Parent suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sponsored spelling - Scratch card. - Competitions: things that can hit the wider community to increase fundraising potential. - A keep fit or a park run. A 'sponsored something' with the sole aim that the funds raised go towards something specific. For example, the Bike Shelter. - We need more racks for parking scooters; if there were more racks, potentially more pupils would scoot to school. 	<p>the school, but we have some more money to raise, and we are looking for money-raising ideas.</p>
7.0	<p><u>Clubs: Vikas Garg, this is his first meeting in this role!</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are looking for more ideas for clubs and more help. Potentially a one-off sports day or club run by parents. - We need to raise the profile of what clubs are running. - <u>Clubs – FLORA STEVENSON PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL (wordpress.com)</u> 	<p>Please email the Parent Council with any ideas.</p> <p>We need to raise the profile of what clubs are running.</p>
8.0	<p><u>Treasurers Report – Fiona Kelly</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The bank balance was £16,498 as of 01 February 2024. Since the last meeting we have raised £1,665 from the Winter Fair, £1,952 from the Christmas Cards, £300 from the Bake Sale and approximately £160 from the Ceilidh. - We have paid for the football kits, prefect bibs, loose parts and the ice dragon show totalling £3,149. - We have also paid for £379 out of the £500 agreed for the upgrading of the library furniture. - In addition to this, our annual payment from Edinburgh Council of £809 has been received. <p>*The price of the prefect bibs had increased by £176.60 over the expected price. This has been paid, but needs to be formally approved at this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The funding requests for library software** (£499.99), chess tournament entries (£150), tree guard for playground (~£2,000), P1 Outdoor Learning equipment (£1,065), Laptops (£2,920), Clarinets (£700), Christmas Party food (£705), - Generation Science events (£3,360) and the new sound system (£337) have all yet to be invoiced, totalling £11,858. <p>**An additional £466 is required for the library installation as the costs were higher than originally anticipated in the funding request.</p> <p>Taking this into account, this brings the balance available to approximately £5,000 to support any further funding requests.</p> <p>Parent question: What is Generations Science? A: People come into the school and deliver Science workshops. Every class will have a science</p>	

	workshop. Every class will have a STEM intervention between February and Easter this year.	
9.0	<p>Funding Requests: Full details can be seen in the PDF here: FLORA STEVENSON PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL (wordpress.com)</p> <p>£176 additional for prefect bibs (already purchased). £466 additional for library system installation (already purchased). £200 for poster frames for school corridor and classroom walls. £400 for wooden planters for the playground. £100 per month for library books to keep providing new books. £250 for new rubbish bin for playground to replace broken one. (Head Teacher Comment, this will be part of a sustainability focus and P4's will lead on this.) £650 for new Netballs and Netball jerseys £1,420 for indoor athletics equipment (javelin, triple jump, hurdles).</p> <p>Parent question: Why is the netball kit so expensive? Regarding the netball kit/balls - the kit is branded from the borders and is for 20 tops with our logo. Both these and the cost of the balls have been listed as the maximum, but the teacher expects the actual costs to be lower. He is waiting on a confirmed quote, so he thought it was better to ask for more than having to adjust the quote and ask for more to be approved.</p>	
10.1	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is an ASN subgroup, if anyone would like to be involved please email florastevensonpc@gmail.com - Amend the process for reaching out to new families who join the school. The school will add details about the class on the WhatsApp group in their welcome pack and add something about the Parent Council. <p>Help Needed:</p> <p>Playground planters: We need volunteers to help build the planters. Billy Hynes volunteered.</p> <p>Billy also suggested we could do some kind of skills matrix around the skills and expertise we have amongst parents in our school community.</p> <p><i>The Parent Council would like to involve as many parents as possible, which can be as much or as little as you have to offer. We know we have an incredible collective skill set so we are keen to tap into that, even ideas and suggestions are incredibly helpful.</i></p> <p>Action - IDEAS: looking to parents for that – you can reach us via email or Class Reps.</p>	<p>Amend the process for reaching out to new families who join the school.</p> <p>Any parents with ideas or skills to share email the Parent Council: florastevensonpc@gmail.com</p> <p>Julie – consider how we pull together a skills matrix.</p>