

Coulter and Lamington Primary Schools- Parent Council Meeting – 05.10.23- Minute

- Present: Jill Kennedy (Head Teacher); Anita Baskerville (parent council member); Fiona Thomas (Secretary); Louisa Ross-Taylor (parent council member)
- Jill provided update regarding the withdrawal of council funding for rural transport. Coulter Primary will need to fund the cost of any bus transport for any activities outwith the school and this will incur a minimum cost of £100 per journey. There is therefore a fairly urgent need to raise funds to support such activities. Lamington Primary is less affected by this change in funding due to having a sum bequeathed to the school specifically for rural transport.
- Grants and Fundraising-
 1. Playground/ outdoor space improvements. It was noted that other local primary schools have benefitted from substantial funding to improve their playground/ outdoor space. It was suggested that funding could be sought for Lamington PS to improve outdoor space/buy some play equipment to be used in the woods behind school. Permission would need to be sought from landowner.
Action: Anita to find out who this is and discuss potential proposal with them. For Coulter Primary, it was suggested that funding could be sought for playground improvements. Or alternatively, a joint funding with local Coulter community to improve play park near the school.
Actions: Jill make contact with Libberton/ Tinto PS to find out who put in funding bids and see if we can get some advice.
Action: Ask Coulter and Lamington Primary Parents for support with submitting funding applications.

2. Christmas and Halloween – Jill has been successful in getting of £500 to cover Christmas trip for both schools to New Lanark- winter wonderland. Michael Russell, has or will be submitting funding request for Halloween party. **Action: Anita to check progress on this**

3. Gala Day and Trailer- It has been suggested that the trailer which was purchased by Coulter parent council a few years ago (using wind farm monies) could be sold to raise funds. It may be worth £3-4K and the sale could help significantly with the cost of transport. It is recognised that this is not ideal as it could impact on gala float participation however we could opt for a walking float instead (which was done in years prior to having the trailer). Or if fortunate enough to sell locally, perhaps negotiate borrowing it back for gala day once per year. It was acknowledged we do not know what the interest would be in putting on a Coulter/Lamington PS float again in 2024. We would need interest from a good number of parents/families in order to make it viable.

Action: Send out survey to gauge who would want to be involved in Gala day float for 2024.

Action: Poll parents/ families of Coulter PS on whether to sell the trailer or keep it, noting it's potential value and current difficult financial situation with respect to transport.

4. Late Night shopping Xmas Fundraiser: it was proposed to hold a fundraiser at the late night shopping event in biggar on 24.11.23. Proposal is to secure a table/stall somewhere (eg Gillespie Centre) and to hold a tombola and sell some crafts/ festive treats made by the kids. Ideas suggested were hot chocolate packs, hand sewn felt Xmas decorations (could the sewing ladies help with this?). Agreed we need ideas that are low cost, simple but also something people would want to buy! We would also need a rota of helpers on the evening to each take a turn at running the stall.

5. Coulter Primary School requires new signatories on Parent Council account. There are no existing signatories with pupils still in

school. New signatories will be Fiona Thomas, Louisa Ross Taylor and Jill Kennedy

Action: Fiona to find out if we can secure a table/ stall

Action: Jill to arrange a request sent out to parents to start sending on tombola prizes (general and kids specific)

Action: Fiona/ Elen/ Anita and anyone else to suggest 2 or 3 ideas for Xmas crafts and to arrange some Friday afternoon sessions to make these.

Action: Jill to arrange signatories on Parent Council bank account.

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