

20 May 2008

To: All Parent Councils, PTAs and PSAs in West Lothian

Subject: Parental Network Questionnaire

Please find attached the results from the recent questionnaire. I would like to thank you for your participation and the results and analysis will be presented at the meeting in Broxburn Academy on Tuesday 27 May 2008.

There are some very clear messages in the results and I am convinced that together we will be able to make good progress at the meeting and in the weeks to follow.

At the meeting, I will pose some questions to the attendees on specific issues e.g. what items would they want on future agendas, what (if any) papers would they like in advance of a meeting and after a meeting, etc. We need to become more specific in our aims for these meetings so that people feel that they are getting good value by attending. We also need to ensure as parents we feel that we can have influence and make a difference in the most significant areas of education policy and practice and not just be involved at the tail end of a consultation exercise.

I hope that you will be able to attend or send someone else to participate on behalf of your school.

Thank you

David Mitchell

PARENT NETWORK QUESTIONNAIRE

- Q1. Does your school support the concept of some form of West Lothian schools parent network?
- 1 Yes – 21 No – 0 Unsure -
- Q2. Should parents organise the parent representative meetings normally run by West Lothian Council?
- 3 Yes – 7 No – 12 Unsure -
- Q3. How should future meetings be organised?
- a) Separate meetings for primary and secondary? 5
- b) Joint meetings of primary and secondary? 6
- c) Decide format based on agenda items? 11
- Q4. What should meetings include?
- a) Information exchange? 22
- b) Policy presentations? 20
- c) Q&A session with senior staff? 22
- d) Workshops? 16
- e) Other
- Talks from other relevant agencies
- Best practice presentations from other Parent Councils and West Lothian education officials
- Tea and Biscuits

Q5. How frequently should meetings be held?	1 per term – 14	2 per term – 5
	(+3 – as required)	
Q6. What time should future meetings start? 1	7pm - 18	7.30pm - 3 8pm -
Q7. Should West Lothian Council provide administrative support and venues for meetings?	Yes - 22	No - 0
Q8. Does your school believe that working on an ad hoc basis with other local schools could be valuable? Example: All feeder primaries to Broxburn Academy	Yes - 22	No - 0
Q9. Is there a need for a strong national parent organisation to:	Yes – 20	No - 2
a) Represent parent views to government?	13	
b) Provide practical support to schools?	14	
c) Provide insurance cover?	11	
Q10. If a national parent organisation exists how would West Lothian parents interact with it?		
a) Not at all?	1	
b) As required / ad hoc?	13	
c) Via an elected WL representative?	9	