

Participatory Budgeting – Update for Hamilton Area Committee May 2024

Service Area	Education	Lead Officer	Maureen Farr
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Stage 1 : Pre Consultation:

- What are we asking the public for their view on (what service is it / description etc)?
- How much funding are we asking about?
- Who are we asking,
- How are we doing this ?
- When are we doing this ?
- When will we report back ?

Progress update since last Area Committee

Case Study

Following the consultation and voting process as reported at the last Area Committee, schools have progressed with their spend, to ensure the minimum 5% is spent in full by the end of March 2024.

We are pleased to share Neilsland Primary School's participatory budgeting work as an example of good practice (Appendix 1) within the Hamilton area. This case study illustrates the school's PB journey this session. Neilsland Primary is a school committed to Equity and reducing the Cost of the School Day and have embraced the Participatory Budgeting (PB) process as a way of enhancing both. They are very clear in the knowledge that having a school where pupils feel safe, welcome and happy means that attendance and, therefore, attainment will be high. Their results this session bear this out.

The choices gathered from their PB Group and put out to vote were:-

1. purchase of 5 chrome books
2. stationery Stations for each classroom
3. all of the above

The overwhelming choice from the vote was choice 3 – to get the chrome books *and* the Stationery Stations and their fund of £3,430 enabled them to do that.

Through the results of their PB work, Neilsland Primary aimed to increase engagement levels of targeted pupils and increase their punctuality and attendance. As can be seen in the information below, they have experienced success in these ambitious aims and should be commended especially as the school is in an area of high deprivation where almost all classes have a majority of children from SIMD 1 and 2 and/or entitled to free school meals.

Results of Engagement Levels of targeted pupils (February 2024)

93.6% of targeted pupils score 4 or more in relation to the Leuven Scale of Engagement for Reading. **(4.2% increase from June 2023)**

90.4% of targeted pupils score 4 or more in relation to the Leuven Scale of Engagement for Writing. **(1.0% increase from June 2023)**

94.2% of targeted pupils score 4 or more in relation to the Leuven Scale of Engagement for Numeracy. **(4.8% increase from June 2023)**

Punctuality

The number of children late for school has decreased gradually from **13%** in February 2023 to **9%** in February 2024 **(decrease 4%)**

Attendance

	2022-2023	2023-2024	+/-
August	96.88%	98.22%	increase 1.34%
September	93.52%	92.55%	decrease 0.97%
October	92.14%	92.95%	increase 0.81%
November	93.02%	93.89%	increase 0.87%
December	89.34%	90.94%	increase 1.6%
January	92.58%	91.97%	decrease 0.61%
February	92.99%	93.35%	increase 0.36%
March	93.47%	94.06%	increase 0.59%

Next Steps

PB is now fully embedded in SLC schools through the Pupil Equity Funding (PEF). Schools continue to allocate a minimum of 5% of their Pupil Equity Funding to be subject to PB year on year.

Optional PB training is planned for August for schools who have new PB Leads or need a refresh.

Stage 2 : Post Consultation

- The outcome of the PB activity
- What happens next ?
- Further reporting requirements (eg required Committee approval)

Following the voting, Education Resources will provide Area Committees with the following:-

- Summary Report of each school's PB outcome (available late October/early November 2024) and Local Authority and Area analysis report of this
- Case studies of school activity, which has had particular impact/success (ongoing throughout the year)

Education Resources will continue to support schools with implementation of this and monitor and track the impact of this activity. Findings will inform any future PB activity within Education Resources.

Regular PB Updates and the highlighting of good practice will be communicated to schools via the Equity Hub and through our @SLCEquity Twitter handle.

