

# MERKLAND SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018

### **Present:**

Kay Hunter – Head Teacher  
Stewart Cochrane – Teacher  
Cllr Jamieson  
Cllr Low  
Alison Lyden – Parent  
Ellis Ates – Parent  
Jillian Bruce - Clerk

### **Apologies:**

Cllr Jim Gibbons  
Evelyn Cairney  
Susanna Rhead  
Cllr Sandra Thornton

### **1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Previous Minutes Approved.

### **2. Matters Arising**

Kay Hunter opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

### **3. Head Teacher's Report**

Kay advised the meeting that Evelyn Cairney has stepped down as Chairperson and thanked her for the work she has done for Merkland Parent Council. There is now a vacancy and a letter will be sent out to all parents advising of this, also a note will be added to the school website.

Kay Hunter informed everyone that posts for four SLA's have now been filled. The PE post has not yet been filled and this will be re advertised on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Stewart Cochrane asked, if there was only one applicant applying for the PE job, as this was the second time round for the advert and if the applicant could fulfil all the relevant criteria could this go to interview? Kay confirmed that if this was the case this would go to interview.

Primary Depart now all located in main building.

Two teachers left over the summer. Merkland currently has 109 pupils in total. Six new pupils joined the Primary Dept. We have one Secondary class at St Ninian's on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We have two Primary classes at Gartconner on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Three Secondary pupils access PE, Digital Admin & IT for different periods throughout the week at St Ninian's.

Kay Hunter updated that the PEF (Pupil Equity Fund) money will be used to upgrade the IT Room. This will provide better facilities for the pupils to access IT.

PEF money had been used for Literacy resources and up and running now. All books have been banded Primary 1 to 3<sup>rd</sup> Year. Pupils will be assessed on baseline literacy skills.

Cllr Jamieson asked if we assess our Primary 1 pupils and Kay replied that Primary 4, Primary 7 and S3 pupils are all assessed on single word spelling and comprehension.

Kay Hunter updated the meeting about different events which have taken place recently and plans for future trips.

- Primary Summer Service was a success
- Secondary Assembly was terrific and awards given out to every pupil.
- The Gala Stall raised a lot of money for the school. This was a very sunny day and quite challenging as we had the Chocolate Stall. Merkland had two Gala Champions and the girls thoroughly enjoyed their day.
- The Showcase afternoon was enjoyable with 60% turnout from parents/community.
- The Business Breakfast was lucrative with Business Partnerships developing from this. Five pupils will do their work experience with Advance. These pupils will benefit from learning about first aid, business and laying mono block paths. This may also lead to the pupils going from school straight into the workplace.
- Last term some pupils worked towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- 17 Pupils went to PGL Dalguise.
- Trips will continue this year starting with a group going to Millport.
- We are planning a trip to Auchengillan for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Year.
- Ski Trip to Italy in December and we hope to have a trip in May for our Senior Phase.

#### **4. New Build**

There is no update on the new build. We had a visit from Scottish Government, checking processes are being followed. We are just waiting to hear of the next steps.

Alison Lyden asked when the consultation will be over. Kay advised in September. Cllr Low stated that a report would go to the council in November.

Kay Hunter intimated that there has been a good response from pupils and parents. Children are engaged with discussions and giving positive ideas.

Discussion took place around the table about the new build.

#### **7. A.O.B**

Kay Hunter informed the meeting that at the next Parent Council Meeting she will have a list of all the PEF (Pupil Equity Fund) spending.

#### **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018 6pm