

MERKLAND SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th March 2018

Present:

Kay Hunter – Head Teacher
Stewart Cochrane – Teacher
Evelyn Cairney – Chair
Gillian Wright – Parent
Mary Canavan – Vice Chair
Karen Taggart – Treasurer
Karen Russell - Parent
Cllr S Murray
Cllr G Low
Cllr J Jamieson
Jillian Bruce - Clerk

Apologies:

Provost Alan Brown
Cllr M Fisher
Education Convenor Jim Goodall
Cllr Stewart MacDonald
Cllr Sandra Thornton
Cllr Margaret Small
Cllr Denis Johnston

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Previous Minutes Approved.

2. Matters Arising

Evelyn Cairney welcomed everyone to the meeting and each person introduced themselves.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Kay advised the meeting that it had been a very busy term. School was closed for three days due to the bad weather. Kay wished to thank staff and the community around Merkland who assisted with clearing the snow around the car park area.

The “snow days” highlighted the fact that emergency contact details for all must be kept up to date. Groupcall is the method used to communicate that we were closed and this system ensures that the parents and staff are always kept up to date.

Kay informed that the Merkland Twitter Account is always up to date and that letters will be issued again to parents to register for Twitter.

Merkland website being re designed and will be up and running in the next few weeks.

Recently we hosted a DYW meeting. Staff from other schools attended and we were able to show how we are developing our opportunities for pupils and DYW including success in ‘Farm to Fork’ in the primary and work experience in the secondary.

Auchengillen trip in February was a great success. Mary Canavan and Evelyn Cairney said that the Auchengillen trip gave pupils an amazing opportunity and experience and wished to thank all involved.

Ski Lessons are going well every Thursday afternoon. Uptake very good with 28 pupils taking part and they have been split into three groups for this activity.

Kay informed the meeting that there will be a group of girls going on a Sailing Trip for a week in April. This will be with Ocean Youth Trust and will be a self confidence trip to benefit all the girls. Kay will attend with another member of staff.

Senior Phase S5-S6 will be taking part in Kayaking/Canoeing activities in May as part of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – Letters will be sent home asap.

ASN – Sport within EDC uptake is very poor and not being accessed by all. This survey was sent out to 115 families and we have only received 32 responses.

Three pupils took up the offer of after school Rugby and have thoroughly enjoyed taking part. Rugby will be taking place for pupils in the community after the Easter Break.

PEF – used for Principal Teacher and Literacy. At our next meeting Kay will inform members about the ways in which this money was spent.

Bridging Attainment Gap £28,000. Matched this year by Scottish Government. Claiming school meals has fallen.

Parents have issues with the Free School Meals Application every year, but perhaps the way forward is to have a talk for parents about this process at a coffee morning and assist them with the application. Kay stated we need to ensure parents are given access to all that they are entitled too.

Overall a very positive term and we continue to give our young people great experiences.

4. ASN Group

Evelyn Cairney advised that there was a poor representation of parents at the ASN Group meeting yesterday evening. They were advised that the proposed site for the new build will be at Waterside Road in Kirkintilloch.

Mary Canavan suggested that there was a poor attendance perhaps because of the short notice of the meeting.

There was a conversation about the new build amongst the members.

Kay Hunter suggested that an email Inbox could be set up and parents would be able to email in any questions or views they have on this.

5. AOCB

Evelyn Cairney informed the meeting that a group of S6 pupils from St Ninian's would be interested in volunteering at Merkland. They could work along with the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Year pupils. Kay agreed this could be signed off and arranged very soon. Resources have been purchased "Toe by Toe" Books, for 20 children, which will be used for this support.

Evelyn Cairney reminded everyone that the Parent Forum link has been sent out to all parents. This has very good resources and parents would find this site very useful.

There was a discussion about Parental Engagement and the best way to involve parents. We want to encourage all parents to come along to the school, suggestions were made that this would be best to take place in groups or at an evening meeting and a disco for the children at the same time which happened in previous years.

Dates for Diary – Showcase will take place on 13th June and the Prom will be held on 14th June. More information will be distributed to all in the coming weeks.

Photographs – Thank you to Mary Canavan for suggesting Heyes Images, the photographers who were in school recently. There has been a very positive feedback and parents/cares have been purchasing the photographs of their child. We should get a date in the diary for next year asap.

6. PTA

The Race Night was cancelled and this has been re scheduled for Friday 11th May. Discussion took place about different fundraising ideas. Also discussed was that we raise money throughout the year for Luwero and the way forward is there will be a Charity Committee set up to take charge of the charity/charities/fundraising events which they believe Merkland should support annually.

Date and Time of Next Meetings

Wednesday 23rd May 2018 – 6pm