

# MERKLAND SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 2018

### **Present:**

Kay Hunter – Head Teacher  
Stewart Cochrane – Teacher  
Evelyn Cairney – Chair  
Cllr Susan Murray  
Cllr Gordon Low  
Jillian Bruce - Clerk

### **Apologies:**

Cllr Goodhall  
Cllr Fisher  
Cllr Jamieson  
Mary Canavan

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

Previous Minutes Approved.

### **2. Matters Arising**

Evelyn Cairney opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

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

Kay Hunter updated the meeting with fundraising events which have been happening and recent residential trips which have been held recently. The meeting was informed about many different events which are planned in Merkland over the summer term.

- Friends of Merkland held a Race Night at The Chase on the evening of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This raised £890.00 We are most grateful for this donation and this money will be used for a new library area in the school, storage, cushions etc.
- David Sewell (SLA), took part in an overnight Toughest Mudder Challenge last week which raised £1892.00. This was a fabulous achievement; this money will be put towards a new mini bus. David received many donations from the community and we thank Cammy from Cab-It for their donation of £500 and St Columba's Church for their donation of £300.
- Friends of Merkland will have a chocolate tombola stall at the Kirkintilloch Gala. On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May we had a non uniform day in school for pupils who all donated bars of chocolate, boxes of chocolate biscuits, etc for this stall.
- Kirkintilloch Gala will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Many pupils and their parents will take part in the Gala and go on to an open air bus along Cowgate & Townhead where the parade will end at Woodhead Park. Two Gala Champions will distribute leaflets to the public around the town and will be taken out in a Limousine before joining the others on the bus.
- The Primary service will be held on the afternoon of Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June. The Secondary end of year service will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am.
- School Prom will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June at Oregano, Bishopbriggs. Stewart Cochrane told the meeting that historically, Merkland School joined other ASN schools from North/South Lanarkshire but this year we are trying a new approach which we feel will make this a special evening for our senior pupils. This will be more sustainable and nurturing for our pupils and they will know everyone at the event. We have planned also, for a "Thank You" film to be shown which the pupils will have recorded. There will be more staff able to attend as not limited on numbers and this evening will make everyone feel inclusive, this will also develop the partnership with Oregano.

- Showcase - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 1.45pm. Stewart Cochrane commented how very successful this event was last year. There will be invites sent out to all parents/cares and this will be an informal chance for parents/carers, members of the community to visit our classes, see demonstrations, work on walls, see what pupils have learned, chance to purchase plants, items made by the pupils too.
- Business Breakfast - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June from 10am – 11.30am. This is an opportunity to create contacts, hear from external organisations who offer support to our young people and hear how school/employer. Silverbirch, Kelvinbank, EDC Outdoor Education, Whitehill Complex have confirmed that they will attend.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> May we had a practice overnight camping expedition for our pupils working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. This was a great success and they are all looking forward to the actual expedition on 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June.
- 21 pupils had a successful trip recently to PGL Dalguise. They took part in many outdoor activities and enjoyed their time away.
- 10 girls were involved in sailing trip to develop their self confidence and this was a great team building adventure with Ocean Youth Trust. The girls loved their sailing experience, they all achieved SQA qualifications. We received funding for this trip from Cashback for Communities (£8,200) and School PEF Funding (£1,800) this covered the cost of £1,000 per pupil.

#### Pupil Equity Fund

This year there is a decrease in the amount of Free Meals being applied for but the funding is going to be matched so we have been allocated £28,000. This money was used to purchase literacy resources and continue staffing the promoted post. Part of the money this year was also used for training courses - three teachers attended Emotional Coaching Workshop and twelve attended Spell Training.

#### 4. New Build

There was discussion about the proposed new build and Kay informed that there were 2 consultation meetings one being held at Campsie View and one at Merkland. There has been good representation from the parents. It is a very exciting time ahead and everyone is very positive.

Cllr Murray said that it was good to have a meeting for the parents about the new build and that would give parents the opportunity to speak individually or within groups. Cllr Murray said that the new school would be fabulous wherever it is built and that we have to get the site right first. Cllr Low stated that is a difficult time and we need to hear the parents/carers views and the questions they are asking. It is hoped that they would all return their survey.

Kay also updated the meeting that the New Build Consultation period has been extended by one week and a letter will go out to all about this.

## **5. National Parent Forum**

Evelyn reminded everyone to have a look online at the National Parent Forum website and that there was an interesting article on a recent new build down south. The link will be sent by group call to all parents.

## **6. St Ninian's Base/ Link with 6<sup>th</sup> Years**

Evelyn updated the meeting that St Ninian's are keen to start the link between their 6<sup>th</sup> Years and our pupils in the next term. Kay Hunter will contact Alan Taylor DHT St Ninian's in the coming weeks and discuss this link.

Evelyn also asked when the parents of the pupils from Merkland who attend the St Ninian's base will be notified as to the plan for next year. Kay talked about this two year pilot and how well it has worked and that parents will be informed before the new term about new arrangements or any changes.

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

Evelyn Cairney advised that due to family circumstances she will step down next term from Parent Council Chair. Evelyn thanked everyone for their support and the work they all do for Merkland. The next meeting planned for August will be Evelyn's last meeting.

Mary Cananvan will also step down from the Parent Council.

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

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018