

MERKLAND SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th October 2018

Present:

Kay Hunter – Head Teacher
Stewart Cochrane – Teacher
Cllr Jamieson
Cllr Ackland
Cllr Thornton
Philip Wright
Susanna Rhead
Jillian Bruce – Clerk

Apologies:

Sue Clark
Cllr Low
Ellis Ates
Cllr Murray

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Previous Minutes Approved.

2. Matters Arising

Kay Hunter opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Outstanding from the last meeting was that a Chairperson had to be appointed. We thank Mr Wright for taking on this role and everyone around the table was in agreement.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Four new SLA's have now started in Merkland and are settling in well. There are currently two SLA posts being advertised. Our new PE teacher starts on 12th October. Kay informed everyone that there is a very high level of staff absence within the school.

We have been working alongside Campsie View School recently and this has been very positive. Both Head Teacher's have visited each school. There is a crossover between populations of Campsie View and Merkland pupils and we feel very positive for the future.

On Friday 12th October (In Service) we are joining with Campsie View staff for a training session, "Intensive Interaction" which will be provided by Dr Phoebe Caldwell. Phoebe will be visiting both schools before hand. On Friday she will provide staff with a feedback session.

There will be a joint choir of Campsie View and Merkland pupils at this year's EDC Christmas Concert in December.

Pupil Equity Fund (PEF)

Three year plan in place and we are concentrating on Health & Wellbeing and Literacy. We aim to target literacy with £12,000 resources purchased last year. Books, library space in each class, literacy resources for reading and writing.

PEF money has also enabled us to free up staff. Amanda Murray (Primary Dept) and Fraser McGuinness and Pat Orr (Secondary Dept) will be targeting 20 pupils and focusing on knowledge and understanding, vocabulary, reading and comprehension with them.

PEF money was also spent on the Ocean Youth Trust sailing trip last year. This was centred around the children's behaviour. Pupils with complex issues spent their time away sailing and there was one to one staff/pupil ratio. This was an amazing experience and we hope to provide this opportunity to more pupils this year. Everyone who took part in this adventure has been invited to a parliamentary reception in the coming months.

Lynsey O'Donnell- Acting Principal Teacher continues her work and has set up great contact with Advance Construction. They have put in place a bespoke package for 6th year pupils. Having this PEF money allows them to go through to Advance Construction in Livingston one day a week in a hired mini bus which we pay £100 per week to EDC for and this bus is used many times during the week also.

We are hoping to use some PEF funding to start After School Clubs- Skiing, Dance, Drama.

A pilot project for an Active Play Program has been set up by "Fare" and this will be provided to our primary classes. We have also got involved in projects with Tigers and Clyde Football Club.

Planned trips this year will be going to Millport for 4th year pupils, Auchengillan and Lochgoilhead residential trips are being planned and in December a group of pupils are off to Italy for a Ski Trip.

We have applied for Lottery Funding and this should help subsidise trips. We are also planning on selling Christmas Cards to raise money and more fundraising ideas are being arranged.

4. New Build

Kay Hunter updated the meeting that the paperwork had been sent to the Scottish Government and we should receive a report back in about one week. Then there will be a three week period when parents can take any feedback to Councillors. Jillian will draw up a list of all the councillors/contact details which can be distributed to parents. Discussion took place around the table about the new build.

5. A.O.B

Friends of Merkland are the Charity Division and they arrange many fundraising events throughout the year. Friends of Merkland AGM will be held on 24th October.

Discussion took place about the purpose of the Parent Council. We will Groupcall Text all parents to inform them about the PC meetings and they are all welcome to join. It was agreed that a Parent Council email address should be set up and details given to all parents about the dates of meeting. Parents can email in any questions they want raised if they cannot attend a meeting. Jillian will speak to IT about an email address.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 3rd December 2018 – 6pm

