

MERKLAND SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26th November 2018

Present:

Philip Wright – Chair
Kay Hunter – Head Teacher
Stewart Cochrane – Teacher
Cllr Jamieson
Cllr Low
Emma Smith – Parent Member
Jillian Bruce – Clerk

Apologies:

Karen Taggart – Parent Member

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Philip Wright read the October Minutes out to all and the minutes were approved.

2. Matters Arising

Philip Wright welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Kay Hunter updated the meeting on events which have taken place recently and planned activities for the future.

- Monday 19th November – Monday 21st November – Thirteen, S4 pupils were away on a Residential Trip to Millport. This was a great success and many of the pupils had never been away from home before. They stayed at the Field Studies Council Centre in Millport and it is hoped to book again for the same time next year. Rather than outdoor adventure activities this trip centred on science and the environment and was a great experience for all.
- On Wednesday 14th November staff and pupils who took part in the Ocean Youth Trust Sailing Experience were invited to a Parliamentary Reception in Edinburgh. All the girls attended with K Hunter and K Stewart and they were a credit to the school. The girls who took part in this experience all had self esteem issues and benefited from their time away sailing. The reception was a very engaging evening for all and we met the person who gifted two boats to Ocean Youth Trust. We hope to book with OYT in April 2019 and plan to take a mixed group of children with us.
- The planned Auchengillan Residential trip in February 2019 has now been extended so pupils in S1, S2 and Primary can attend.
- We have many events taking place in the run up to Christmas and letters will be sent home about them all. Information will be available on our school website also. EDC Carol Concert, Santa Cruise with Seagull Trust, Kirkintilloch Christmas Lights Switch On, Choir singing at Kirkintilloch Regent Centre, Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice Glasgow and Whitehill Complex.
- Staffing – Our new PE Teacher, Lloyd Kinnaird has started and is settling in very well. He has already arranged for pupils to attend the Scottish Disability Football Tournament, and West of Scotland X-Country Event. The two vacant Support for Learning Assistant posts have been filled and the two new members of staff will start on Monday 10th December. We will then have a full staffing compliment.
- Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) - We have booked Family Action Rogerfield Easterhouse (FARE) which is a Charity that covers West of Scotland -FARE Active Play Project have been

working with pupils recently and this has had a positive impact. We are able to fund FARE to come into work with other classes using the remainder of the PEF money. Scottish Government funded original booking with FARE. Glasgow University Research who were researching additional needs during the FARE sessions, paid us a consultancy fee which we used towards (£900) towards the Millport Residential trip.

- Parent Engagement Action Plan for Merkland has to be completed and more information will be provided at the next Parent Council Meeting. Kay suggested that we perhaps arrange for a group of parents to meet regarding this. Discussion took place about homework. Homework is part of the Action Plan. Cllr Jamieson mentioned about homework in an ASN school and Emma Smith spoke about support can be given well without actually doing homework ie. Weekend activities, positive engagement. Stewart Cochrane talked about imaginative play. Cllr Lowe said that there maybe equality issues which affect many families, such as no access to the internet for homework.

4. New Build Update

Cllr Lowe informed the meeting that this is the 6th week of the Scottish Parliament Phase which totals 8 weeks. For the first 3 weeks anyone can make representation

Cllr Low informed the meeting about the timescales. Cllr Jamieson spoke about communication to parents by letter as each hurdle is passed.

Kay Hunter talked about learning from other authorities who have new builds. Philip Wright emphasised keeping all parents up to date with the new build and it was mentioned that perhaps a timeline could be made up showing at which stage the new build is at. Another idea was updating parents via the school website and a newsletter.

Kay Hunter informed the meeting that Samantha Burke (EDC Project Officer) and group had a walk round Merkland recently. There was talk around the table about when would planning and design of the new school would start, we will benefit from a bespoke design.

In Line with the EDC proposal for ASN provision, Kay Hunter stated that Wester Cleddens Enhanced Learning Unit is now open with 18/20 children. There is a proposal for a new base in Harestanes Primary also, this is now at consultation.

5. A.O.B

Discussion took place about communication with parents and the new email address for Merkland Parent Council has been set up. pcouncil@merkland.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

All parents will be informed of this and we want to encourage parents to email in any questions they wish put to the parent council, one week before each PC meeting and these questions can be addressed at each meeting.

Cllr Low and Philip Wright asked if the Minutes of the Parent Council Meetings can be added to the school website also, as currently they can be viewed in the school foyer.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 4th February 2019

