

MELDRUM PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP (MPiP)

Monday 8th February, 7pm, School Staff Room

Attendance – Ruth Scott, Leah McKinnon, Sara Campbell, Julie Farquhar, Kerry Urquhart, Rebecca McLennan, Joanne Lord, Gary Donald, Lesley Buchan, Helena McKerron, Alastair Beaton, Jane Brown, Carol Harper, Hazel Fraser.

1. Apologies – Donna Sim

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes accepted with no amendments

3. Matters arising

No matters arising

4. Head Teacher Update

The school roll has increased to 367. The nursery is currently full at 102 children with some availability in enhanced provision and extended provision.

Staffing – projections for the next session are due to be submitted on Thursday of this week. The school is currently waiting for confirmation on the situation in nursery as Aberdeenshire Council is changing to having no teachers in nursery but we currently have Miss Fraser and Mrs McLeish working part time in the nursery.

Buildings – equipment for the sensory room was delivered to the wrong school so was sent back, the delivery will need to be rescheduled.

Lateness – last term over 40 days there were 178 instances of unexplained lateness. At the moment and child with more than 3 lateness instances in a term will have a letter sent home to their parents. This may be changed to the parents being invited in to discuss how the school can help.

5. School Transport Update (AB)

Since 13th January the winter route has been used 6 times. 8 times since the start of term. This route should be used as a last resort. AB has inspected the affected roads and considered them to be passable. Next Thursday AB to have a meeting with the Public Transport Officer, Burns and some of the parents affected.

6. Education City Renewal

Most parents felt that Education City was a useful resource but many considered it be under used as a homework tool. Meldrum School has the highest usage of this service in the Aberdeenshire area. Over the last 12 months 17000 questions were accessed, this works out at around 500 questions per child. A breakdown of usage in the classroom and at home was not available so CH to enquire about this. 7 out of 12 teachers asked said they use Education City regularly. The school package is due for renewal on 3rd April and homework package on 7th May so we could arrange a 13

month contract for the school package to align the dates.

To be revisited at next month's meeting, CH should have figures about homework usage.

7. Cultural Funding Update (LM/AB)

Community groups can apply for funding of up to £5000 for cultural or sporting needs. Currently Meldrum school needs to have 3 basketball hoops in the gym hall replaced, and would like to have an outdoor netball court as the school hopes to start a netball club in the near future. To compete in league matches the netball court would need to be regulation size and possibly marked out by an authorised company.

Approximate figures:

Replacement of basketball hoops £1500

Move basketball hoop £4500

Mark out netball court £682.50

A dual purpose outdoor court for both basketball and netball would be ideal, the school already has mobile netball hoops.

HM/LB to find price for mobile basketball hoops. AB to request quote from Robertsons for replacing the indoor basketball hoops and marking out an outdoor dual purpose basketball and netball court. HM/LB and AB to then liaise and HM/LB to put forward funding application.

8. Infant Playground - Health and Safety (AB)

On 14/1/15 H&S inspected the nursery container in the infant playground and advised metal frames and sharp edges be protected with foam padding or boxed off. Robertsons stated that this was unfeasible and suggested strategically placing planters to prevent children from running in the vicinity of the container. AB feels this is not enough and intends to revisit this issue.

9. School Lunches – Advance notification of online system (AB)

Information given out with last week's newsletter. An online payment and ordering system will be set up and further information to follow.

In the last weeks there have been 2 complaints of food running out before all the children have received their meals. AB has asked the supervisor to come in for a meeting. The children have been asked to inform support staff in the dinner hall if they have any issues such as not enough food or poor quality food.

10. School Car Park (LM/AB)

A parent emailed to express her concerns about the speed of cars entering the playground. Mention was also made of parking concerns – parents causing obstruction by parking outwith marked parking bays eg on grass verges.

AB due to have monthly meeting with Robertsons next week, he will discuss car park safety and the possibility of having speed bumps on the road into school.

There was a discussion about mentioning car park safety at nursery and P1 induction meetings, and possibly getting the children involved in educating parents about this issue. AB and LM to liaise with Joanna Stewart, the Schools Road Safety

Representative.

11. School Reporting Mechanism (AB)

The school is looking at different approaches to reporting. There have been positive reactions from the change in the reporting system in the nursery. The intention is to have regular updates sent out to parents with 4 opportunities in the year for parents to come in and see the classroom and the work being done.

12. Restorative Practices Update (JB)

Staff across the school are increasingly using Restorative Approaches to resolve low level conflict between pupils and the children are starting use these practices themselves. Teachers are currently working on developing Class Expectations which will be displayed in the classroom. These will then be amalgamated and streamlined to create School Expectations. Golden rules will be replaced by School Expectations after February half term.

House Captains have been trained in Restorative Approaches and will be running courses for P1-P7 pupils.

The final 11 staff members are to be trained in Restorative Approaches during February half term.

By Easter Golden Time should be replaced by regular relationship building sessions. JB met with Year Group Reps last week to discuss Restorative Approaches and how to inform the parent body about these changes.

13. Treasurer's Update

Income

Rag bag (2 collections) £157.20.

No expenditure since the last meeting.

14. Fundraising Update

DS has met with EY to hand over organisation of rag bank. Recently there have been bags left on the ground when the rag bank is full, however when clothes become wet they will not be accepted. Perhaps the parent body could be emailed a reminder of this. A second rag bank has become available. AB, MPiP and Robertsons are happy for a second rag bank to be placed in the car park.

15. MPiP Group Reps Update

The Group Reps attended a session with JB on Restorative Approaches. Group Reps gave good feedback from this meeting and thank JB for this. Julie Farquhar has agreed to take on the role of MPiP Group Rep Coordinator.

16. Aob

Next meeting Tuesday 15th March, 7pm, School Staff Room