

MPiP Minutes Monday 20th January 2014

ATTENDANCE

Attendees: Jane Dickers, Elizabeth Buchan, Jill Good, P Stevenson, Elaine Yeats, Hazel Fraser, Carol Harper, Claire Brocklehurst, Katie Robertson, Kirsten Laing, Kathryn Michie, Philip Michie, Estelle Winward, Katrina McCartney, Jane Brown

1. APOLOGIES

Joanne Evans, Jane Nicol, Kathryn Rintoul, Sarah Stephens, Leah McKinnon, Diane Murrison, Derek, Evans, Jill Thomson, Alastair Beaton

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND UPDATES

Approved

3. MATTERS ARISING

SCHOOL POLICY ON WATER/ ENCOURAGEMENT OF HYDRATION

School water policy was issued today and paper copy sent home to all children.

HOUSE T-SHIRTS

The sale of 158 house t-shirts raised £217.50. Requests had been made for another opportunity to order the t-shirts, another order date is planned for March/April.

4. HEAD TEACHER'S UPDATE – ALISTAIR BEATON

Staffing

Our new Pupil Support Assistant, Karen Bayley, was appointed last week. Mrs Bayley currently works as a PSA at Old Rayne and will be taking up her post on Monday 24th February. New Support for Learning teacher, Sharon Delahunty, was also appointed last week. Mrs Delahunty currently works at a primary school in Aberdeen. She too should start with us on Monday 24th February.

The biggest issue facing primary and secondary schools across Aberdeenshire at present is the total lack of supply teachers to cover teacher sickness and planned absences (such as attendance at training courses). Aberdeenshire Council is fully aware of the situation, but there doesn't appear to be a quick solution to this shortage.

At Meldrum just now we have the following issues to deal with:

- We have no teacher to provide the one day per week non-teaching time cover in our Enhanced Provision classes for the rest of the session - Jane Brown now teaching every Tuesday through to summer.
- We have lost our one day per week Drama visiting specialist input and there is no supply available to take this on - Jane Brown will have to pick this up from Wednesday for the rest of this term and possibly for the rest of the session.
- Carol Harper's DHT Relief was absent last week and is likely to be off for a further 1-2 weeks, so Carol Harper is looking at possibly three weeks of full time teaching with no management time for her P1-3 duties.
- Although released from class for the remainder of the session, as per Authority expectation, with the above long term absences and day to day sickness etc., Jane Brown has to date been covering classes on average 4 days per week.

Nursery Hours

The Authority is waiting to hear if Nursery hours are to be increased from August 2014. This decision is to be made by the Scottish Government and the outcome of this proposal is expected in the weeks ahead. The Authority's Early Years Team has been working on a range of implementation models – if this does go ahead, Nursery sessions will increase from the present 2.5 hours per day to 3 hours and 10 minutes per day. There is a Head Teacher meeting next week re the proposed increase in hours.

EW asked if more parent volunteers to assist in classrooms would help with the current shortage. Mrs Brown advised that more volunteers are always welcome however it is an authority wide problem with the council looking to put strategies in place. Mrs Brown also noted that should nursery hours change it would fit in well with reviewing the start and end times of the school day.

5. TREASURER'S UPDATE – Estelle Winward

MPIP has currently a balance of £9,711. This time last year we had £8,148, so we are about £1,550 better. The Xmas Fayre did well with an outstanding £2,256 of profit beating last year by £700.

The bags to school continue to raise about £90 per month and we have received another cheque of £102 since these accounts were prepared. We have had two last minute fund raising activities, the Spree Books sale and the House Colour T shirts which have raised £325 and £217.50 respectively.

As for the expenses, the only item to mention is that we have paid the first part of the teachers allowance amounting to £665. The second part shall be paid in March and will amount to £472.50.

On page 2, I have made a summary of the events yet to take place, and how much money we will be left with at the end. These figures are the same as we discussed at the AGM or voted upon since.

Even without any further income we would still have about £3,400 in the bank to start the 2014/15 year. Potential income bring these figure to £4,750 although some of my figures are a total guess.

£300 has been awarded by Shell for the purchase of goalposts. The school football team currently has 20 football strips, the costs covered by sponsorship by Fisher Offshore and Morrice and Wright. MPip financed the purchase of bibs and additional balls. There are currently only two parents volunteering to run the football sessions and Carol Harper requested that more parents contact the school if they can help even on the occasional Wed. The football sessions run on a Wed evening from 6pm-7pm for P3-P4 and 7pm-8pm for P5-P7.

School Trips – Bus Allowance

It was agreed to increase the current £150 allocation per class to £200. This is an extra £850 that MPIP will be funding.

6. FUNDRAISING EVENTS – Elaine Yeats

CHRISTMAS FAYRE REPORT

There was a really good turnout and the event was well supported by the community. EY thanked all the volunteers. JD thanked Elaine on behalf of MPIP for all her hard work in running a successful fundraiser.

Upcoming events: Rag Bag offering to do a one off large collection on the 11th Feb. Storage container in Early Stages Playground will be open on the 10th Feb. The Rag Bank collection is currently every two weeks, price per kilo dropped to 40p from 50p.

It was agreed that given the additional funds raised from the Christmas Fayre, Spree Books and the House T-Shirts and the close proximity to Race Night that MPip would not run a Spring Fayre this year. The possibility of running a Summer Fayre/Strawberry Tea was raised.

Dress Down Day – EY noted that there had not been a dress down day for a considerable time. The school are considering a similar event tying in with Sports Relief but have still to decide. MPip Dress Down Day put on hold until school have finalised their plans.

Phoenix Cards – EY put forward trailing the sale of Phoenix cards in two classes. Parents would be sent a brochure to select packs of cards. 30% of profit from sales would be allocated to MPiP. EY to liaise with Mrs Brown.

Race Night – MPip agreed to work with Meldrum Amenities Group in running a race night on 28th March. MPip require to sell 60 tickets at £7 each and obtain sponsorship of 2 races at £25 each. MPip agreed to proceed with the Race Night fundraiser. JD to draft up flyer. Raffle prizes and bottle stall donations also welcome.

7. YGR Update – Kirsten Laing

There will be a regular slot for YGR Update at each MPip meeting. YRG's have been in touch with teachers. It was noted that there is not a list of YGR's in staff room. The list is also to appear on the school website. Some new families to the school have not been passed their YGR contact. KL and Susan Orr plan to spend time with office staff to run through YGR role. Plan to use the Mpip Facebook page rather than set up their own. The next YRG meeting is planned for Thursday.

8. AOB

Fire Evacuation

Policy leaflet on this was sent out last week. Jane Brown summarised that on the whole the fire service were pleased with how the building was evacuated. The time of day made it incredibly complicated. The school has now readjusted exit points to avoid crowding and congestion. Mobile phones are now in place for member of management team in each playground and a relief person has now also been allocated. On the day it was decided to put children who use school transport on buses/taxi even though bags and coats had not been collected as at the time it was unclear how long it would take to have the all clear from the fire service. In future the school would keep children on site. Mr Beaton still speaking to school transport operators regarding the implications of this. It was suggested using the Aberdeenshire Council Snow Alert service as a contact for parents. Jane Brown advised this would be considered.

Nursery Doors

KR raised the issue of the nursery entrance doors by the canopy which are incredibly heavy and difficult to open. Jane Brown to raise with Ed McGann.

Burns Poem

EW requested more assistance from the school in supporting children in understanding the poems they are being asked to recite. Jane Brown advised the poems are discussed within the class. The school would look at how they can provide more guidance for next year.

School Website

Carol Harper advised that the revamped school website should be live next week.

Next meeting: Tuesday 25th February*7pm*** Please note new start time! School staff room.**