

## **MELDRUM PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP (MPiP)**

### **Minutes**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, GP Room**

Attendance: Ian Mitchell, Hazel Fraser, Carolyn Cooke, Jill Good, Carol Harper, Libby Davidson, Rebecca McLennan, Lesley Buchan, Chrysa Edridge, Helena McKerron, Christine Williams.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Ruth Scott, Nadia Blaney, Donna Sim, Heather Skene, Lana Duncan, Katrina McCarthney, Jane Brown.

#### **2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND UPDATES**

Minutes accepted with no amendments.

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

Bikability went ahead after a push for volunteers. Many thanks to those who came forward to help.

#### **4. CHAIRPERSON UPDATE**

We placed the order for the House t-shirts. These should be ready for collection this week. I ordered some additional t-shirts for late orders/ exchanges. Going forward this order will be placed in October.

As we are members of the Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC), they aim to help parents and carers be effective partners in their children's education. There are lots of fantastic resources which can be accessed online and lots more once registered. Lesley recently had a meeting with one of their team and Rebecca attended a training session in Auchterellon, which we'll hear about later. We've asked to host a training session here on 21<sup>st</sup> June, which was a scheduled MPIP meeting. We will need to reschedule our June meeting. The training session I've chosen is Parent Council Essentials..... Fun, fast and interactive, this is a whistle-stop tour of parent councils- how they work, what they can get involved in and what they can't. This session will give you lots of ideas for things you can do and help you work out the best ways to be an effective Parent Council. You'll go away with food for thought, good contacts and ideas too.

With the membership we have we can have 2 training sessions per year. There are various sessions from which we can choose from, such as Involving Parents, Helping to Improve your school, Effective meetings, etc. I hope everyone will agree that using the SPTC more it can only make us more effective.

It's fantastic that Restorative Approaches is being rolled out to parents. Is it possible for this to be run on an evening? IM: This will be looked at for future workshops, and there will be a leaflet being distributed to all parents.

I'd like to thank Lesley and Laura for arranging our 1<sup>st</sup> Flycup this Friday at Morris's at 9.15 till 11.45. Any profits will be shared between the both of us. If it's a success we plan to have them every month on the last Friday.

The school football team are looking to do a sponsored walk/run around Meldrum to raise funds. Due to this I decided to hold off on the sponsor walk around Haddo.

During this coming Easter holidays the barrier on Commercial Road at the baffle should be erected. Can parents and carers be aware that this will narrow the pavement slightly going into the Early Stages Playground. We ask that everyone can be courteous when entering and exiting the baffle.

## 5. HEAD TEACHER'S UPDATE

### **Staffing**

As mentioned previously, our newest member of staff, Ms Sam Crawford will be joining us after the Easter Holidays. She will be covering the non-class contact time for our teachers for 4 days of the week.

It is also confirmed that Aberdeenshire Policy to move teachers from Nursery will be implemented as soon as possible. This means that Meldrum School is currently recruiting a new Early Years Lead Practitioner. This will have implications for the school staffing in the school.

### **Improvement Plan**

Our Priorities for improvement this session remain as:

- School Culture & Ethos
- Raising attainment in Writing
- Nursery – Staff capacity building in learning, teaching and assessment

We are continuing to work with our staff and pupils in reinforcing our existing school expectations. Mrs Brown is working on this with our senior pupils and staff. I envisage this will be shared with you at a later date.

We are updating our writing materials to ensure we can improve attainment. We will also be using the Aberdeenshire Curriculum Frameworks to help us continue to ensure that our children receive the best learning opportunities to support their achievement and resulting attainment.

### **Parent Restorative Workshops**

This will begin this Thursday at 9.30am in the GP Room and continue into next term.

### **Red Nose Day**

The school had a very successful Red Nose Day where all pupils were invited to dress in red.

#### 6. FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- There was a big rag bag collection on 7th March. There is another large collection scheduled for June however I'm waiting for rag bag to confirm a date. We will let everyone know via a bag drop and facebook messages nearer the time.
- We are planning a car boot sale for the summer term. This is the last fundraiser for this school year.
- We are looking into the possibility of having a stall at Meldrum sports for fundraising.
- We are planning to hold a 'welcome back' / 'welcome to Meldrum school' picnic after the summer holidays .
- Coming back from summer we will be thinking about cauliflower cards again as they usually arrive at the end of August for teachers to complete the art work with the classes in September & them to be handed in, checked & packed ready to be sent off by Oct hols. There was a suggestion of looking at alternatives to cards this year to have a bit of a change.

#### 7. TREASURER'S UPDATE

The breakdown of income / outgoings were shared. There is a slight reduction in income at this point in the year but there are still events planned for the rest of the academic year.

The overall balance is still healthy and we are still able to meet all of our expected commitments.

#### 8. Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC)

RM attended a training event led by the SPTC in March. As a relatively new parent council, the feedback from this event has proved very useful in helping think about how we operate and what aspects of the parent council role we could develop. The overall message was that fundraising although vital, is just a small part of the remit of parent councils and that in partnership with the school MPiP has a lot more opportunity to act as a communication channel between the school and parents (and parents and school) about educational matters.

RM in particular highlighted:

- The role of MPiP in positively affecting the quality of education – RM questioned whether MPiP meetings in their current form are focused enough on this.
- Whether we should hold separate fundraising meetings so that agenda time can be

freed up for more educational discussions and information sharing.

- Whether we could organise targeted sessions to discuss specific educational issues using guest speakers, school staff, pupils etc. to help parents understand what goes on in school and to open up conversation both ways.
- Whether a newsletter would be a more accessible format for parents to engage with, sent out via email (possibly via the school email list).
- To continue to expand our social media presence to share what is happening both fundraising but also other educational activities / events / info.

RM brought a wide range of leaflets from the meeting which were also made available at the coffee morning.

There was a general consensus both from the school and MPiP committee that this is a shift in focus that we want to make.

It was agreed we will work on a newsletter for next term and that we will start to organise speakers and focused agendas on educational issues.

#### 9. AOB

RM: Dobbies are offering £500 for gardening equipment / supplies. It was suggested we apply for funds to replace the raised beds in the early years playground. RM to complete the form with LB.

LB: Fake wasp nests should hopefully go up next week in order to try and prevent the wasps problem in the early years playground.

JG: Concern was expressed about dogs being brought into the playground. CH to follow up with a note in the newsletter.

CW: Concern raised about the gate in the early years playground being left open with little ones running around before the pickup bell. Possibility of a 'close the gate' sign being attached to remind everyone.

Clarification was sort from a parent about the Red card system. CH explained it was part of the restorative approaches being introduced in the school and more information will be available at the parent sessions. However, she also outlined that red cards are a reporting system from PSA to teacher about what has been happening in the playground. The child has a tear off slip, and PSA has one. The slip allows the class teacher to keep an overview of issues that may be transferring to or from the playground into class.

**Next meeting Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm, GP Room**