

MELDRUM PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP (MPiP)

Tuesday 17th January, 7pm, School Staff Room

Attendance – Ruth Scott, Lesley Buchan, Jill Good, Lana Duncan, Libby Davidson, Chrysa Edridge, Rebecca McLennan, Christine Williams, Amy Paterson, Katrina McCartney, Hazel Fraser, Carol Harper, Jane Brown, Helena McKerron, Nadia Blaney.

1. Apologies – Donna Sim, Carolyn Cooke, Dianne Smith, Julie Farquhar

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes accepted with no amendments

3. Matters arising

A huge thank you to Leah McKinnon for pushing to get the baffle gate in the early stages playground fit for purpose. This gate has been in operation since October and has made a huge difference on the pavement outside the school. However, would it be possible to have an in gate and out gate? As the new gate gets congested after 1st bell rings. A kerbside barrier should be erected during the Easter holidays.

Another huge thank you to Donna Sim and the volunteers who helped with the Christmas Fayre. An amazing £3049 was raised. A totally fantastic amount especially in this economic climate. Thanks also to the parents, grandparents etc. who came along to support MPiP. This helps MPiP to pay for the expenditures we have promised to the school for this term. Also thanks to the parents who raised £141 at the Christmas fayre for the school football team.

Sadly, we didn't get the funding that Lesley Buchan had applied for from Scotrail for Basketball/ Volleyball court. The funding needed for this was £2000. As stated at the October meeting HM would still like for this to go ahead but funds will need to be raised so unlikely to be done until the next school year. Fundraising suggestions included a sponsored walk – Kiltwalk deemed to expensive for entry so possibly a walk around Haddo or Bennachie. Could apply to Asda and Tesco for fundraising from carrier bag charges.

JF and RM have stepped down as group reps, HM questioning whether we should continue with group reps as they have struggled to find a role. Reassess once new Headteacher in place.

Finally if you've seen the school newsletter we have a new headmaster - Ian Mitchell. He's currently an acting head within Aberdeenshire council. He comes to

Meldrum with a lot of experience. MPiP would like to welcome him into his new post.

4. Head Teacher Update

Staffing

As you will have read in today's newsletter, we will be welcoming a new Head Teacher in early February. The following statement was shared by Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children's Services;

'As parents and carers will be aware, Mr Beaton has been seconded from his post as Head Teacher to the Council's Early Years Team. In order to provide the school with stability Mr Beaton has decided not to return to his post at the end of his secondment. In line with the Council's policies his post will be taken up by Mr Ian Mitchell. Mr Mitchell is a very experienced Head Teacher, having led small, medium and large schools. His last post was as part of our Curriculum Development Team where he helped develop our very successful Curriculum Frameworks and our approach to improving learning and teaching. Last summer Mr Mitchell was asked by the authority to consider cutting short his secondment to the Curriculum Development Team to cover Head Teacher posts at Kennethmont and Drumblade Schools when both schools were without a permanent Head Teacher. Mr Mitchell is very much looking forward to working with everyone when he takes up post.'

From the date Ian takes up post, Jane Brown and Carol Harper will revert to substantive posts of Depute Head Teachers and Hazel Fraser will return to her Principal Teacher post. We would like to thank Katrina McCartney for her contribution during her time as Acting Principal Teacher. We would also like to thank MPiP and wider parent community for their support whilst we have been Acting Head Teachers.

New PSA, Jane Nicoll began working with us at the beginning of this term. We have also recently appointed a new Early Years Practitioner, Lesley Robinson, who started work at Meldrum School yesterday. We have also appointed a new Admin Support Assistant who will begin working in our School Office on in February.

Bus Update

Carol Harper met with Sean Jamieson, Principal Officer for Transportation, and Mrs and Mrs Burns from Burns Coaches in November. The Winter Route was discussed at length and the safety reasons for operating the Winter Route were also discussed. The Winter Route has operated three times this year. From my

meeting and our experience so far this year, I am happy that the Winter Route is valid and is being operated appropriately.

5. Fundraising Update

Next fundraiser to be Valentine's Disco on Thursday 9th Feb. Arrangements to be finalised by the end of the week. New DJ to be arranged, some good quotes received. No goodie bags will be given out, there will be a tuck shop for the upper stages disco. 2 discos on the night for lower stages and upper stages.

Rag Bag – there was a mix up before Christmas so the large container was not emptied, £162 raised from the bins with more funds to come from the container.

Car Boot Sale – could possibly be held in car park, CH/JB to enquire whether this is allowed. Possibly have Boden shopping event on same day. End of April / beginning of May suggested.

Easyfundraising – some Facebook posts, a stall at the Christmas Fayre and a bag drop have gained us 17 new members with a total of £15.42 raised for MPiP this month. Credit card can be registered on easyfundraising so funds can be raised when card used in store.

Summer picnic – very popular event in previous years, HM to ask Leah McKinnon if she would take on organisation of this.

Sept/Oct family event – possibly beetle drive / race night. To be planned before summer break.

6. Treasurer's Update

Christmas Fayre exceeded expectations, partially due to social media posts and word of mouth. Grand total of £3334.91 raised. Possibly extend time of event for 2017.

Rag bank has raised £441.60 over 4 collections.

Discussion about funding for basketball and volleyball hoop – could apply to Rotary Club. LB to enquire.

Funding enquiry – JB asked if MPiP would fund hire of the cosmic dome from Satrosphere for P5, P6 and nursery classes. JB to get figure to put to committee. Could do nursery fundraiser to help with costs.

Education City renewal – still under consideration, final decision to be made before deadline in April.

House T-Shirts – arrange another order, possibly in February. HM to get order info from Leah McKinnon.

7. MPip Group Reps Update

No Group Reps present.

8. AOB

Bikeability – parent helpers needed, several parents who have been trained to help no longer have children at the school so volunteers needed. Possibly 10 parents required, sessions on Wednesday evening and Saturday morning but parents do not need to attend them all. Training provided for helpers who can attend regularly, other volunteers can help out for a few sessions.

Wasps nest deterrent – this needs to be in place before the wasps arrive. LB has investigated and will discuss options with HM, CH and Mr Doyle.

Stall at Meldrum Sports – LD to enquire about this.

Race night – possible fundraiser could be held in the Legion, profits would be split between MPiP, MAIG and Rotary. HM to investigate.

Stampastic – company produces name stamps for school uniforms. NB suggested PTA fundraising scheme – MPiP could get a certain percentage. NB to bring more information to next meeting.

Next meeting Wednesday 22nd February, 7pm, GP Room