

MPiP AGM Wednesday 23rd September 2020 - Via Teams

Attendees:

Julie Mackay, Fiona Morris, Lorna Cruickshank, Nicola Alexander, Hayley Milton, Karen Young, Jill Good, Richard Long, Jane Brown (DHT), Carol Harper (AHT), Louise Fowlie, Anna Cordiner, Lynsay Holland (DHT), Lyn Beaton, Sarah Masson, Hayley Milton, Karen Baillie, Arielle Ball, Holly Stephen

Welcome from Linda (Chair) and Carol (HT)

Introduction to use of MS Teams and how it will work for the meeting

Chair update (Linda Downie): Summary Attachment

Thank you to current committee members and a big thank you to the school for steering us through this year. Year highlights included the Welcome Picnic, the Halloween Disco, Xmas Fair, Spring Discos. Discussed P7 leavers and keeping them in mind. Highlighted that this year will be very different but ready for the challenge.

Actions: Following up 'Grants for Schools'

Head Teacher update (Carol Harper): Summary Attached

School Improvement, Staffing, Covid and Thank Yous

Despite a year of uncertainty and high change, CH highlighted many positive year highlights and thanked staff, pupils, parents and the community.

Treasurer update (Jill Good) - report to follow

Financial books to be independently verified by Stuart Mackenzie. Again, Jill highlighted that this will be a different year for fundraising, less demand on the school purse but also less opportunities to fundraise – fundraising team will look at alternative fundraising streams.

Election Of New Members

Vacancies include Social Media help, Fundraising Vice and Vice Chair

	Proposed:	Seconded:
Chair: Linda Downie	JG	AC
Vice Chair: Lynn Beaton	SW	LF
Secretary: Louise Fowlie	LD	KC
Vice Secretary: Anna Cordiner	LD	SW
Treasurer: Jill Good	LF	FM
Vice Treasurer: Karen Clark	JG	LD
Fundraising Coordinator: Fiona Morris	JG	FM
Vice Fundraising: Julie Mackay	AC	HM
Social Media: Sarah West	FM	JG
Vice Social Media: Sarah Masson	LD	HM

New General members: Richard Long

Rebecca McLennan, Nicola Milne, Gillian Mathewson, Arielle Ball, Nadia Blaney, Lyn Beaton, Amy Paterson, Claudia Ball, Holly Stephen.

New General Members – Richard Long

LD reiterated that all new members are always welcome so please continue to spread the word of MPiP

NEXT MEETING Monday 2nd November via Teams

MPiP AGM 23/9/20

Head Teacher Update

It has certainly been quite a year and the last six months have been very different to a normal school year. The focus in all schools has been around remote learning and getting children back to school.

School Improvement

We successfully launched Seesaw across the school allowing children to share their learning with parents. The level of engagements from parents and families has been high and feedback from both parents and children has been very positive.

As a school, we have spent time reviewing and replenishing and enhancing school resources in curricular areas. These are being used in class this session.

Teachers spent time at collegiate sessions and inservice days, creating topic planning to support progressive learning and experiences for children across the school. The planning is in a two year cycle support planning in straight and composite classes across the school.

Meldrum Cluster of schools have spent inservice time creating a consistent cluster approach to the teaching, assessment and moderation of writing

As part of some work undertaken on Visible Learning, peer observations and learning walks were planned.

We had our first Health Week in March which was a huge success with all children in all classes taking part in a variety of lessons and activities linked to physical, mental and emotional health. We welcomed lots of visitors into school and children were able to try many new activities. A huge thank you to Rachael Reid for organising the week.

As mentioned in the newsletter today, the Standards and Quality and Improvement Plan is being written at the moment. The SQiP will provide information about the progress of the school to date, the progress towards last sessions planned improvements and identifies our next steps in school improvement. It will be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council by the October holidays and shared with the school community thereafter. Parents have been asked to contribute opinions about school improvement priorities for this session and beyond.

Each year schools are allocated money from the Pupil Equity Fund from the Scottish Government. This money is specifically to be targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap and should be spent on delivering activities, interventions or resources which are clearly additional to those which were already planned.

Last session we were allocated £32,400 and the focus of our spending was

- Additional PSA hours to support Emerging Literacy work in early stages

- Additional PSA hours to support PSA support nurturing approaches and social skills
- Contribution towards the salary of an additional Pupil Support Worker employed to support all primary schools in the Meldrum Cluster. The Pupil Support Worker supported a variety of children across the school.

Staffing

At the moment (and over the last school session) our staffing in terms of teaching staff, nursery staff and support staff has been very settled. Both the Principal Teacher post and the Head Teacher post have been advertised and, all being well, appointments should be made by Christmas.

COVID

The children and staff dealt very well with the unexpected circumstances of lockdown. Thanks must go to all children, parents and staff for their efforts whilst school was closed. Meldrum School became a Hub for childcare for children of keyworkers and many Meldrum Staff volunteered in addition to their Google Classroom responsibilities.

Our return to school has been very positive. The children have shown an incredible amount of resilience and flexibility and have adapted really well to our "new normal".

Thank you

Through what has been a year like none of us have ever experienced before, the Meldrum School community has pulled together extremely well to support our children. I would like to extend thanks to the whole parent body for the support they have shown the school. Many parents have taken time to share feedback with us during the last six months and we really appreciate people taking the time to do that. Thank you also to MPiP for their continuing support and their significant financial contributions to support the school.

CHAIR UPDATE - Linda Downie

First of all I would like to thank everybody for coming to this evening's MPiP AGM. It has certainly been a very interesting year. I would like to say a huge thank you to Helena McKerron who was on our committee as a fundraiser last year but was prior to that a fantastic chair for MPiP. She will be standing down this year and will be a big miss to the team. Also Heather Skene our Vice chair will be standing down, she was a great asset to the group and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to her for all of her hard work and engagement. I would like to thank the school, particularly our senior management team who

have stepped up to steer us through a year like no other. A special mention to Carol Harper who took the helm as our acting headteacher from our previous Head Ian Mitchell when he retired from the post in April this year just after the school was forced to switch to manage pupils remotely due to the covid pandemic. Thanks also to our deputy head teachers Mrs Brown and Mrs Holland. Mrs Holland having stepped up to acting deputy to fill Mrs Harper's previous deputy post. I remember at our last MpiP meeting in early March we had no idea what we were heading into and the thought that the schools would actually not be taking pupils in was ludicrous. I'm deliberately staying away from using the term schools closing here and that is because although our kids were not in the classrooms I think it's really important to acknowledge that the teachers were still working very hard, rapidly coming to terms with a completely different way of teaching, using software they had never had any experience of using or training in prior to this situation all the while trying to juggle their own childcare, caring responsibilities, anxieties and health like everyone else. We had work on google classrooms, achievement certificates posted out, videos from the teachers, otter hunts and virtual sports days to keep our spirits up and the kids engaged so a heartfelt thanks for all the efforts!

Pre pandemic the school year 2019-20 had been a very successful year for the school and for MpiP. We started the year with our Welcome Too Meldrum picnic in September which was well attended and gave the children the opportunity to see some of the fantastic clubs and opportunities available locally. We had rugby and football demonstrations, Judo, yoga, gymnastics as well as some arts and crafts, bouncy castles and even a Chinese lion dance.

We started term 2 with our Halloween disco which last year due to the ever increasing size of the school and classes we split into 3 discos rather than 2 and held on a Saturday. We were very lucky to have an excellent DJ and the kids had a super time with prizes for costumes and pumpkins.

Our Christmas Fayre was also a huge success with stalls, home bakes, games and a really super raffle which was organised by the very efficient Heather. Santa was there and the kids and their parents had an amazing day as well as raising a super amount for MpiP. We just managed to squeeze in the spring fling before the pandemic curtailed all such events and again it was split into 3 and held on a Saturday. We also did some other fundraising activities during the year including spree books and Christmas cards.