

Muiredge Parent Council

Minute of Meeting 29th August 2016

Present : Leigh Miller, Jen Watson, Cllr Maureen Devlin, Morven Bell, Nancie Gunson, Kerry Sutcliffe, Margaret Spalding, Colette Ellis, Claire Butcher, Laura Devers, Rhona Ritchie, Efric McNeil, Katie Doherty, Alex Mavroeidi, Jen Keenan, Addrienne Johnstone, Tracy O'Meara, Denise McCluskey (St John's), Jill Hambley

Chair : Jenny Dickson

Clerk : Amanda MacGregor

Apologies : Cllr Jim McGuigan, Cllr Anne Kegg, Hilary Murray, Simon Stephen, Ian Letham

| | Action |
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| JD thanked everyone for attending, including many new faces | |
| REVIEW OF ACTIONS <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fundraising - Agenda item2. PC Meeting admin - done3. Garden donations - donations have been received and used within the school. MB confirmed her neighbour would be able to help with any design requirements4. Pencil case request - done, Budget - Agenda item5. Walk a mile - Agenda item (HT update) | |
| HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE <p>Roll and Staffing : 326 pupils enrolled, including 54 P1s (all placing requests accepted) 12 classes, though configurations changed at last minute Nursery also full with 40 enrolled both morning and afternoons.</p> <p>2 DHT posts will be advertised shortly - Jen Watson continues acting DHT in meantime. Parents will be involved in the process.</p> <p>New staff for 2016/17 - Mrs McKechnie (P6), Miss Achar (P3 newly qualified, with Mrs Beattie), Mr Osbourne (probationary year, Nursery and various Primary class support)</p> <p>Mrs McKegney is Principal of the nursery.</p> <p>All support staff have been retained but resources are very tight. Interruptions to Office staff were causing some difficulties and this would be communicated to Parents.</p> <p>Music support from Uddingston Grammar is not possible now, options for provision of music are under review. P5 pupils are receiving Young Music Initiative teaching once per week until Xmas. Teacher CCC time is being provided this year by Mrs Beattie and Mr Osbourne, concentrating on Maths at each level.</p> | |

Improvement plan and educational priorities :

The school improvement plan has been submitted, priorities for 2016/17 include:

- Literacy - continuity across school and back to basics approach for grammar, handwriting and spelling. Reading initiatives and new material throughout.
- Challenge start 9 - 9.30 for every class
- Learning buddies for Higher order reading and Mental maths, supported by older pupils and British Gas.
- Muiredge mile - aiming for at least 2x per week, in addition to 2 PE sessions for each class

Other initiatives for 2016/17 include:

- Mental agility / active maths pilots
- Pupil action groups being considered
- Teacher peer reviews / critical buddy

Other items :

National testing is expected to be introduced during 2017, for selected pupils. Further information will be provided when available.

House points and behaviour - new behaviour charts introduced across the school, linked to class charters and 'be the best you can bee' motto. House points are awarded for various activities including lining up in houses. Houses with the highest points will be awarded a monthly treat and an end of year party.

House Captain elections are taking place shortly.

Meet the teacher being held as an open event for P2 - P6 on Wed 7th Sept. P1 and P7 will have separate events. Leaflets will be available for those unable to attend.

School photos will be taken on Friday 2nd Sept.

A bake off competition and bake sale is planned for 20th and 21st Sept to launch the new kids' kitchen.

Snagging repairs would now be carried out during the October week.

Communications:

The September newsletter is being prepared.

It was noted the Parents in playground letter on the website appeared not to have been updated.

LM

Budget and school funds :

LM reiterated £2883 was available for materials and equipment.

Some grants had been received for specific items including Scottish Govt £5k for learning buddies, £3k Food for Thought for kitchen and garden activities. £1400 has been applied for a maths hub from SLC.

Literacy aids throughout the school were being reviewed as this has been identified as a priority for funds.

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| <p>Jotter wastage was discussed and this is being standardised throughout the school to avoid wastage.</p> <p>A Pencil case request had been sent at the end of 2015/16, however it was suggested this be made available to new P1s next time.</p> <p>It was agreed that Parents be made more aware of the budget constraints and why support is needed. This would be reflected in the HT newsletter. A school stationery shop is also under consideration for 2016/17, and a pencil/crayon drop for Parents to donate.</p> | LM |
| <p>FUNDRAISING/SOCIAL</p> <p>A separate FAST (fundraising and social) team is being established for 2016/17 to concentrate more on fundraising and social events. Efric McNeil (efric@yahoo.com), Ian Letham and Janette Hamilton have agreed to be involved in this, with support required from wider parents for individual events and as required. The first event planned is a race night on 7th October with information to be provided soon.</p> <p>A fancy dress disco is also planned for Thursday 27th October with same format as previous years.</p> <p>Any Parents willing to get involved were encouraged to contact Efric.</p> <p>It was agreed that a PC newsletter would be distributed shortly, with a further FAST communication later in 2016. AM to circulate draft newsletter for comment.</p> <p>KS confirmed that Easy fundraising paid around £80 into the account for Q2, and the school fete raised £1506 for each school. There was currently around £4165 in the bank account.</p> <p>MB provided an update on the donor tree and advised that there had been limited new interest but a new leaflet was being designed to target ex pupils and further community interest.</p> <p>CE advised a further charitable application would be made, though this process was proving extremely challenging.</p> <p>LD advised the Christmas cards preparation was in hand for this year.</p> <p>Summer fete - Jill and Denise outlined some of the difficulties encountered during 2016 and the timing and format of the event was under review. MPC members were supportive of any changes to the event. This would be discussed at St John's PC in November. The Fete committee agreed to consider canvassing Parents' views at the next Parents' night.</p> | <p>FAST team</p> <p>All Parents</p> <p>AM</p> <p>MB</p> <p>CE</p> <p>JH / DMcC</p> |
| <p>AOB</p> <p>world book day - a parent asked whether pupils could dress up for this. The school are open to this. No decision was actually reached because equally someone else said they wouldn't like that with 3 kids.</p> | |

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| <p>paint marks on uniform - LM has put a note on the newsletter for parents to send in big tshirts to wear over uniforms for painting;</p> <p>walk a mile - a parent was concerned that walk a mile was being used during PE time, the query being that walk a mile doesn't count as education. LM to investigate what the curriculum requirement is.</p> <p>Items carried forward to next meeting : Healthy snacks Parent workshops</p> <p>Next meetings : October 3rd November 7th January 23rd March 13th April 24th May 22nd</p> | LM |
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| Item | Summary of actions | Owner |
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| 1 | Check Parents in Playground newsletter | LM |
| 2 | Consider parent awareness of budget issues and stationery requirements/donations for parents | LM |
| | <p>Fundraising -</p> <p>Events planning - race night and Fancy dress disco</p> <p>Parent volunteers</p> <p>Provide Donor tree leaflet update and further promotion</p> <p>Charitable status - ongoing</p> <p>Summer fete review</p> | <p>FAST team</p> <p>All Parents</p> <p>MB</p> <p>CE</p> <p>Fete Ctte</p> |
| 3 | PC communication letter | AM |
| 4 | Electronic communications - check other schools | LM |
| 5 | Walk a mile - check curriculum requirement | LM |
| 6 | <p>Items carried forward :</p> <p>Healthy snacks</p> <p>Parent workshops</p> | |