

KILLERMONT PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes 16 January 2023 (Draft)

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: CB, CD, CH, CL, AM, SM, ES, GS, JT, Cllr Gallagher

Apologies: LM, RJ

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

3. Other matters arising

School Meals – SM gave feedback from Cllr Mathieson which indicated that Halal meals should be available for those who request it, however ES had been given information which suggested that there is limited choice and availability of Halal meals. ES reminded the group that there will be a consultation on school meals and parents are encouraged to take part in this when the time comes.

Homework – updates have been well received.

Toilets – as a result of discussions with the children, there are now 2 unisex toilets, a boys toilet and a girls toilet in the East Wing.

National discussion about education – SM and ES met on 21/11/22 at the planned meeting about this. Unfortunately, no other parents attended, however SM and ES had a good discussion and captured feedback for submission.

4. Chairperson's report and correspondence

No items to report.

5. Head Teacher's report and correspondence

Registration

- 3-year-olds are now being enrolled for the Early Years Learning Centre. This is now open 8am until 6pm. This is welcome and it is noticeable that there is no longer a 3pm exodus as children stay longer. It was noted by the group that this is great support for working parents.
- P1 registration – ES advised the group that there is now an opportunity to defer starting in P1 if a child's birthday falls between 18th August 2023 and the end of February 2024, allowing them to commence school in August 2024 when they will be nearly 6 years old.
- P7 into S1 – P7 open evening has already taken place and there is lots of activity being planned for children and parents including direct access to Boclair Academy. This will commence from the beginning of February.

Staffing – ES advised that there are now 3 Classroom Assistants again which provides additional support in the classroom and the playground.

Wellbeing – ES reminded the group that this is at the heart of KPS planning and there are several offerings currently available.

- Scottish Government funds Lifelink one-to-one counselling for several P6/7 children, and also offers group activities for a small number of children to discuss topics such as positive mindset and building resilience. Children can self-refer to this and the telephone number has been made available to parents.
- PEF funds are used to enable 5 younger children to benefit from a 10-week programme of counselling support.
- EDC is partnering with the Scottish Health and Wellbeing Improvement Research Network programme to enable P6/P7 and secondary children to take part in online surveys about pupil Health and Wellbeing. This in turn enables a data dashboard to be made available to help interpret the information and will help schools identify trends and provide data to inform priorities to support wellbeing. A leaflet is available about this for parents and pupils.

During discussion parents indicated that those who took part in the recent positivity workshop had benefited greatly from it. There was some discussion about the benefits of extending this opportunity further in the school as these are currently only available to P6/P7 children, although it was noted that as yet this is not funded. It was also agreed that re-signposting the availability would be helpful as some parents may have missed the communication about it. ES reminded the group that as always, any concerns should be raised with ES or another member of staff as it may be possible to advise of other options available.

School Trips

ES advised that these are returning. Every class will have had a trip by summer. There was some discussion about cost and ES advised that if anyone has any concerns about this, that they should bring it to the attention of ES or another member of staff. Most trips are aligned with social studies and each class will get the opportunity to share their learning with parents. It was noted that the P1 activity is likely to be a smaller activity. School trips enable **Inter-disciplinary Learning (IDL)** and CH gave a brief overview of this. Knowledge from a number of areas of learning can be brought together to make the learning more impactful for the young people. Drawing together topics from social studies, art and technology for example, makes it more interesting and develops the skills that children will need in the future such as collaboration and creativity. It provides additional scope for children to bring their own ideas to the discussions too. In history for example it would encourage the children to act more like historians and the evidence suggests that it helps children to better understand the

relevance of the subjects they are learning, e.g. how what they are learning might apply to their lives out of school or in the work place. This discussion led to a parent raising concerns about transparency, in that they felt it's not always possible to understand what children are learning at school. Some discussion took place about this. The group noted that KPS uses SEESAW as the tool to share information between children and parents. It was noted that teachers make a lot of effort to ensure homework is prepared, relevant and interesting and generally parents are extremely happy with the level of homework detail and trust the KPS teachers to balance the many demands of the job to ensure the best learning experience for the children. ES suggested that there may be opportunities to further improve how SEESAW is used and to further encourage children to be responsible for keeping their information current.

Councillor update

Cllr Gallagher notified the group of 3 planned industrial action dates (across January, February and March).

6. AOCB

Boclair Academy Tour – DB (Boclair Academy HT) took the KPS members for a tour of the new school which was very well received. SM and ES thanked DB for taking time out to do this. It was particularly helpful for those parents whose children will be starting senior school after the summer.

Clubs – Parents were delighted that clubs have restarted but it was noted that they are oversubscribed. ES requested help from any parents who might want to run specific activities, e.g. chess, dance. This would help to ensure that any child who wants to join a club is able to do so.

Buchanan Drive reinstatement – Cllr Moody was not in attendance and no update was available. Cllr Gallagher agreed to raise with Cllr Moody to establish when this will be completed.

Parking - it was generally agreed that this has become worse again with some parents parking cars at the gates at Aviemore Gardens and at “safe” crossing points. They are also idling their engines. Cllr Gallagher agreed to raise this with the community wardens.

Clerk - CB advised that she would be stepping down as Clerk this year, therefore a volunteer will be needed to take over as Clerk (accepting handover by May at the latest).

Scheduled dates and times of next meetings

Monday 6/3/23 at 6.45pm at Boclair Academy

Monday 22/5/23 at 6.45pm at Boclair Academy