

## **KILLERMONT PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes 6 March 2023 (Draft)**

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

**Present:** CB, CD, CH, RJ, JK, CL, AM, SM, LMcf, GR, ES, KT, Cllr Gallagher

**Apologies:** JT, Cllr Moody

#### **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed

#### **3. Other matters arising**

**Path** – News provided by Cllr Moody in advance of the meeting about the upcoming path upgrade at Kinnaird Cresc/Rannoch Drive was well received. Post meeting note: The work is scheduled to be undertaken between 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April during which time the path will be closed. ES had asked if it would be possible to do the work during the school holidays, however the contractors are unavailable at this time. ES will remind parents before the Easter break.

**Buchanan Drive** – the reinstatement is now complete.

**Community Wardens**– Cllr Gallagher had emailed EDC about this and had been advised there would be a warden presence however this has not materialised. Parents raised that in addition to the persistent dangerous parking, driving and engine idling by some parents, the road markings require to be reinstated. Cllr Gallagher and SM to agree a date to meet on site to witness issues and agree next steps.

#### **4. Chairperson's report and correspondence**

**EDC Parent Council Forum** – This will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> March. It will be an online meeting. SM will attend.

**Parents evening** – discussion took place about volunteers to help cover the evenings.

#### **5. Head Teacher's report and correspondence**

**MUGA** – w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> April a base layer will be completed, followed by a textured spray coat on 7<sup>th</sup> April (both weather-permitting). Then w/c 17<sup>th</sup> April pitch lining and landscaping will be done, which is expected to take 2 weeks.

**Parent Council** – ES advised that a small budget of £175 remains and asked if there was anything specific that the council needed e.g. white board. Any ideas to ES otherwise it was agreed the money would be spent on photocopier paper.

## ***Parents Night***

A consultation about **School Aims** had started pre-covid. ES shared a draft document. Discussion took place about how to engage the parents in reviewing the draft and giving feedback. ES also shared that the pupils had been keen to include a reference to sustainability, although it was acknowledged that this may be covered under “responsible citizens” reference. A suggestion was also made that ChatGPT (AI software) may be helpful in simplifying language if that was needed. ES also confirmed that the Aims are aligned closely with Scottish Government Curriculum for Excellence.

CH is working with Digital Leaders to develop a **Questionnaire**, a draft of which was shared with the group. The plan is to enable this to be completed using an iPad or phone (using a QR code) which will be a quick and easy way for parents to give feedback about KPS. The results will be available for review at a future meeting.

Words to describe KPS will be captured using the smart whiteboard and the aim is to create a word cloud. Digital Leaders will play a role in encouraging parents to take part.

## ***Teaching and Learning***

**P3-P7 feedback** – children will be asked for their feedback about teaching and learning. This is something which was always done pre-covid and has now been resurrected.

**Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL), Outdoor Learning and Writing** will all be the subject of monthly newsletter updates.

**Returning to normal**– ES reminded the group that 1 year ago the school was still operating in bubbles, yet a lot has been achieved since then including homework refresh; children back in cloakrooms; reading books; school trips; parents evening; parents in playground again; and sports day. Assemblies are also enabling children to get together again. P1 benefited from a Christmas Show and whilst P2’s had an online Nativity, they will benefit from The Harvest in P3. P4 will be doing a 15 minute “show” of youth music. Although there is insufficient space for parents to join assemblies, parents of quaich winners will be able to attend.

A question was asked about seeing work done by the children at the parents evening. ES confirmed that although parents wont get to see round the classrooms there will be learning material on display.

A question was asked about learning and transparency of teaching methods. ES gave an overview of the different methods used in KPS including learning through play. Teachers and pupils make use of the various environments that may be available e.g. bistro, studio, East Wing, and teaching is always focused on learning targets and outcomes. ES invited any parents who have questions about

learning or teaching to contact her or the class teacher as everyone will be very happy to share more information.

### **Classes**

71 P7 children will be moving to senior school. There will be fewer P1's starting so the school roll is expected to be lower than 450. ES was considering changing classes around for those moving from P3 into P4. This would be an opportunity to enable swaps for example if parents or children wanted this. Friendship groups would also be considered before any new classes would be formed. ES opened the suggestion up for discussion. Different views were expressed including "if it isn't broken then don't fix it" and it may be good for children's resilience to form new friendship groups. It was acknowledged that bubbles adversely affected wider friendships being formed although it was noted that children make friends out with school too e.g. dancing, Brownies. Views were also expressed that status quo would enable a smoother transition to the new year group after holidays and would minimise any anxiety children might have about potential change. ES agreed to take the views away and will communicate next steps.

### **6. Councillor update**

Cllr Gallagher shared highlights from a recent EDC budget meeting;

- EDC's free swim/gym offer will continue for another year
- School clothing grant of £240 per child per year has also been maintained
- New Allander sports centre has opened (Phase 2 to follow)
- From 1<sup>st</sup> April late fees for library books will be abolished.

### **7. AOCB**

**Clerk** – CD volunteered to become the new Clerk in the new term. CB will handover to CD before the end of this term.

**Dog fouling** – a parent raised concerns that this has generally become much worse in the area and wondered if KPS pupils might want to start a campaign to tackle the problem. Cllr Gallagher also said he could raise this with EDC if this is a persistent problem.

**Online meeting** - a request was made for some KPSC meetings to be online again. This will be considered.

**Defibrillation Consultation** – a parent noted that some local authorities were looking to locate defibrillators (of which there will be 30-40 new ones in the EDC area) at schools and wondered if KPS might be considered as a good site. Cllr Gallagher said he would take this suggestion back to EDC.

**PTA School Fair** – this will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> May and amongst other stalls, there will be a pre-loved uniform stall.

**Scheduled dates and times of next meetings**

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

Draft