

KILLERMONT PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes 28 August 2023 (Draft)

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: CD, JK, CH, CL, AM, SM, ES, Cllr Gallagher

Apologies: LM, KT, GS

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

3. Other matters arising

Defibrillators – A defibrillator has now been placed inside the school (it seems placing them inside - rather than outside - Primary Schools is the norm). Cllr Gallagher confirmed a number of defibrillators will be placed in locations throughout EDC and the council will receive an annual report on their usage.

Path – it was noted that there has been no update on when the works to the path from Rannoch Dr to Kinnaird Crescent will be completed. Cllr. Gallagher agreed to chase this up.

Action: Cllr Gallagher

4. Chairperson's report and correspondence

EDC Parent Council Forum – this will meet next week on the 5th of September and the Chair will attend. The agenda has not been received as yet.

Membership of the Parent Council - a note would be put in the next newsletter encouraging parents to join the council. Existing members were asked to send a message on year group what's app groups encouraging more parents to join.

Action: Council Members

Seagulls – the chair had received correspondence with a parent about the nesting/aggressive seagulls in the school roof. She followed up with the council to discuss solutions and they have agreed to come out during nesting season (12 times over March to September) to remove any nests and eggs that they see.

Halal School Meals – the chair emailed Councillor Mathieson to explain that there has been no progress on Halal meals. She asked how this requirement can be met as school catering staff do not seem to know how they can get Halal options made available.

5. Head Teacher's report and correspondence

Attainment data – The Standards and Quality report will be published shortly. Attainment is reviewed in P1, P4 and P7. Actual percentages are not given, however over 90% is counted as 'almost all' having met the level, 75-89% is counted as 'most' having met the level. At P1 and P4 'almost all' pupils met the level for reading, talking and listening and numeracy and mathematics, with 'most' meeting writing. The exiting P7 showed strong attainment with 'almost all' having met the levels across all subjects. Of particular note for P7 was the increase of 11% points in writing attainment compared to their P1 results. Writing levels were noted as of concern post covid across the year groups, so the continued progress noted in this level is welcome, across the school 'almost all' pupils are on track with their writing.

SHINE Survey Results – The school has recently received the results of the SHINE (Schools Health and Wellbeing Improvement Research Network) survey. This survey is done with P6, P7 and with secondary school pupils. The school has both the EDC wide, and the Boclair cluster results, which are useful for comparison. The results related to general health are positive and comparable with the 2 groups noted above. When asked about how pressured they feel by schoolwork, P6 boys felt this pressure more than P6 girls and P7 cohorts. Self-confidence was lowest among P7 girls; it was thought the transition to secondary school could be a factor in this. Results in the Social Emotional Health Survey section were comparable with EDC and the Boclair Cluster. It is hoped the Lifelink sessions offered can help to improve pupils' confidence. ES confirmed that if a teacher noted a pupil was lacking in confidence, they would raise this with the parents, they wouldn't wait for the parent to raise this. Whilst the survey won't be undertaken again for a number of years, the school has the questions and these will be used when considering themes for assemblies.

School newsletter – this was sent out last week and has been opened by over 500 people. No feedback on the newsletter was received. Members suggested that advice on how to access platforms such as Seesaw and Sumdog was always welcome. Some parents who had not had older children go through the school were unsure of what some of the activities in the calendar were and which year groups were involved (e.g. Harvest festival). It was suggested it would be helpful for some explanation of some events. Member asked if the Sport Day date noted was for the Sports Day event or the Potted Sports event, ES confirmed that final details were yet to be confirmed.

Place 2 Be – Parent Smart – the link to this resource for parents was shared by email. It has very useful information and it is hoped parents will make good use of the resource. The information was received too late to be included in the latest newsletter, however it is linked on the school website.

Classes – The changes to class composition seem to have been well received and no complaints have been received. The school role is currently 443 and there is space in all years with the exception of P2 and P7.

Playground – The playground is now fully open and pupils are enjoying facilities including the new adventure trail, the use of scooters, space hoppers and the book box, and are also making full use of the MUGA. There are still fences in the playground around the ongoing works to replace the boiler but it is expected these works will be completed by September. The Playground Group continues to meet to review the options.

School meals – the new menu has been well received. There is now a salad bar and a good array of fruit options. Raisins are no longer available. Parents welcome the introduction of pupils being permitted to bring their water bottles to lunch. As noted above, in the past that when the chair enquired with a Councillor they were informed that Halal options were available on request but when ES enquired about this with catering colleagues she was informed this was not an option. Cllr Gallagher will follow this up by email and will copy ES in.

Action: Cllr Gallagher

It was noted that free school meals are currently available to pupils in P1-P5. Cllr Gallagher confirmed that there was a hope this would be extended to later year groups in 2024-25, but this was yet to be confirmed. Capacity in school kitchens was a consideration in this decision.

6. Update from the Councillor

Roadworks – The roadworks at Canniesburn Toll have started and are expected to last 9 months. This extended timeframe for the work has been chosen to reduce the disruption whilst the works are ongoing. There will be a change to the speed limit on the Switchback once the works are complete. There is also currently roadworks on Greenwood Avenue.

Parking – Parking around the school continues to be an issue. There was an incident last week where a parent moved a resident's bin which had been put out for collection in order to park on the pavement. This resulted in a confrontation between the parent and the resident, with a passer by also getting involved and all the school crossing patrol. ES has been liaising with the resident who has been upset by this, as issues have been ongoing for many years without resolution. It was noted that it had been requested that Community Wardens visit the school at pick up/drop off time to witness the congestion and advise parents on safe, responsible parking but this has not happened. Cllr Gallagher will arrange a meeting with a Council Official and the Police, to which he will invite ES, to discuss the problem.

Action: Cllr Gallagher

ES has received from EDC a Parking Plan which is useful and includes interactive maps. She would like some parent representatives to review this, SM and CL will do so.

Action: SM and CL

It was suggested refreshing of existing road markings, and consideration of new markings would be useful. The meeting proposed above will consider this. Cllr Gallagher informed the Council that the 20mph speed limit is currently advisory, but legislation being proposed by the Scottish Government would make this the

legal speed limit. The pavement parking ban could also result in fixed penalty notices for those who park on the pavement.

7. AOCB

Items for discussion – the parents were asked for suggestions on topics they would like discussed. Suggestions include:

- The Cost of the School Day (and the cost of the School Holidays)
- Support and challenge with learning – a theme highlighted in the parent's questionnaire.

PTA – ES confirmed she would shortly meet with the outgoing chair of the PTA. A new chair had not yet been appointed for 23/24.

School Photographs – An attendee had heard concerns that the planned date of school photographs could fall on a strike day. ES was confident if this did occur that Tempest would be happy to move the date.

Scheduled dates and times of next meetings:

Monday 9/10/23 at 6.45pm at Boclair Academy (including the AGM)

Monday 22/11/23 at 6.45pm at Boclair Academy.