

KILLERMONT PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes 9 October 2023 (Draft)

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: CD, JK, RD, SR, JT, KT, AM, JH, SM, RJ, GS, LM, ES, Cllr Gallagher

Apologies: CH, CL

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed.

3. Other matters arising

- Ideas for school holiday activities were included in the school newsletter as suggested.
- The acoustic solution is being trialled in the P5 teaching space. Pupils and teachers are still adjusting to and assessing impact of this.
- Thanks to SM and CL who provided feedback on the travel plan. This has been passed on to the council.

4. Chairperson's report and correspondence

East Dunbartonshire Parent Council forum - This took place on Tuesday 3rd October.

Discussions included:

- A presentation on guidance for promoting attendance was provided (the presentation was shared with attendees post meeting). The last guidance on this was published in 2012 and there has been a recent update. East Dunbartonshire (ED) has higher average attendance than Scotland as a whole (ED average 94.3%, Scotland average 92%, KPS average ~96%). Attendance can be impacted by additional needs, bullying, being in care, and COVID. Arriving 5 mins late every day equates to 3 days lost over the year, 15 mins equates to 2 weeks, 30 mins equates to 19 days. Support is available to families affected. Parent Council (PC) can support by being aware of guidance, signposting parents to guidance, discussing at PC and supporting workshops on this at the school. 12 schools in ED have Nurture Teachers, there are no current plans to role out more. The biggest impact on attendance is holidays being taken during term time. Miss Smith looks at the attendance of pupils who fall below 90% and last year wrote to parents in this group. Some statistics on this will be included in the next newsletter.
- Some PCs have What's App groups where they discuss before the meeting suggested agenda items.
- Halal meals were discussed, SM was directed to the council website to seek the Specialist Diet Referral Form. She was unable to find this, however has submitted a request via the website for this.
- At the meeting attendees were informed that there is a requirement for all schools to record instances of bullying, Miss Smith confirmed this has been recorded for some time.
- They are seeking representatives from ED to be on the National Parent Council forum.
- At the next Council wide meeting SM will ask if other PCs are meeting online or in person. She will also ask if the inability to hold meetings in the Primary School is having an impact.

- Boclair Academy Parent Council had floated the idea of having a meeting where they brought the PCs of the feeder schools together for a meeting. Attendees thought this would be a good idea.

5. Head Teacher's report and correspondence

P7 residential – took place last week. 63 pupils attended the residential at Inverclyde National Sports Training Centre. 9 staff members attended over the week and it was a great success.

P1 curriculum event was held last week. The event pooled all workshops together, with presentations from the teachers, resources, displays at the event and information will also be provided by email. This type of event is not planned for other year groups. Meet the Teacher events were run pre-covid but were not particularly well attended, especially as year groups moved up through the school. There will be a 'sharing the learning' event for each year group during the year. Parent's Evening will be taking place shortly when questions can be asked, and questions can always be asked of class teachers at any other time of the year. A couple of attendees suggested bringing back Meet the Teacher events could be useful. There was also a suggestion that having the teachers' photos on the website would be good, so parents knew what their child's teacher looked like. Alternatively, the 'meet the teacher' videos which were put on seesaw during covid were also helpful.

P2 parents have already been invited into the class to see the pupils' learning environment.

P3 lead Harvest celebrations on Thursday 12th October, with an event in the hall (2 attendees have been invited per pupil). In addition, parents will visit the class bases afterwards. There is also an associated foodbank collection.

7 committees are in place across the school, with 133 pupils involved. The first meetings of the year will take place this week.

IT issues - There have been IT issues with the iPads as these are on a different network to other IT equipment. This was reported to the local authority at the end of August and a solution was found this week, so hopefully more information will be able to provide via Seesaw.

Parent's Evening will take place in November. The timing of this has been pushed back compared to previous years based on feedback. The plan is to have appointments in classrooms, other than P1 and P2 who will be in the hall. 10 minutes is available per pupil in P1, and 8 minutes in all other year groups, due to agreements with Teaching Unions. There was a suggestion that 'My child finds their learning hard enough' be a topic for discussion with parents on the evening, as this was the point which 13% of parents did not respond favourably to in the survey last year. Asking if there were specific subjects parent's felt this particularly related to, was suggested. It was confirmed that Sumdog tracks the child's ability, so the better they get the more it will challenge them. As not all parents may know this it was suggested an information board could be provided at Parent's Evening on this.

6. Update from the Councillor

Canniesburn Toll - Cllr Gallagher would get a copy of the plans for Canniesburn Toll and share with the Parent Council.

Free School Meals - The programme for government states the extension of free school meal provision will be achieved by 2026. Currently provision to deliver this is challenging.

Early Learning Centres - The Programme for Government confirms private and voluntary sector staff working in Adult Social Care (ASC), Children's Services (CS) and those who deliver funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) will receive at least £12 an hour under a new pledge made by the First Minister.

Parent Council Forum: At a Council meeting the administration were informed that 4 Primary schools in EDC didn't have a whiteboard in every classroom. EDC has committed to ensuring repairs are undertaken and white boards are replaced throughout the full learning estate by 2025/26, this will cost £1.6M. Discussions on devices for pupils are ongoing with a plan to achieve this by 2026. This will help close the digital literacy gap. Cllr Gallagher will pursue action on this.

Path between Rannoch Dr and Kinnaird Crescent - in final stage of procurement, will be complete by end of financial year i.e., end of March 2024.

Parking - a meeting was planned for 5th Sept and the Police and Council were contacted regarding this. However, the Police did not confirm this would take place, so Cllr Gallagher was not informed this was going ahead, so was not in attendance. The Police Officer who attended stated there were no issues noted during his visit, however Cllr Gallagher has pushed back stating that this is not the case. The Police Officer did however acknowledge there was a high volume of traffic. Miss Smith has spoken to the resident who has experienced issues. Attendees have noticed this resident taking photographs of parent's parking poorly outside the school. It was noted that some residents believe the bays outside the school are for resident's parking, however attendees noted that it does state 'drop off point' at these bays. Cllr Gallagher will push for a follow up meeting, asking the Roads Department to attend also. Looking at Tyndrum Road in addition to Aviemore Gardens was suggested as this is also becoming problematic. This was possibly due to increased traffic due to from parents from Westerton having to drop pupils at Boclair due to the cessation of the school bus from that area (solutions are being investigated including improving public bus provision). The pavement parking ban legislation has been passed, but the ban is not fully enforceable yet. The fading of the road markings was thought to exacerbate the problem. Speeding is also a concern, particularly on Inveroran Drive. Solutions suggested included:

- A moving drop off zone where parents drop and leave.
- A no parking zone on Aviemore Gardens, or a permit parking zone for residents.
- Painting parking spaces, particularly near corners.

7. AGM

22/23 saw a return to 'normal'. Cathie Bankier was thanked for her many years as secretary, Christine Dowds has agreed to take this role on. Coreen has agreed to remain Vice-chair. Had 5 meetings in 22/23 which included discussions on topics such as schools aims, parent care questionnaire, parents evenings, unisex toilets, parking and

uniform. Attendees were reminded that Parent Council is about the school community as a whole and not individual matters.

8. AOCB

There is a problem in the flooring in the school hall. This will be repaired over the October holiday.

Musical instruments are not given as an option for pupils until P5, this is a council wide decision. Musical instructors do an aptitude test for those who wish to take part. HT will clarify if there is an additional opportunity for auditions in subsequent years beyond P5.

There was no lollipop crossing patrol this morning on Rannoch Drive at the crossing by the lane. This is usually provided by Boclair Academy who would usually notify KPS if there is no cover, however the school was not notified this morning. Miss Smith will look into this.

Scheduled dates and times of next meetings:

Monday 20/11/23 at 6.45pm at Boclair Academy

Monday 15/01/24 at 6.45pm at Boclair Academy