

## **KILLERMONT PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes 15 January 2024 (Draft)**

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

**Present:** CD, JT, KT, GS, CL, AM, Cllr Gallagher, ES, SM, RJ

**Apologies:** RD, JK, LM, SR, CH, Cllr Moody,

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

Agreed.

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

RANNOCH DRIVE – KINNAIRD CRESCENT PATH UPGRADE:

- Planned to take place 12<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

SPORTS DAY

- Will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

EMAILS

- Members had been asked to consider if any emails received were unnecessary and should be stopped. No suggestions were made.

PARKING CHARTER

- This was shared with parents in the most recent school newsletter. A parent contacted the Headteacher to highlight that the charter refers to people parking their cars partly on the pavement. Under new legislation this will not be permitted however an enforcement date has not yet been confirmed in EDC. EDC have further work to undertake considering areas where this will be problematic and exemptions may be needed (such as Kinnaird crescent where cars parked fully on the road could cause further problems). EDC hope to enforce the legislation at some point during the summer once this work is completed. A no-car pilot zone is being trialled at another EDC school and once this is complete Councillor Gallagher will look into whether Killermont PS could undertake such a pilot.

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

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

- Councillor Gallagher has contacted colleagues in EDC regarding whether Halal options could be made available. It has been indicated previously that a form is available through which to make such requests but enquires to find this form have not been successful. Councillor Gallagher has been informed individual needs can be catered for through arranging an individual meeting for each pupil, but this does not cover the scenario which has been asked

about at KPS where a larger group of pupils have similar requirements, such as for a religious reason. Investigations on this matter will continue.

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

### TRANSITION

- P7 have had the first of 3 lessons on their transition to Boclair Academy. They also have a STEM session, a Team Building session and visits to Boclair Academy. In addition a session will be held for parents.
- P1 parents were asked for feedback on the transition from EYC to KPS. Parents enjoyed the induction event online, the Stay and Play session (once pupils started P1), and the curriculum events. The Coffee and Chat session for parents on Friday's at the EYC was also welcomed.

### EYC

- Collaborative Improvement Visits are taking place with ADES (Association of Directors of Education in Scotland). They are visiting the EYC on 31<sup>st</sup> January. This will also include focus groups. The focus of the visits is literacy.

### BLUE MONDAY

- Well through the sessions on 'Resolving Conflict'. 1-2-1 sessions will also be taking place. The Lifelink group work has been undertaken and went well. SPARKS sessions were also well received. The school used PEF funding for these activities. Pupils seem to enjoy activities in the mindfulness area. Attendees were reminded that if pupils would benefit from support in this area if the school are informed they are happy to provide this.

## **6. Councillor Update**

- The next Education Committee takes place on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## **7. Cost of the school day**

### EVENTS

- Halloween Disco was funded by the PTA.
- The pre-loved costume initiative went well, though next year there will be more promotion of this online, and it was suggested it would be helpful if this took place earlier.
- Christmas Parties were also free of charge, funded by both the PTA and the School.
- P1 school show tickets are not charged for.
- The 'come dressed as you please' days have a voluntary contribution. The Children in Need day raised over £500, with the Christmas Jumper Day raising over £300.

### SCHOOL TRIPS

- The school aims to ensure trips are relevant to topics being studied. Some places offer school discounts, but not all places do. When discounts are not offered this can push prices up.
- Currently due to the different costs of visits some years the school trip for a pupil may be £8 for example, then the following year it may be £15. It was suggested that you could ask parents across all year groups to pay £10 annually for school trips. This then evens the cost out so parents know what the cost will be annually. If there was an excess at the end of the school year this could be used for an end of year treat for pupils, with parents being informed.
- Attendees highlighted that as they don't use cheques, it can be hard to remember to get cash for such events. An online payment option would be helpful.
- The school are trying to make more use of the local area, taking pupils to walkable places such as the woods. Planning for this will be a focus of the next Inservice day.
- The P7 trip is more expensive at £350. It was suggested having a deposit scheme could be beneficial for some who would find it more affordable to pay the cost over a longer period. Having discussed the pros and cons of the P7 trip the parent council thought that the experience was worth the expense.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM AND EQUIPEMENT

- The school have made clear that while uniform is required, it does not have to be badged KPS branded uniform.
- The PTA school clothes fair has been well attended, though there was a considerable amount of clothing left over. This will be held again in 2024 with more of an online presence.
- Parents thought there was a positive culture at KPS of parents not feeling they need to have all clothing branded such as jackets.
- It was thought that it would be helpful if parents did not feel the need to have multiple sets of wellie boots and puddle suits (e.g. if one set is needed to be kept at school for Eco Garden Days, another set needed for Forest Club if at After School Club, and then one for home). It was suggested that an option to pay an annual fee for hire of such equipment may be welcomed by some.
- Highlighting that pencil cases was not an essential requirement was appreciated.

### FOOD

- Snacks used to be provided but there is no longer funding for this.
- In P1-P5 if the children don't have a snack with them they would be taken to the school kitchen to get something.
- Free school meals are currently only available for P1-P5. Whilst it is the longer term intention that this will be available for P6 and P7, currently this is not possible due to infrastructure in school kitchens.

### TEACHER PRESENTS

- Whilst the school state in the newsletter that presents are not expected for teachers, some parents like to give a present, and often offer to collect for others if they also wish to do so. This can cause conflict as some parents who

would prefer to give to charity, or make their own arrangements, then quote the newsletter as a reason for why the collection should not be done. Whilst the parents present understand the intention behind the message, they feel it can cause problems. It was agreed this note will not be included in newsletters in future years.

The whole parent group will be consulted at Parents Evening on cost of the School Day ideas and suggestions.

## **8. AOCB**

### **Scheduled dates and times of next meetings:**

Monday 4/03/24 at 6.45pm at Boclair Academy

Monday 20/05/24 at 6.45pm at Boclair Academy

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