

KILLERMONT PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes 02 September 2024

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Cllr Moody, Cllr Gallagher, GS, LM, RD, JT, JK, AM, KT, SM, FM, CH, CD

Apologies: SR, CL

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed.

3. Other matters arising

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

- A parent asked that the crossing at Buchanan Drive and Glendaruel Avenue be discussed. In particular they requested that there be a crossing patrol at this point. There were a number of benefits of introducing a crossing patrol highlighted relating to environmental benefits, social aspects of walking to school and the safety of the young people using these routes. The removal of the school bus from Westerton to Boclair Academy was also highlighted as it was thought this would likely increase the number of pupils walking. It was noted that in the council budget a review of crossing patrols was approved, with the intention of reducing (or at least maintaining and not increasing) costs associated with this.

CAR PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

- Members noted that parking around the school is an ongoing issue. This had been looked into previously and it was confirmed that if white lines required to be re-painted residents would need to pay for this. Members queried whether the PTA could pay for the white lines. Councillor Gallagher will enquire as to whether this was permissible.

Action: Councillor Gallagher

It was also noted that white lines are advisory and drivers cannot be fined for parking over them. Members asked if double yellow lines could be implemented, however it was noted this requires a significant amount of approval, including public consultation, at which point any member of the public could object. Residents may also not want double yellow lines implemented.

- When the pavement parking ban comes into effect it does not appear that Aviemore Gardens and Kinnaird Crescent are on the exemption list. A date for the implementation of the ban in East Dunbartonshire Council has not been confirmed.
- It was noted that there is a School Parking Charter and this would be shared again with parents in order to further educate parents and the wider school community on the issues surrounding this topic.

HOMEWORK

- A parents raised with the Chair that they thought there should be more homework and it should have started earlier in the academic year. The Parent Council noted however that there are many and varied views on this, with some parents preferring less homework. The school had undertaken a consultation in 2020 on this, at which point the timeframe in which homework was set was extended to 2 weeks which was welcomed. FM noted that other than promoting self-directed learning, research has found that undertaking homework does not result in a significant advantage to children's learning. Members agreed that one size

does not fit all in respect to homework. This would be further considered and parents consulted in some form.

CHANGE TO GLASGOW AIRPORT FLIGHT PATHS

- The change to flight paths for Glasgow Airport was raised as the proposed changes could result in increased air traffic above the school. A consultation process would be starting shortly. The current preferred option was a route which would not result in increased air traffic over KPS, however this was not confirmed and the consultation could impact this, so it would be important for parents to be aware of this.
- It was noted that a noise reduction consultation is also currently underway.

EAR PEIRCING

- It was confirmed it was EDC policy that all earrings needed to be removed for PE lessons.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

- CH confirmed that pupils' mobile phones were not permitted to be turned on, on the school grounds. Pupils may have them in their bag, but they are not permitted to be turned on, on school grounds.
- Parents who have children at Bocclair Academy confirmed that pupils are encouraged to use their mobile phones as part of their learning.

AFFORDABILITY OF P7 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

- The Parent Council was informed that the suggestion that the residential trip can be paid up over a number of months will be taken forward.

BIKEABILITY

- Parents asked if Bikeability would be offered to P6s. It was confirmed that this was not offered last year as Sustrans who used to offer this changed what they offered. FM will enquire with other HTs what their schools offer in this area.

ACTION: FM

4. Chairperson's report and correspondence

COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY

- At the last parents evening parents were asked if they would prefer to pay a standard cost for the school trips regardless of their child's year group, however the vast majority were happy to continue with the current practice where you pay the cost of the trip your child will go on, which could vary per year group.
- Other comments parents made included:
 - i. Campbell t-shirts stain badly. Baru would be contacted regarding this issue to discuss. If there was no solution to this an alternative supplier would be considered;
 - ii. Encourage EDC to support Breakfast Clubs and Afterschool;
 - iii. Suggestion that parents could be given an option to overpay for school trips to help those struggling to afford this (though it was noted the PET fund already covers this).
- The PTA are organising a place for the pre-loved uniforms to be kept which parents can visit when they need uniform.
- Members of the pupil council asked parents if they thought the number of fundraising events was appropriate or too much/too little. The response indicated that most parents thought the amount was appropriate.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

- A member commented that there does seem to be a significant number of days when there is more than one vegetarian or vegan option, with no meat option available. Members agreed they would expect there to be a meat option every day.
- A member of the catering team had asked to meet with the pupil council which would provide an opportunity for pupils to feedback their opinions on lunch options.

5. Head Teacher's report and correspondence

START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

- The start to the new session has gone well. The P1 transition seemed to go very smoothly.
- There is one new teacher, in addition to Mrs McLauchlan.
- There are some vacancies to be filled in SLTs and classroom assistant roles. This is having an impact on staffing in the playground and the number of first aid trained staff in the playground (staff-pupil ratios are being met, however there may be more change of staff in the different playground areas than would be ideal).
- The school role is 428. There are spaces at all stages except P3.
- Feedback on the school newsletter was sought again. In future there may be a 'you-said-we-did' type feature so that those who provide feedback know it is being acted on. Having a clear annual school calendar in the newsletter is being planned. The latest newsletter had 711 views.
- Attainment last year was very high. This year's cohort are a different group and may not have the same attainment level, any drop would be looked in to. The area most likely to require support continues to be writing. However writing attainment has improved significantly since covid.
- There is a new QIO (Marie Donald) in place and will be working closely with KPS staff. There is a new QIO Manager Louise O'Hara who has joined from Glasgow. The previous QIO Manager will work with Louise through the handover process.
- HMI will be undertaking a Thematic Review across the EDC Authority which the school will feed into.
- The school has been awarded it's 9th Eco flag.
- Parents asked if Inverclyde would be booked for the 2025 P7 school trip. It was confirmed this would be booked once the 2024 residential trip has taken place.

6. Councillor's Updates

- There were no further updates in addition to the topics which has already been discussed.

7. Scheduled dates and times of next meetings:

7th Oct 2024

18th Nov 2024

20th Jan 2025

3rd March 2025

19th May 2025