

MILLBURN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

A meeting of the Millburn Academy Parent Council was held on Wednesday 17 April 2024.

PRESENT:

Ian MacDonald (Chair)
Sara Bain
Andrew Campbell
Natasha Gibbs
Kay Kelly
Jacqueline Mackenzie
Lee-Ann MacKenzie
Gillian MacLennan
Hannah Poulson
Kerry Sinclair
Roz Souter (Secretary)

WELCOME and APOLOGIES: Ian welcomed everyone attending the meeting and introductions were made around the table. Apologies received from Fiona Cummins, Audrey Angus and Melanie Lawrence.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Lee-Ann Mackenzie and seconded by Hannah Poulson.

MATTERS ARISING

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

Roz to see Audrey re status of accounts – balance currently sitting at £1212.99. Roz has submitted the request for funding for Parent Councils before end of March – not heard back yet (normally September time).

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

Staffing changes:

Tjeerd van Loon appointed Headteacher at Glenurquhart High will be replaced by John Rutter
Mrs Lockhart PT English (start 27/5/24)
Calum MacPherson – probationer to permanent position
Rachel Davidson – joining chemistry
Mr Main – joining Geog for one year fixed term contract
PT Business – 26 April 2024 interviews
Chemistry/Biology appointment tbc
English appointment tbc
Janet Lindsay – acting PT Raising Attainment returning to Geog

Retirees - Susan Little, Emma Borthwick, Lorna Lumsden

New pastures - Helen Murdoch (new job), Cameron Carmichael (career break), Rasa Strang (returning home to Lithuania)

Headteacher post to be appointed

Focusing on Learning & Teaching to improve practices and how we teach. Pedagogy wheel shared with committee about delivering a consistent lesson structure in all classrooms.

Improvement plan – plans for 2024/25:

- School values, culture and ethos – Kerry would like to see community and compassion included in values
- Pupil and staff wellbeing – dealing with stress and reduced hours of staff. Hannah reported that Kooth contacts have been very positive and useful to students who have contacted them.
- Pedagogy
- Curriculum offer – options for students
- Raising attainment – still not achieving equal to National comparators with 5 Highers

Other Areas:

- Pupil Councils – holding regular meetings with year groups
- Environmental Issues – pupils concerned with litter issues and wider world issues
- CCTV – to deal with increasing damage to toilets and anti-social behaviour in building etc. Asked for by Pupil Council after concerns raised by students.
- SQA Leadership Award Level 6 – in curriculum for first time this year and offered to all S6 prefects (approx 50 this year). 2% gap in S6 attainment between Millburn and National attainment... this could plug this gap. 43 students submitted in 2024 giving them the equivalent of additional Higher.

S3 Prefects trailing this year – have to apply by video.

FUNDING REQUESTS

RME – subsidise ticket cost $24 \times £2.50 = £60$ (agree) Prop – LM, Secon HP

S1 OLE – hardship fund for fieldtrip to enable all students to take advantage of this experience. Approached me to ask for £1000 (£500 each from PC and MAFIA). Prop – GM, Seconded LM

Asked where funding comes from... Ask Audrey. Are there any other sources?
Need to look at position of MAFIA for funding requests in the future.

Other schools do a one-off fundraiser such as a sponsored walk to support their school fund but Millburn's position re main roads prevents this.

FUTURE COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

Would like to establish a Parent Council Facebook page for parents to join where the meeting dates etc could be posted... Roz to organize.

Roz has updated the website entry for PC and envisage posting minutes of meetings there. She will not be emailing out "members" unless absolutely necessary... are there regular members to contact other than those that regularly turn up to meetings?

Make meetings events on Fb – Jacqueline and Kay could help with admin roles.

Annual Parent Council conference in HC – look at when.

AOB

Concerns re student safety in and around school. Traffic issues on approach to school (corner beside Lumsden's). Roz has spoken to Isabelle – use of Pupil Council to come up with ideas around traffic issues may be a possibility? Parent driving conduct in car park esp at crossings is especially concerning. Email Isabelle and cc Ian. Hannah to send me details of a counsellor to contact. Ian to contact PMA re possible consultation re parking.

MAFIA resurrection – only one respondent to social media post (Hannah Poulson). Continue with drive to get members to get on board.

Recruitment drive at P7 Parent's Evenings for MAFIA – Gillian happy to go along and chat about MAFIA and Lee-Ann happy to chat about PC.

Roz to repost information about the work of MAFIA on social media... possible text message pointing out the need for fundraising to support student activities.

Parent Council could be interim fundraiser to support school funding requests. Gill to lead a sub-committee of PC... date tbc. Possible initial fundraising committee... Gill, Roz, Hannah, Kay, Lee-Ann, Sara.

Community Police link – Jacqueline asked about reinstatement of in school presence. Budget funding forced removal of Community Police Officer... only have 101 or online logging of incidents. Purpose was to reduce level of anti-social behaviour.

Meeting with Fiona Shearer and Ian on 19th April to discuss applicants and process for Headteacher position.

Gillian and Lee-Ann to attend P7 Parent's Meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The AGM to be held on Wed 12th June 2024.