

Meldrum Academy Parent Council  
Meeting 1, Session 2019-2020. 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Approved.

Parent Members – Simon Wain (C), Louise Will (VC), Stuart Shaw, Catherine Hambly, Helen Richards, Kurt Prendergast (T), Keith Will, Julie Chesson, Jennifer Morrison, André Klopper, Doug Robertson, Catherine Smart, Patrina Bain.

Teacher Reps- Kathryn Michie

Pupil Reps- Hannah Michie (CL)

In attendance – Head teacher Ian Jackson, Cllr Anne Stirling

Item	Minute	Action
1. Welcome	Simon welcomed all present to the meeting. All new S1 parents were thanked for their attendance.	
2. Apologies	Elizabeth Craigie, Cllr Andrew Hassan, Alistair Reid, Barbara King, Von Webster (Rotary Rep), Eithne McKinney, Susan Watt, Bryan Dickson, Jon Edwards, Zoe Birnie, Dawn Florence, Saratha Kandassany.	
3. Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising	<p>Proposed by André Klopper Seconded by Keith Will</p> <p>School-parent communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behaviour management information still to uploaded to the school's blog, as this is seen as the primary source of information for parents and pupils</li> <li>• Further blog posts to be redeveloped, while keeping the current page up to date</li> <li>• Social media use within departments has risen</li> <li>• Newsletter to S1 parents to be distributed on August 29<sup>th</sup> giving parents information on how to sign up for show my homework notifications from the school</li> </ul> <p>Co-operative Community Fund Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications were made prior to the deadline and will receive notification between October-November 2019</li> </ul> <p>Other Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reusable products within school not yet implemented</li> <li>• Climate for Learning to be applied to next meeting's agenda</li> </ul>	
4. Phil and Aly 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The office has confirmed that only 39 tickets have been sold so far, including those who were on the contact list from last year.</li> <li>• The main issue is that although the event creates enough money, the demographics of the audience are not changing, and the content is becoming repetitive.</li> <li>• Dave Mutch confirmed he can compere again this year.</li> <li>• SW has organised ice cream from Mackies.</li> <li>• Posters have been sent out throughout the village of Oldmeldrum, and only 3 remain at the school.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was suggested that posters could be sent out via email to people to distribute.</li> <li>• 3 banners to be placed in Drum of Wattle (LW/KW) and along the B999 towards Pitmedden, Udny and Tarves (CS). SW to leave the banner with the librarian for CS to collect on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug</li> <li>• IJ to supply posters to primary schools in the area to advertise the event.</li> <li>• SW received good responses from Original106 and NorthSound 1 to put on the What's On Guide, but they could not advertise it directly on the radio.</li> <li>• DF has organised a piece to appear in the Press and Journal, Evening Express.</li> <li>• Fiddlestix confirmed as playing which will bring in parents.</li> <li>• A3-sized road signs being put up but they can only be put up one week before the event. KP to put up signs in Fyvie and JC to cover Newmachar, Dyce and Ellon. SW to cover Meldrum and Inverurie</li> <li>• The shortbread (sourced by KM) has been delivered to Mr Jackson.</li> <li>• PB has sourced a number of recyclable/ compostable cups for the event.</li> <li>• SW contacted the promoter who confirmed that the duo still plan to perform despite Phil's recent ill health.</li> <li>• SW asked that everyone push and promote wherever they can</li> <li>• Based on numbers it was felt that we should be looking at a different event next time to encourage parents and pupils into the school.</li> </ul> <p>Raffle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donations welcome and request to be sent out</li> <li>• PC looking for volunteers from parents and from Senior pupils to organise and provide refreshments on the night.</li> <li>• Estimated £1000 worth of prizes donated last year, including paintings and vouchers for days of golfing.</li> <li>• Suggestion for there to be a way for parents who are not able to attend to bid on the silent auction/purchase raffle tickets without being there on the night. It was agreed that the Silent auction is to be extended until the following the event.</li> <li>• Raffle/silent auction prizes being chased per the spreadsheet distributed (action SW,LW, KM, BD, IJ, JC, PB, KP)</li> <li>• JC volunteered to contact Aberdeen Football Club for donations.</li> <li>• Idea to retain some prizes to be distributed at parent's evenings.</li> <li>• JC, DR, KM and HM to help out on the night.</li> </ul>	<p>IJ</p> <p>KP/JC/ SW</p> <p>IJ EE Commitee</p> <p>SW/IJ</p> <p>JC</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KP has purchased 6 books of 1,000 raffle tickets.</li> </ul>	
5. School Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued push to encourage the wearing of uniforms</li> <li>• SW has received positive feedback from parents who are pleased with the increase in uniforms worn.</li> <li>• On the first day back, only a handful of pupils were not wearing adequate uniform.</li> <li>• Black shoes proving to be an issue, but the school remains steadfast in their attempts to make uniforms equal for each pupil.</li> <li>• IJ has noticed a rise in younger pupils keen to move towards shirts and ties like the senior school.</li> <li>• A discussion was held over the mental health implications on asking pupils who were not wearing Uniform to leave assembly at the end. It was agreed that the impact on mental health should be considered in these type of actions.</li> <li>• Uniform supplier (DFS) has not had sufficient stock which hasn't help the situation, particularly with ties, which were severely understocked before the Summer holidays.</li> <li>• It was also noted that wearing a uniform reduces pupils being singled out for not having expensive clothing so not encouraging the uniform could also have a mental health impact.</li> </ul>	
6. Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 run by Emma Cameron from SPARK.</li> <li>• 60 parents confirmed to attend.</li> <li>• Tickets have been made available on EventBrite.</li> <li>• Focus on not only mental health but also resilience.</li> <li>• Follow up events will be looked at but there could be so many issues to focus on.</li> <li>• Logie Durno, Rayne North and Old Rayne are holding similar events with a focus on primary pupils, but with the idea to address the issues before they develop further at the academy.</li> <li>• Tracey Christie CLD worker has worked with groups of pupils who benefit from this kind of support.</li> <li>• Issue to be given more time at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	
7. Reading Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideally requires S5 pupils with a high level of literacy to support the programme, but because senior pupils are now given 6 periods for a Higher subject, they do not have the same study periods that last year's volunteers had.</li> <li>• Big impact on members of staff who appreciated their eyes being opened to the low level of reading ability of some pupils. This then allowed them to adjust their teaching accordingly.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental focus on reading for purpose could see real improvements.</li> </ul>	
8. Strategic Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-year plan implemented proves more coherent for staff members.</li> <li>• Paper based process has moved to school wide spreadsheet that can be accessed by the Senior Management Team at any time.</li> <li>• Andy Carder has expressed a wish to speak with the PC about the Digital Learning strategy being developed in school, which will be added to a future meeting agenda.</li> <li>• Suggestion to cover each of the 5 improvement areas in more depth at future meetings.</li> </ul>	
9. Recycling of Lost Property and Study Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothes left behind/lost property, is becoming more and more of an issue, on the last Saturday of every month, the uniform swap-shop will be held from the library. It was noted that pupils need to be given adequate notice to come and collect items before placing them into the swap-shop. The more it runs; the more people will attend. Parents will be reminded of when it is running via text/email.</li> <li>• The next one is scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, from 10am to 1pm (thanks to Vicky Prendergast and Claire)</li> <li>• Donations are not necessary as part of the swap-shop but are welcome to contribute to the cleaning costs</li> <li>• There is the potential for a stall at parent's evening.</li> <li>• Families who receive free school meals also receive £100 clothing allowance every August per child to go towards uniform.</li> <li>• The re-use of study materials and textbooks is widely encouraged within the school, both in the library and within the school departments.</li> </ul>	
10. Open Afternoon- 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.30pm-3.30pm</li> <li>• Last year, PC provided refreshments in support of Macmillan Cancer with a coffee afternoon</li> <li>• PC to provide similar Macmillan refreshments this year</li> <li>• Biodegradable cups have been arranged by PB</li> <li>• Coffee, tea and milk will be provided by the school</li> <li>• Notification is to be issued</li> </ul>	LW/JC/ PB/DF  IJ
11. Head Teacher's Update	<p>Meldrum Academy SQA Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S4 pupils who achieved 5 or more National 5 qualifications was 59% this year, 6% more than the predicted 53%</li> <li>• S5 pupils achieving 3 or more Highers were 34%</li> <li>• S6 pupils achieving 5 or more Highers throughout the senior phase was 40%</li> <li>• This is a good result for the school which is now sitting 5th/6th in Aberdeenshire for its attainment.</li> </ul>	

- One issue of underachievement is with 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils who receive unconditional offers from universities or colleges and then drop out of courses after Christmas, or pupils who have dropped courses throughout the year and only sit 1 or 2 exams.
- The school will encourage these pupils to continue in their courses, and to achieve as many qualifications possible.
- There has been an increase in attainment between National 5 and Highers
- The school has been praised by the Head of Aberdeenshire Education Vincent Docherty for its attainment this year.
- The challenge is now maintaining/improving this, as the current S5 group are predicted to do even better next year
- The school congratulates the English, Modern Languages, Health and Performing Arts departments for their impressive results
- Sandy Smith DHT is to present more detailed results at future meetings

#### Whole School

- 11 new members of staff have joined since the start of term in the following subjects, Social subjects, Home Economics, Science, Business studies, Computing, Maths, Music, Design and Technology and a Pupil Support Worker.
- The current school roll is sitting at just under 1,000, with first and second year-groups currently accounting for almost 400 pupils
- The Authority are moving forward with investigating how we accommodate the increase in pupil numbers predicted to come up in 2021-22
- Re-zoning the school will not necessarily solve these issues
- The school has allocated additional funding for pupils entitled to free school meals, providing all these pupils with funds for a free school breakfast each day up to the value of £1 which is added daily to the electronic cards for use at the breakfast or morning break on a use it or lose it basis. Breakfast deals are also available for all other pupils for £1.
- The school received over 200 responses from the communications survey pre summer, which showed parents prefer the use of texting and emails to stay in contact with the school
- There has been a crackdown on poor attendance since the start of term, in particular those arriving late to

	<p>school, with SMT being stationed at every entrance to the school in the morning. Noting those who are late into the building. Five incidents of late will immediately lead to parents being notified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school has completely banned all energy drinks, but the challenge will be to enforce it</li> <li>• Clubs convention- 29<sup>th</sup> August</li> <li>• 6 pupils from the school have been asked to attend the Offshore Europe event on behalf of STORK (Meldrum academy business partner) to promote the school's involvement with them.</li> <li>• New Positive Recognition Scheme for all pupils has been implemented as part of the climate for learning procedures.</li> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019- beginning of work experience week for senior pupils</li> <li>• SMHW letters distributed to S1 parents on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug</li> <li>• A number of works have been carried out within school over the summer with the AstroTurf also being relaid.</li> <li>• School calendars to come out in due course</li> </ul>	
12. AOCB	Study leave to be focused on into the next year's agendas.	
13. Dates of next meetings	<p><b>All meetings Wednesday at 19:15;</b>  2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019  20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – After Dragon's Den (so start time may slip)  15<sup>th</sup> January 2020  26<sup>th</sup> February 2020  22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020  10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (AGM)</p>	