



MINUTES

Milton Primary School - Parent Council

Monday 7th February 2022

In Attendance

Jill Pate (Vice Chair JP)	Michelle Wailes (Treasurer MW)	Hazel McShane (Secretary HM)
Lorna James (HeadTeacher LJ)	Jaclyn Bunten (JB)	Jennifer Manson (JM)
Alison Shaw (AS)	Marla Clark (MC)	Mary Brownlie (MB),
Gillian Prentice (GP)	Emma Tulloch (ET)	Kyra Martin Burera
Cllr. Mark Horsham (MH)	Cllr. Colin McGavigan (CM)	

1. Apologies:

Sandra Gardiner (Chair SG)	Janet Graham (JG)	Ayzhan Glass (AG)	Judith Clarke (JC)
Clare Hislop (CH)	Vicki Brannan (VB)	Charlotte Neilson (CN)	Sarah Allison (SH)

Quorum - yes

2. Approval of minutes - Adopted by Marla Clark, seconded by Hazel McShane

Note

P7 Swimming conclusion (following discussion at November meeting) – shorter course of swim lessons (6 weeks) was not available at leisure centre and a full 12 weeks of swimming absence could not be absorbed into current curriculum demands, therefore swimming lessons will not go ahead for P7 and there is no longer a funding request.

3. Head Teachers Report

See attached

4. Financial Report

As there has been no permission to fundraise at events as yet, income continues to be from a combination of grants, ragbag and easy fundraising

£232 paid to school for silent disco since last meeting.

£4200 – available funds

Unanimously agreed to fund P6 Sports Committee request for £500 of sports equipment subject to receipt of a detailed breakdown of equipment requested. This was received post-meeting. There will be no financial request from P7 this year for their legacy project.

It was noted that the Education City 3-year license may be due for renewal within the next year – GP to confirm timing.

5. Fundraising

Considerations for future fundraising

- Online raffles online
- Scratch card
- Online auction for pupil's art (possibility of "hybrid" event e.g., use of outdoor space to showcase)
- Consideration to be given to contacting local companies for experiences/lots we could sell/auction on online – some ideas are tutoring, CV skills, making dinner, tour of local businesses, local football team ball boy experience
- Possibility of applying for grants (including those we were previously successful in applying for e.g., Loaningdale)
- Donations can still be collected at school front door for raffle prizes. ParentPay could be used to collect payments.
- Tesco - probably not a bag pack but potential for a tombola? (JP to ask)
- Milton's Got Talent (or other "in school" event) not yet an option

Further discussion to be held in separate meeting (TBA) – potential timing for "event" either just before or just after Easter (May onwards is a very busy time for the school).

MW to research Gambling License.

6. Highland games – 18th June

It's not definite if we can get a float this year. It is the Diamond (60th) anniversary of games - first highland games was 1961

- Agreed to aim for a Milton float (with back-up plan for walking float)
- Ideas discussed Jubilee (possibly garden party themed), Across the decades, Diamonds, Golf theme
- Pupils to generate some ideas (e.g., through Pupil natter)
- Poll to be set up via Google Form (LJ)

7. AOCB

- Consider what any new fundraising may be used for, Education City renewal is a consideration
- School let to be requested for next meeting
- Councillors Horsham and McGavigan noted this was the last Parent Council meeting before the upcoming local elections and thanked the Parent Council for allowing them to attend/contribute to meetings during their term of office. JP thanked the Councillors on behalf of the Parent Council.

Next meeting

Date of Meetings 2021/2022 (already decided)

16th May 2022



Parent Council 7/2/22
Head Teacher's Report - LJ

Covid Update

- The most recent guidance states that we no longer require to have bubbles. This lets us go back to our normal lunch routines which had gone back to staggered and designated seating.
- Parent Councils and PTAs can now meet in person therefore our next meeting should be able to go ahead in school.
- We continue to be guided by Scottish Government and SLC and will continue to follow guidance for ventilation, self-isolation and contact tracing.
- As always, things can change quickly and just as a new risk assessment is completed, new guidance comes out so we are at the mercy of this at times.

Enrolment

- All new Primary 1 families joining in August have been contacted and in the coming weeks there will be various transition meetings with feeder nurseries.
- Deferral and placing requests decision have still to take place. We are very close to our maximum capacity for Primary 1 so if there are new pupils who move into the area a possible composite P1/2 class may have to be considered but at present our class configuration for August is 7 straight classes.

Primary 6 Sports Committee

- Each class has a committee and Primary 6 are taking on the Sports committee with a view of taking on the Sports Scotland recognition award.
- Mrs Kerr and the Primary 6 committee have gone through the resources in the PE cupboard and have completed a wish list. Gaynor Smith (school office) has priced this and the total is coming in at £1,146. I would like to ask if the Parent Council would consider funding £500 of this from their fund which would cover the cost of the curling kit which comes in at just over £200 and then £300 towards other resources including new netball bibs and a multi-use net.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- We are already starting to plan a day of celebration for the children to mark the Queen's jubilee.
- We will be holding an old-fashioned outdoor tea party.
- Children will take part in a design your own crown competition and there will be a variety of fun things happening throughout the day.

- We are going to contact SLC catering to see if they will provide jelly and ice-cream on the day and children will have the opportunity across all classes to make their own sandwiches for the tea party.
- More details will come out nearer the time.

Primary 7 Residential Trip 2022

- We have been in contact with Lockerbie Manor but I have to stress that this is dependent on staff who volunteer for this and this is not an educational requirement.
- At present moving forward a change of days is being considered. This would be a shorter stay Wed-Fri rather than the full week. This reduces the cost for families and also means that the school is not having to pay for cover for a full week which becomes very expensive. There are two slots available for Late February and early March next year. This would allow preparatory work and outdoor resilience and team building skills to be taught on the Mon-Tues.

School Trips 2022

- We have booked an outdoor resilience workshop day at Dumfries House for our Primary 7 pupils and Primary 3 are hoping to visit New Lanark as part of their topic this term. Other trips tend to be in the final term where able but as always the cost of the busses remains our biggest issue for visiting venues.

Recently Published Times Scotland Primary School League Table

- I won't be discussing another school's results but am happy to talk through Milton's figures.
- Each year, data is collected from Primary 1, 4 and 7 only. This is based purely on teacher's professional judgements taking into consideration ongoing class work, diagnostic and summative testing and overall progression across Literacy and Numeracy Curriculum for Excellence levels. The league table is not based on standardised tests and there is no context given in the leagues table – it does not give data about the percentage of pupils achieving at which level.
- You will appreciate that each year, the cohort can be completely different and some stages have more complex or global needs than other stages which means levels can change dramatically due to a number of factors including pupils who have recognised, labelled or suspected additional support needs, or are receiving specialist support within Literacy and Numeracy or are a non-attender or have high level of absences or repeated periods of extended absence which impacts on pace and progression.
- There are a number of schools that are not included with the league table and my personal and professional opinion of league tables is that they are not helpful, they do not take into account the wide and varied needs of individuals or give a complete picture of progress within the school. These kinds of tables are damaging and do not reflect what each child is doing in terms of their academic and social development in school or those pupils who are flourishing but not necessarily within Literacy and Numeracy. The league table was

not from Scottish Government or SLC – no-one at HQ knows the formula that has been used to come up with these positions. It is a press created table, not a Government created table.

- This year's interim data has already been submitted to headquarters and has been very positive with an overall average of 86% of pupils on track to achieve their expected level by June 2022. As always our staged intervention measures mean that this may still increase as progress improves with the help of outside agency involvement, in house support and through the use of technology based aids to support learning.
- We cannot ignore the difficulty in collecting data as a result of the pandemic but I am confident in the curriculum delivery by staff in Milton Primary. Remote learning offered a platform for academic work to continue but the weekly engagement data I collected showed which individuals were working consistently throughout the periods of remote learning and lockdown, those who dipped in and out and those who did not engage at all which further impacts on results. Remote learning can offer academic development but it falls short in providing social development. It took a long time for our pupils to re-acclimatise to in-person teaching learning and we concentrated on pupils' emotional health and wellbeing to support the recovery agenda. Jaclyn and I talked about the levels of morale and confidence when her Primary 7 pupils returned.
- The Morgan Review published in October 2020 looks at improving additional support for learning and highlights the increasing level of support in terms of complex learning needs especially in terms of communication and in meeting the needs of individuals and their families. None of this is taken into consideration when data from the cohort is considered. There is a view that historically 20% of pupils would have some form of additional support need but this figure is closer to 30% now.
- Our school improvement plan draws on the statistical data that I collect throughout the year and the professional discussions and tracking and monitoring meetings which take place between myself and class teachers through the session. This year we looked at Numeracy after the drop in Numeracy attainment in two of the reportable classes last session. Confirmatory assessments and the introduction of maths recovery across the early stages has already shown this to be improving with better results across the school and also in the cohorts collected by Scottish Government in Primary 1, 4 and 7. As a school staff we are responsive to the final data collected for Government but it is really important for you as parents and the wider public to appreciate that there are years where this can fluctuate greatly depending on the level of need, additional support requirements, attendance, exclusion, participation and engagement.