

MINUTES

Milton Primary School – Parent Council Meeting

Monday 13th May 2024



In Attendance

Jill Pate (Chair JP), Peter Ferrier (Vice Chair PF), Michelle Wailes (Treasurer MW), Jude Clarke (Secretary JC)

Lorna James (Headteacher LJ), Gillian Prentice (Principal Teacher GP), Jacqueline Buntin (Principal Teacher JB), Steven Strachan (SS), Vicki Brennan (VB), Marla Clarke (MC), Ailsa Lorimer (AL), Alison Shaw (AS), Jenny Manson (JM)

1. Apologies

Ross Lambie, Ross Gowland, Janet Graham, Mary Brownlee, Shona Meikle, Suzy Graham, Clare Hislop

2. Approval of Previous Minutes – Adopted by VB, Seconded by MW

3. Head Teacher Update (see Appendix A)

- Homework diary discussion - definitely needed for P1-P3 but may not be as necessary for P4-7 as using Google classroom. Reminder Google classroom is not for parent communication. Parents should email or call the school. Homework 25% completion rate, discussion on significant time taken by teachers. School wants parents opinions.

4. Financial Report

- Loaningdale £2000 received for transport costs
- Kype Muir £5000+ received for show
- LCC microgrant £500 received for ICT
- P7 gifts covered, party still to claim
- Remaining balance - ~£4500 includes funds committed to Education City subscription

5. Quiz Debrief

- Event successful with attendance from many families.
- Would consider for next year.

6. Grants

- AL discussed the many sources of funding available, local schools already benefiting from.
- There is funding for Milton to think of some bigger proposals to apply for funding for.
- REF, Cumberhead, Auchrobert all taking applications this year. Brokenscross to come.

7. Highland Games float update

- Kids club starting this month for 4 weeks to make the decorations. Vicki/Jude involved.
- No plans for outside school sessions until the build stage as not well attended.
- Grant applied for – has since been rejected therefore the PC have agreed to provide £100 funding towards it.

8. Fundraising - other event ideas

- Tesco bag pack – Nora at Tesco is aware we would like one.
- Discussion about getting a Tesco blue token project proposed.
- Next year Halloween disco and potential beach party disco could be funded by PC as most the children attend so all benefit. The beach party disco could be early on, maybe in Feb to fit in. Halloween date to be decided at Sept meeting.
- As identified in section 5, there is a lot more money available through grants.

9. AOCB

- Noticeboard discussion – some parents feel they would benefit. The school felt it might be tricky to keep updated as they are already providing info in various forms so maybe more for PC. Woodpark noticeboard was put up by the school.
- Council Transport consultation no update yet, due on 24th May.
- Brief discussion about the MUGA surface, JC to email councillors.

Dates of meetings 2024/2025:

Monday 7pm – 2nd Sept 2024

Monday 7pm – 21st Oct 2024 (extra meeting to prep for Christmas Fayre – location TBC)

Monday 7pm – 18th Nov 2024

Monday 7pm – 3rd Feb 2025

Monday 7pm – 12th May 2025

APPENDIX A – Head Teacher's report

Parent Council 5/2/24

Head Teacher's Report



Thanks to Jill

- Vote of thanks to Jill

Aladdin Success

- We had a very successful school drama show – if you were there I hope you agree.
- Another huge thank you to Ailsa for helping with the grant and for this being in the Parent Council name. This allowed us to buy the stunning costumes and also a range of electrical equipment as part of the grant.
- The electrical equipment will allow all classes to use new wireless mics and Bluetooth speakers for future assemblies too.
- The show was a lot of work and perhaps something we would only do every couple of years as it took a lot of time for rehearsal and planning.
- The children were absolute stars!

Enrolment

- As previously shared we have had a very low enrolment this year and will have 13 Primary 1 pupils included placing requests.
- Class configuration has gone in for 7 straight classes and we will see if this has been accepted – if there is a need for composite classes, there would still be 7 classes overall due to higher numbers up the school.

- Primary 1, 2 and 3 will continue to work closely through the play agenda and Primary 1 and 2 classes will work closely with joint topics where appropriate which also increases numbers of groups and pupil interactions.
- Our pre-entrants have already had their invites to our rising 5s programme and our final date will be a school lunch visit with their buddy with a parent input from myself and Peter (or Jill) if you are free? (11.40 on Wednesday 12/6/24)

Staffing Update

- Staffing entitlement of 9.1 FTE but we currently run at 9.6FTE. We have been given 0.4FTE additionality next year but are still 0.1FTE over. We have been able to pay 0.1FTE from PEF to keep all existing staff this session with no changes and no NQT next year.
- Should our numbers follow a similar pattern next year there is a real chance we may lose staff and also reduce to 6 classes. Again, this is a similar picture across the LC.
- The potential of new housing may alter the landscape so there is still a question mark over number ahead.

Sports Day

- We had a pupil natter with the classes regarding their thoughts and choices about sports day. The children said they really enjoyed the potted sports in the school where they go round the different activities and particularly liked the visual impairment activity – blindfolded race with ropes. The pupils of Primary 6 and 7 felt that there wasn't enough space in the hall for running races and preferred the Glebe for this.
- We are going to have a full sports day with a traditional parent attended morning at the Glebe from 9.30. We have already had some parent helpers indicate that they will be able to help with this but we may need more.
- In the afternoon, we will have our potted sports in the school with no spectators due to space.
- Crazy hair day on Friday 7th June to raise money for iced treats for the potted sports afternoon.

School Improvement Priorities

- There are a number of asks from SLC this session and I have a HT meeting on Wednesday to confirm areas to be included in our upcoming SIP. Sustainability and equality likely to be an area of development.
- Our own areas of development would be our spelling – this was something that we had on our plan for this year but our writing priority took significantly more time and was a joint priority with Bent and Blackwood so our spelling will remain a priority for next session.

- The Inclusive Classroom – looking at The Circle document and also bringing in the UNCRC, nurture schools and attachment pledges.
- Skills development (LC) looking at ways to incorporate skills progression across the curriculum. Are topics really still fit for purpose?
- Graffiti wall to add any other areas that you feel are important, children will have an input in this and there will be an attachment in the June newsletter.

Homework/Diaries

- Looking at budget and purchasing diaries but when talking with staff it is clear diaries still have a place in P1-3 but P4-7 are more geared towards Google Classroom.
- Teachers reporting that there are very few numbers of pupils completing homework activities.
- We will have a pupil/parent and staff working group for homework in the new academic session to see the direction of homework going forward.
- Can I ask your thoughts on diaries please?
- I have also left a graffiti board if you want to leave any comments at the end.