New Machar School Parent Council Minutes

13th March 2019 6.30pm

Present – Marie Campbell (Secretary), Kerry Donald (Vice Secretary) Suzanne Rydlewicz (Letter secretary) Wendy Williams (Treasurer) Lorraine Miller (Co-Assistant Treasurer) Sarah Irvine, Louise Herbert, Seonaid Docherty, Kelly Caird, Wendy Clinton, Marjorie Anderson, Brian Carle (HT) Kathryn McPherson (DHT)

Apologies – Euan Bain (Chair), Steven Close (Vice Chair), Will Hecklaar (Co-Assistant Treasurer) Claire Bain, Annie Robinson, Kim Ritchie, Emma Armstrong, Emma Condon, Sharon Miller, Caroline Anderson, Sharon Milligan,

1. Welcome. Marie welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6.40

Minutes of last meeting approved by a show of hands, one small amendment made (Will’s title changed to Co-Assistant Treasurer) MC to forward finalised minutes to KMcP to upload to website.

1. Remarks from Chair; EB and SC unable to attend, no remarks passed on prior to meeting.
2. Treasurer’s report;
* Bank Balance as of 13/3/2019 - £13610.04, though expected to go down to ~£12700 shortly as cheque written for P5-7 First Aid training is yet to be cashed.
* WW now has full access to bank account.
1. School Update;
* Brian Carle expressed his delight in securely the permanent position of Head Teacher, KD lead congratulation to Brian on behalf of Parent Council.
* Mrs Doyle is in post as DHT until the summer, it is expected that the permanent DHT post will be advertised during Term 4, with the successful applicant starting after the summer.
* Mrs Hunt, PE specialist will be starting maternity leave shortly, BC is waiting for updates regarding maternity cover. Best wishes to Mrs Hunt!
* Mrs Lombard, SFL currently works Thursdays but is leaving to take up a new post,
* Joanna Stewart, from SUSTRANS has been to the school to assist in the application for new Bike sheds/scooter park to be sited on school grounds. This exciting scheme can be applied for annually and has proven to increase the number of pupils cycling to school.
* World book day was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole school, everyone reading together at 10.30 was a highlight, Pupils on the library team were praised for coming up with lots of ideas. The book fayre was quieter but still took in a good amount, the school should get around £700 to spend on literacy resources.
* Pupil Leadership Team are using the HGIOS document to look at ‘How good is our School?’ They are focusing on positive relationships, using the SHANNARI wellbeing indicators. They are working a survey for P1-P3 pupils to capture their opinions of safety and wellbeing.
* New Machar is now part of the Digital school scheme and hopes to work towards an award in the future.
* Every class are being encouraged to take part in the Daily mile 2-3 times a week, this is going well. Today was the second ‘Wellbeing Wednesday’ All children took a healthy snack today, good work!
* Another inspiring World of Work week has passed, a great variety of visitors came to school, thanks to all. One notable visitor was the Director of Education who prised children for being so clued up about the need to develop skills for their future.
1. Class Budgets/ Trips funding:
* Previously PC has supported class trips by paying a flat rate of £2.50 per pupil per year, it was proposed this be raised to £4 per child,(~£1400p.a) supported by all in attendance. WW will speak to Mrs Forsyth to organise. Miss McPherson will encourage all teachers to make use of this funding as several members commented that trips for each pupil, every year would be welcomed.
* [post meeting, Miss McPherson advised MC that the National Trust membership had lapsed, this can be renewed for £70 for the year, this was approved by members via WhatsApp group]
1. Event-based fundraising – Terms 3 & 4;
* Bunny Drive – 28th March, All members please encourage people to buy tickets by sharing on Facebook year pages. We need a few helpers on the night, please get in touch. Raffle donations welcomed.
* Summer Fayre 8th June – Inflatables/liability/insurance - SI has reviewed the Connect guidelines around safe use of Bouncy castles at PC events. She has spoken to the company and they have forwarded documentation which shows they are inline with the guidelines. This will be discussed in more detail at summer fayre meeting to be held on 24th April at 7pm in Beekies, all those willing to assist in Summer Fayre planning welcome. KD advised Golf is booked, MC has requested First Aid cover (confirmed nearer time). Entertainment and Face painting options will be investigated – KC.
1. A.O.C.B.
* P7 end of year trip funding/ disco contribution – Agreed by all to continue the £5 per pupil contribution. P7 parents have asked to borrow disco equipment, after discussion we decided not to loan (in case of damage). However it was felt that if they cannot source equipment we would allow as long as someone familiar with how to use it was on hand.
* The above led to a wider discussion about whether PC resources and equipment should be loaned to other groups. Unfortunately, in the past items for our Summer fayre were loaned and returned damaged and had to be replaced/fixed by PC and so it had been decided then that equipment should only be used by PC/school within the school and playground to avoid damage. This stance was reinforced by the group. An inventory of Summer Fayre equipment/stalls with be taken shortly. PC asked that the school respect this decision when dealing with enquiries as they are usually the first port of call.
* From Parent Forum – Concerns about the carpark raised again, particularly that cars are repeatedly parked irresponsibly, taking up room for two cars as there is no white lines. BC informed us that he has requested these be reinstated by the council but it was it would be too costly. The school does have good links with the Police and continue to challenge dangerous parking when they can. A new, pupil led campaign to try to ease this problem in planned for the near future.
* A new extension on the school has been rumoured many times, BC updated the group that there are no plans for now and reassured us that thee is adequate space in the school at present.
* Apparently play equipment (balls/hoppers) is in short supply. PC offered £200 to allow this to be replenished. Miss McPherson will let us know if more will be needed.
* KD is going to investigate a Ragman scheme where a clothes recycling bin would be permanently sited at school, she will report back.
* P6 Bikeability planning is well underway with several volunteers already, a few more would be great though to cover illness.(your child does not need to be in P6).
* Concern raised that the boys football team has never come to fruition. Mr Carle advised that he met with four parents during Term 1 and following that he passed on the details of those children interested in joining the team. No other progress was made however he is very keen to progress this further and will update as appropriate. Anyone interested in coaching or helping to run football at the school please get in touch. LM to liaise.
* Active Schools have a Fit for Girls block planned for Term 4 with lots of exciting opportunities. The aim for New Machar is to have an Active school activity on every day.
* AGM time set for 7pm, SR to forward letter to go out via groupcall.

Meeting closed 8pm. **AGM Tuesday 16th April 7pm**

Thanks for your hard work

Above minutes approved on 16/4/19 by show of hands.