

Milne's High School Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

17 April 2017

In attendance:

Rhonda Geddes-Stewart – RGS - Chair person

Gillian Thomson

Marc Macrae

Marisa Landon

Cheryl Wall

Steve Ralph

Linda Duncan

Sheila Erskine

Shona Morrison, Councillor

Shirley Laurie - Teacher Representative

Patricia Cameron – HT

1.	Welcome Welcome and directly onto the first item of the evening.	
2.	33 Week Period Presentation HT advised the presentation this evening is as per all presentations given in all secondary schools across Moray so that the message is consistent. It was explained that a consultation had been undertaken on the same subject one year ago and that all comments from that had been taken onboard and taken into account for this consultation exercise. From August 2018, it is proposed to move the school week from 30 periods to 33 periods. This new model would mean a school day, Monday to Thursday from 08.45am to 3.40pm with 7 periods in a day and on a Friday, from 08.45am to 1.10pm with 5 periods. A grab and go lunch would be provided on a Friday for those entitled to free school meals.	

Pupils currently attend Moray College on a Wednesday and this would change to a Friday which would work better for Milne's High School timetable.

The 33 week period has been embedded in other local authorities for years. Mrs Simpson, depute head teacher, is looking at different models to see how it may work for Milne's.

Parent Council confirmed it would make a big difference to working parents. HT welcomed all parent council comments and advised to feedback through the official channels.

The rationale for the proposed change is about increased opportunities for school, help with contracted working hours for staff, increased opportunities for wider achievement and the need to raise attainment.

HT discussed in detail how subject departments will get more time under the proposed changed. Senior Phase pupils will become part of Universal Pupil Support (UPS). This is where groups of around 20 pupils work with a key adult as a point of contact once a week – this would meet our improvement priorities. Under UPS, classes could be divided into final destinations categories, such as college, work placements, undecided and university. UPS would allow dedicated time with a key adult to look at individual attainment, opportunities and progression.

For BGE (Broad General Education) pupils, the 33 week period can offer more time for electives and give a more balanced curriculum. A curriculum steering group within Milne's is looking at equal allocation of time over all curricular areas and parents are welcome to join. HT clarified it is up to Milne's to decide how the 33 week period can be best used whilst overall it is a local authority decision as to whether the 33 week period will be implemented.

The considerations and concerns that have already been raised are:

- Structure over 4 long days – too long?
- Friday – staff collegiate time – not popular
- Friday lunchtime – timings a problem
- Universal Pupil Support – designated person over and above what Guidance provides
- Child care issues
- Longer days

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance checks – attendance is checked period to period at Milne’s so this is not an issue for us. <p>HT confirmed information currently given to pupils in registration would not be lost. Concern was raised that June 2018 is too tight a timeframe. Also that after school tutorials could be affected.</p> <p>All partners, such as transport and the unions have been consulted as well as pupils through the Student Voice Ambassador Forum.</p> <p>The current timeline is: June 2017 – draft timetable structures prepared Session 2017/2018 – development of timetable, structure and school procedures Session 2018/2019 – implementation of new structure.</p> <p>HT confirmed to Parent Council that it was important for the process to be implemented at the start of the new timetable which is May 2018/2019. If it goes ahead, the local authority will make their decision in June and Milne’s is now preparing in case it does.</p> <p>Questions were asked over the evidence that a 33 week period would raise attainment. HT confirmed a recent study by East Renfrewshire gave evidence via a qualitative data collection after 2 years of implementation. Edinburgh schools have had the 33 week model in place for a number of years and as such, the data on raising attainment was not there as they had no comparison.</p> <p>The Parent Council were asked to collate a response and the meeting broke for this to happen. A second way to respond to the consultation is via www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/33periodshoolweek.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes from previous meeting – 17 April February 2017 - minutes agreed.</p>	
4.	<p>Head Teacher's Report Due to the recent Parent Council meeting, the most relevant information to pass on was that the HMIE’s report was expected any day now.</p>	

5.	<p>Coffee Morning The coffee morning raised £512.00. Thank you cards have been sent to all companies who donated.</p>	
6.	<p>Financial Accounts The bank balance currently stands at £2464.00 and with the money from the coffee morning being added, will rise to approximately £3000.00. This is very healthy.</p> <p>Show My Homework is yet to be paid for. The Parent Council committed to paying for last year and the next 2 years but thereafter? All at the meeting confirmed Show My Homework was working well.</p> <p>SL confirmed she will provide an update next session on the dyslexia pen, with initial thoughts by pupils, as it will take time to fully test.</p>	
7.	<p>Medals for House System RGS asked the parent council members if the medals could be introduced in time for June this year or June 2018 once the new house system was embedded. RGS was concerned there was not enough time to get organised for this change of timetable in May. It was agreed it was important to take time to implement the medals properly, with the new boards and time to engrave the new medals.</p>	
8.	<p>AOCB Pupil Equity Fund – HT advised there had been matters arising. A bid had been submitted by Milne’s High School to work in tandem to create a Nurture Space and employ a worker to set up an Alternative to Exclusion Programme. Our current exclusion rate is too high and there is a need to better identify the needs of those pupils being excluded. A project worker would work to identify the reasons why a pupil had been excluded. It would be more about a pupil’s wellbeing. There is a need to do more and have a tailor made project for our school.</p> <p>School Improvement Plan – There was a staff meeting last week and pupils had been consulted via the Student Voice Ambassador Forum. The priorities identified for next session are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning and Teaching 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking and Monitoring for S1 to S3 • Learning Conversations, profiling, EDICT and Developing the Young Workforce • Curricular rationale with primary schools • Changing National 5 qualifications • Role of staff leadership • Tackling bureaucracy • Look at behaviour strategy • Raising attainment strategy – implement. <p>The growth mindset posters are to go up in the canteen which relate to the visions, value and aims of the school over a 3 year programme.</p>	
9..	<p>Date Next Meeting Monday 19 June 2017 – 7pm start</p>	