

# Milne's High School Parent Council

## Meeting Minutes

20 March 2017

### In attendance:

Rhonda Geddes-Stewart – RGS - Chair person

Clare Brownlie - Treasurer

Gillian Nicol

Gillian Thomson

Marc MacRae

Marisa Landon

Shirley Laurie - Teacher Representative

Patricia Cameron – HT

Margo Howe

1.	<b>Welcome &amp; apologies</b> – Cheryl Wall, Douglas Ross	
2.	<b>Minutes from previous meeting</b> – 20 February 2017 Minutes agreed.  Dyslexia pen will be around £175. Thanks to Shirley Laurie for organising.  HT waiting to hear back from the music department re the sound system.	
3.	<b>Update from Head Girl</b> No senior pupil update for this meeting.	
4.	<b>Head Teacher's Report</b> Vision Statement for the school - Improvement Agenda. The group were asked for their thoughts on the following key areas: Curriculum Design, Learning & Teaching, Creating an Ethos of	

<p>Ambition, Self Evaluation for Self Improvement, Supporting Learners to Achieve Success, Leadership of Learning at all Levels. HT advised that all students and staff have been consulted on these areas.</p> <p>Discussion centred around Creating an Ethos of Ambition being relevant to all pupils, involve attainment, and relate to individual aspiration, behaviour and getting to the bottom of why some students don't achieve their potential. This led on to the impact of good teachers and parental support. HT advised she has seen increasing parental support in the last 6 months to a year through increasing numbers at parent nights, and responses to surveys and the work of the parent council. Lots of people are buying into the ethos of aspiration and people are feeling more secure after a time of uncertainty with for example changes of head teachers and local authority budget concerns.</p> <p>Curriculum Design discussion centred around working creatively with the 6<sup>th</sup> year and using study periods productively and if voluntary work could be incorporated into the timetable.</p> <p><b>Staffing</b> Alina Gardiner has been appointed as the Acting Principal Teacher of Guidance. There were no applicants for the Temporary Teacher of History which will be re-advertised and is currently being covered internally by Mrs Kirby Principal Teacher, HT and other social subject teachers. The Temporary Teacher of Technical has been covered with an internal solution until the change of timetable. Interviews for the Temporary Teacher of Art (part-time) are taking place tomorrow. Staffing is good for the next session and we anticipate a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) for history. This will be confirmed in April. Kelly Dawson our librarian leaves on Friday and will be covered by a Resource Centre Co-ordinator until the summer.</p> <p><b>HMIE Inspection</b> There is no information to share as the report has not yet been published. The overall high level message is that the Inspectors are really pleased with the progress that has been made. It was a very positive experience. They had a clear agenda as to how to help the school. When HT gets the final outcome she will be invited to give comments then it will be passed to the local authority for their comments. The report is then quality assured</p>	HT
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	<p>and a copy issued as soon thereafter. TC will put it out as soon as it is received to those parents with an up to date email address. A summary of the HMIE's findings will be issued with lots more detail, which will be shared when received.</p> <p>RGS advised she had met the second in charge of the HMIE inspection team. She felt it had gone really well, lots of questions and very positive. HT clarified an inspector had also gone to college with our pupils to see the whole experience of our pupils at Milne's.</p> <p><b>House System</b></p> <p>Parent council were consulted on their views on changes to the current house system of Sivewright, Mackintosh and Munro to bring it in line with having only 2 FTE Guidance Teachers. The suggestion is to streamline the process and keep Sivewright and Munro to preserve the heritage of the school and Mackintosh would live on through the Mackintosh Dux Medal. The school role is not expected to go up for 7 years. There was general consensus that the parent council thought the best way forward was to lay the historic house names to the side and allow a pupil election to pick new names, perhaps geographical. It was pointed out that the feeder schools of Lhanbryde and Mosstodloch have different names from those at Milne's.</p> <p>The Parent Council advised they would be happy to fund a prize(s), buy a trophy or quaich to focus on a non-academic award in line with the Dux medal for the new house system. HT advised the consultation period ends next Monday, with staff and the parent council consulted today. The pupils were consulted through the Student Voice Forum.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b></p> <p>Balance of £2,703.18. Cheque made out to clerk/secretary for £33.00 for the work undertaken at last meeting and thereafter.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Equity Fund</b></p> <p>Parent Council asked for clarification on how much Milne's was set to receive from the Equity Fund and how it would be spent. HT advised this was still under discussion and she would endeavour to provide answers for the next meeting. There is a clear criteria as to how the money can be spent.</p>	HT
8.	<p><b>Coffee Morning</b></p> <p>This will be held on 22 April. The canteen is booked and the</p>	ML MM

	<p>canteen services are to be paid direct. HT confirmed the Home Economics department will be unable to help at this time due to practical exams being held. Discussion around local shops such as Fochabers Co-op, Buckie Tesco, Home Bakery in Buckie being approached to provide essentials such as tea/coffee/butter/sugar/jam. Other businesses such as Scotmid, Macleans Bakery and the Little Velvet Company are also to be approached.</p> <p>Invites to the local feeder primary schools will be sent out.</p>	RGS
9.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>Discussion around 6<sup>th</sup> years being told that they had insufficient time on their timetable by Mrs Simpson, prompted by HMIE ie too many study periods.HT advised Senior Leadership team spend a lot of time looking through course choices with the pupils and that she would look into it.</p> <p>Text message to go out to advise parents of the coffee morning on 22 April and to ask for any raffles and donations.</p>	HT
10.	<p><b>Date Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Monday 17 April 2017 – 7pm start</p>	