



MERRYLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENT COUNCIL

supporting and promoting parental involvement within our school

Date of meeting: Monday 09 September 2024, 18:30 – 20:00

Attendees: Head Teacher Colette Haddock (CH); Deputy Head Teacher Lynsey McLaughlin (LMcG); Principal Teacher Alana Murray (AM); PC Chair Colin Howden (CHO); PC Interim Secretary Yla Barrie (YB) (minutes); PA Chair Clare Taylor (CT); Interim PA Secretary Julia Chau (JC); PA Treasurer Laura Kennedy (LK); Merrylee FC Lead Ross Taylor (RT); PA Becca Dobson (BD); PA Elena Farrell (EF); PA Kirsty MacMillan (KMac); PA Dawn Lauder (DL); PC Nairn Pearson (NP); Graham Martin (GM); PA Ellie Royle (ER); PC Farzana Clark (FC); Merrylee Music James White (JW).

1	Welcome and apologies	Mrs Colette Haddock, Head Teacher welcomed all to the meeting and outlined the format of the evening. She handed over to Colin Howden, PC Chair. Apologies – M. Violaris, C. Lochhead, C. Wightman, P. Goodlad.	
2	Minutes and actions of last meeting	There are no minutes of the last meeting. Colin advised all actions would be covered throughout the course of the meeting.	
3	Head Teacher's report and new homework policy update	<p>CH gave a review of 2023/24 and the school's vision for 2024/25. (All slides are included in the PowerPoint appendix).</p> <p>CH invited the Parent Forum to consider additional ways to reduce the cost of the school day.</p> <p>YB asked if the school had Reading School Accreditation. Miss Murray advised the school did not, but she had reviewed the criteria recently, and she believed they met all the criteria required. It may be possible this year, the school will need a teacher to progress the application. School SMT will consider this.</p> <p>There were parents present keen to support this if there was the opportunity. https://www.readingschools.scot/</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>CH/AM /LMcL</p>
4	Update on the work of the PC	Colin presented the work of the PC (all slides are included in the PowerPoint appendix).	
5	Update on the work of the PA	Clare presented an update of the PA activities (all slides are included in PowerPoint appendix).	

		<p>Points to note:</p> <p>Asda Rewards – opportunity for shoppers to turn rewards points into cash for the school. The PA will post information in the PA Facebook page and in class Whatsapp groups. We have already collected £140 for the school. The scheme runs September – November 2024.</p> <p>Yes Day in November is similar to Break The Rules Day, and donations will be accepted for the school Winter Christmas fair in exchange for participating. Further details are available in the PA minutes, please email merryleepa@hotmail.com if you would like a copy.</p> <p>Merrylee Green Fingers is the school gardening group which supports the eco and sustainability focus of the school, by assisting with the Merrylee Urban Garden.</p> <p>The group have been awarded a £2317 grant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -replace broken planters at the front of the school, creating a community herb and fruit garden -buy gardening equipment, compost seeds and plants -turf the bare ground around the trim trail at the entrance to the school garden <p>School family volunteers are essential to complete the works. It is a capital grant, so no scope to include labour costs. Works will mostly take place on Saturday mornings. Unspent funds will require to be returned in April 2025.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -create a scheduled plan of works -assign a buyer -inform families of volunteer times and tasks to be completed. <p>All parents with experience of working with wood, plants, gardening, laying turf are asked to email Colette with offers of assistance. There will also be opportunities for inexperienced volunteers to help bring the community garden to fruition</p>	<p>EF / CT</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>YB/JC/ER TBC PA / PC / school comms</p>
6	Report of PC accounts and formal approval	PC accounts were approved by RT and seconded by NP.	
7	Report of PA accounts and formal approval	PA accounts were approved by KMac and seconded by NP. LK advised total income was £15,754 of which	

		£10, 750 was transferred to the school fund.	
8	Road safety	<p>The new Road Safety flyer was paid for by Cathcart and District Community Council, designed by children attending Fun Lodge, with the support of Merrylee PC. It has been distributed to every family attending Merrylee Primary, OLA Primary and Limetree Nursery.</p> <p>Action – Merrylee PC to add to the PC Facebook page.</p> <p>Action – Add digital flyer to minutes</p> <p>Action – share on school digital communications.</p> <p>Drivers breaking the No Drive Zone can be reported to Police Scotland by calling 111 or fill in the online form https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/ (thanks to FC for supplying the link). The PC encourage parents to report offenders. Please note some local residents and others (public transport, emergency vehicles and others are exempt. For further details visit https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/4656/School-Streets-Permits</p> <p>All discussed the pedestrian access to the school via Newlands Tennis Club (as per agreement with Glasgow City Council when the land was sold to NTC). The route is uneven in parts and less accessible since the new car park design opened. It was agreed Merrylee PC should review the access, and advise parents of the safest route of travel through the car park.</p> <p>There are 4 new Junior Road safety officers in school. Neighbourhood and Regeneration Services are delivering workshops regarding road safety. Colette will not be asking pupils to assist with stopping drivers breaking the No Drive Zone due to the reactions of drivers.</p>	<p>PC Office bearers YB CH</p> <p>Merrylee PC rep - TBC</p>
9	Merrylee Pitch replacement	<p>As per previous PC minutes 03.06.24, Merrylee pitch is in a state of significant disrepair and needs full replacement.</p> <p>Ross attended the Glasgow City Council - Newlands Auldburn - Area Partnership Fund meeting, to request Merrylee Pitch be considered for funding via the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Fund (NIF). The committee agreed for Merrylee pitch replacement to</p>	

		<p>be costed up, alongside other proposed projects. The NIF could potentially pay for half the expected £240k cost. The PC Merrylee Pitch sub group would then seek match funding to complete the project. GCC Councillor Sean Ferguson will keep Ross updated.</p> <p>Merrylee Pitch Replacement is an agenda item at the next Cathcart and District Community Council meeting on Wednesday 11 September. Ross and Yla attend and represent Merrylee PC. They will feed back developments and discussions to Merrylee PC.</p> <p>The Merrylee pitch Replacement sub group will call a meeting in the next month to review agreed actions, update sub group members and consider their next steps.</p> <p>Everyone agreed to keep momentum and focus on this, and it is important to the school and the wider community.</p>	<p>RT, YB</p> <p>RT, YB</p>
10	Merrylee FC	<p>Merrylee FC is seeking volunteers for the Saturday football sessions on Saturdays 11:00 - 12:15. Ross and team have a volunteer rota with parents / carers helping on the pitch or with registration. All interested should contact Ross merryleefc@gmail.com or turn up on a Saturday morning.</p>	
11	Merrylee Music	<p>A group of parents are keen to re-introduce a love of music to Merrylee. Musical teachers have retired, however there are engaged musical parents, who are keen to share their time and skills, and engage in fundraising. JW will attend the next Merrylee PA meeting for discussion on fundraising activities and which bank account the funds could be collected in. Proposed activity to engage a music professional would be £4.5k.</p> <p>Fundraising will be required. This could include: Bag packing in supermarkets; singing in shopping centres, or at Central Station; in-school events; sponsorship to compete in an external event; 'Come and Sing' events; evening fundraiser for parents.</p> <p>AM encouraged the group to help find a musical parent to run a Merrylee Choir this year.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>PC / JW to highlight to</p>

		<p>Principal Teacher Alana Murray updated on Merrylee Expressive Arts: P4 (and potentially another year group) will be working with Beat Buddies. AM will be running a 'Show Group' for P6 & P7 pupils on Thursday lunchtimes. Details of auditions and activities for Show Group will be shared in due course. There are lots of opportunities to be explored and is an exciting new development for the school. Senior teaching staff have engaged with Hillpark Secondary's Expressive Arts teacher Zoe Bannerman. Hillpark have a great stage, lighting and expressive arts programme. AM is discussing potential engagement with Hillpark Expressive Arts</p>	<p>Parent Forum</p> <p>AM</p> <p>TBC</p>
12	Feedback boards and communications	<p>The flip charts were useful in capturing (1) PA members' events aspirations for the coming year (2) the items on the PC agenda. Parents were asked to tick their preferences or add new ideas at the Meet the Teacher evening, and at the PC AGM. The charts are typed up and accompany these minutes as an appendix. The PC will review feedback and include points raised in future meetings.</p>	PC Office Bearers
13	Parent Council - proposal of new office bearers and formal approval	<p>Colin Howden stepped down from the role of PC Chair. Yla Barrie stepped down from the role of PC Interim Secretary. Laura Kennedy has already stepped down as PC Treasurer.</p> <p>Colette and Clare Taylor had one note of interest for each of the PC roles:</p> <p>PC Chair - Dawn Lauder was proposed by YB and seconded by CHo PC Treasurer – Graham Martin was proposed by RT and seconded by DL PC Secretary – Ellie Royle was proposed by CT and seconded by JC</p> <p>All at the meeting were in favour of the new appointments. We welcome their commitment and look forward to supporting them in their roles.</p>	
14	Parent Association office bearers update	<p>The Office Bearer roles were discussed at the PA meeting on 28 August 2024.</p> <p>PA Chair - Clare Taylor will continue in role.</p>	

		<p>PA Secretary – Elena Morran Farrell offered to take on PA Secretary after the PA Meeting, thus appointment was taking place at the PC AGM. Elena was proposed by CT, seconded by KMac</p> <p>PA Treasurer – Laura Kennedy (not present at this point of the meeting) will remain in post. The PA will continue to recruit for a PA Treasurer and PA Treasurer support.</p> <p>CT thanked JC and YB for interim cover of PA Secretary role June to September.</p>	
15	AOB	YB noted outstanding items from previous meetings will be noted for inclusion in next meeting. This includes: school vandalism; and outdoor classroom.	
16	Date of next meeting	PC Chair DL will meet with CH to discuss next date and advise the Parent Forum.	

Parent consultation – September 2024.

Merrylee Parents Association Events. PA members created a list of events to be considered for this academic year. This was displayed at Meet the Teacher and parents / carers encouraged to tick their favourites and / or add new ideas.

Event	Number of ticks	Date event planned
Disco	2	Halloween Disco 30 Oct 24
Formal Photos	1	Tbc
Seasonal products	1	Sept / Oct 24
Party on the Pitch		
School fairs	3	Winter Christmas Fair 30 Nov 24
Table top /car boot		
Selling stall		
Yes Day		22 Nov 24
Sausage Sizzle		
Soak the Teacher		
Ceilidh		
Quiz Night		
Pamper Night		
Family Night	2	
Fun Days in school		
Come and try sports, drop in day		
Drive in Movie night	3	
Christmas show		
School show	2	
Danceathon		
Inflatable Fun Day *added		

Merrylee Parent Council Priorities. The list of AGM agenda items was listed on a flip chart and displayed at Meet the Teacher evening. Parents / carers were encouraged to tick their favourites and / or add new ideas.

Agenda item	Number of ticks
Merrylee Pitch Replacement	8
Road Safety	9
Merrylee School Garden	10
Merrylee Music	8
School Homework Policy	0
Merrylee FC	1
Arts Projects *added	2
Sports clubs for P1 *added	3
Access via Newlands tennis park – safety *added	2
Girls school football team to restart *added	1

The PC thanks parents for their feedback, and will consider how to include these topics in future PC meetings.