

Minute of Mile End Parent Council Meeting 15 January 2014 7pm

Present: Abbe Brown (AB), Moira MacIver (MM), Janet McRoberts (JM), Eleanor Sheppard (ES), Luke Halliday (LH, Chair), Euan Esslemont (EE), Alex Nicoll (AN), Jonathan Scott, Julie Malhan (JM), Fraser Forsyth, Richard Taylor, Euan Milne (EM)

1 Welcome and Apologies

LH opened the meeting.

Apologies received from Jenny Laing, Fiona Daniel, Bill Comrie, Frank Wahedally.

2 Minutes of last meeting

Approved, proposed LH, seconded AN.

3. Head Teacher's Report

P1 Applications: above numbers which can be accommodated in traditional manner. Likely will be more out of zone applications. ES considering how best to proceed.

HMIE visit went well, inspectors with LH, AN, other parents. It is anticipated that a positive report will be submitted.

Spellodrome is being trialed with p4 for 1 month and this is going well. If this continues, this will be rolled out across the school. New hand held technology has arrived. Everyone is very excited.

Vacancy for Rm 17, as D Birch has been appointed Principal Teacher ASN at Cults Primary. Deadline for applications in a few days. Pam Smith and ES are job sharing in the position for now.

Working with Art Development team for 3 or 4 professional artists to work across the school to provide all pupils with excellent artistic experience. Focus: Commonwealth Games. Sport Relief plans are being led by some P7 girls on their own initiative. Fischy Music will visit the school for 1 day, working across the school. A theatre group will visit p4-7, "Burns Supper". Science workshop to be held mid Feb, led by James Packham.

In the short term, there are some funds available for the School to spend on valuable educational experiences for the pupils. This must be spent by April 2014. Tickets have been bought for p6 and p7 to see Wicked in 2015, and ES asked for suggestions. Skiing, rowing, Adventure Aberdeen (particularly bikes), Sports Village, new pool visit, rain tops for sports teams, apparatus for sports training were all mentioned.

Action: MEPC members to provide ideas to ES for appropriate experiences

4 Car Park and survey

There have been no more responses to the survey since the last meeting. ES handed a summary (which combines adult and child survey) for future review by MEPC members. ES is to speak to Community and NHS and will then revert to Roads. This could lead to defining areas of the car park where staff and (separately) parents can park. The number of responses to the survey was noted to be low; the proposed future Car Park Safety Day might help to raise awareness.

Action: ES contact Community, NHS, Roads. **MEPC** to review survey.

5 Nursery Hours

Scottish Government has increased the number of funded nursery hours per child to 600. ES and JM, in conjunction with the nursery team of teachers and nurses, have been considering how to deliver this most effectively taking into account education of children, contracts, working hours of staff, impact on primary provision and the impact of change in timing on parents. The proposal is 8.40am – 11.50am and 12.25 – 3.35pm (including 15 mins windows for drop off and pick up). ES sought views of MEPC on this. After discussion, MEPC considered this was the best course.

6 Treasurer's report

Current balance is £1729.48. Only payment since last meeting was relating to website. LH needs to be reimbursed £109 for insurance. Statements being sent to school, which aids transparency.

Action: LH to reclaim insurance

7 Events

Global Citizenship Project : FW not here, attending Community meeting which is running at same time. Activity is ongoing.

Vine Trust: Valerie Kidd is liaising with Wood Group regarding this.

Science: JM has names of people from Offshore Europe who might be interested in working with the School. JM to send these to ES and action will be considered with James Packham. James Packham and Peter Torrens are working with Alan Tulloch of Authority in respect of engineering and enterprise.

Book Swop: was a success.

Careers Fair: to be held on 9 May 2014. MM will send email from MEPC address to class reps. From the interests expressed by P6 and P7, present gaps are Formula 1 driver. AN suggested person at Atholl who has contacts at Fintry. AB suggested engineering department at University of Aberdeen.

Action: JM send contacts to ES. AN and AB to investigate driving contacts.

8 Estate consultation

AN stated that all surveys/submissions in respect of the proposed changes to this are on the Council website. HMIE indicated on their visit indicated that they would support the proposed changes. ES noted that there are 120 places which have been taken by families in hospital accommodation over the last few years who have then moved. AN states that the Mile End issue is expected to be considered on 20 March and to be approved. Some other issues in the proposals are expected to be rejected or to prove more controversial. The estates project generally is likely to run for several years.

9 Floodlights

AN reported that this issue will be considered at the Council at their January meeting, when Jo Hall's paper will be considered. It should be borne in mind that any changes will likely to be made to several schools, and for this to be possible, changes to the relevant parts of the (confidential) 3Rs contracts will need to be negotiated, for example regarding payment, insurance, maintenance. It is more complex than there being local support and local funding for, say, floodlights at Mile End. The position of Robertsons, and the wider City perspective, are key.

10 PTA and constitution

Fiona Daniel and other PTA officer holders are unable to attend this meeting. The PTA will meet next week. AN stated that he felt it was important for questions of OCSR, the constitution and best practice to be progressed as expeditiously as possible. ES will relay this and LH hopes to attend the PTA meeting. ES was able to provide details of good progress which has been made in finalizing and submitting rigorous historical accounts and of the processes which have been put in place.

Action: LH/ES/PTA

11 Communication with parents

A meeting has been held regarding the app preparation. Liam Strachan is writing a specification. LH is in touch with a student who has expressed interest and RGU are also interested. A further meeting on this is being held on 23 Jan.

MEPC new members are always welcome. Some details about MEPC activity and the opportunities involvement brings (events such as book swop, careers event and contributing to governance and future of school) should be shared on Parents Nights on 19 and 20 March. A rota of MEPC members to do this will be set up. MEPC should also provide information for the P1 induction materials in early June, and speak to the incoming parents, as has been done in the past.

AN will no longer be a primary parent after this year and so will not sit on the Parent Wide City Forum (once per term) and the Aberdeen City Parent Council Forum which sits more regularly. It is important, if possible, for Mile End to remain involved in this, as it is a valuable means of learning about possible plans and to interact with leading Council and ECS figures. Angie Bowyer, though resigning as Deputy Chair - see below - has indicated to AN that she would be interested in maintaining some involvement in this.

Action: All to consider possible involvement in other fora and MEPC recruitment initiatives . LH prepare information for P1s. LH to prepare rota for Parents Night.

12 MEPC office bearers

Angie Bowyer has resigned as Deputy Chair. Thanks were accorded to her for her valuable contribution. MEPC is now seeking a Deputy and a Sec (Abbe Brown taking minutes this evening).

13 AOCB

EE asked about First Aid and Road Safety opportunities. ES and JM shared details of what is done, and EE offered further help, which for which ES was most grateful.

EM suggested the selling of coffees when there are home football games on Saturday mornings, as a useful way of raising funds. Likewise, recording and then selling the Nativity play, either on dvd or in an eform. This could be very successful but would be time consuming. These ideas will be passed to the PTA.

Action: LH share fund raising ideas with PTA

Next meeting 12 March 7pm.