

# **MELDRUM ACADEMY – PARENT COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2007**

**Present:** Dave Marshall (Chairman)  
David Fleming  
Jon Guthrie  
Lindsay Martin (Teacher and PTA representative)  
Jon Turnbull  
Jane James  
Wendy Jessamine (Teacher Representative)  
Andrew Sutherland  
John Loveday (Councillor)  
Elizabeth Duff  
Mike Bidgood  
Liz Prosser (Teacher Representative)  
Owen Ball  
Alison Bruce  
Sue Richardson  
Paul Johnstone (Councillor)

**Apologies:** Ian Jackson (Teacher Representative)  
Wilma Geddes  
Nettie Thomson

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Dave Marshall welcomed everyone to the first formal meeting of the new Parent Council for Meldrum Academy. All present were asked to introduce themselves and provide a little background information about themselves.

**2. Election of Vice-Chairman and Treasurer**

Jon Guthrie was elected as Vice-Chairman and Jon Turnbull was elected as Treasurer.

**3. Appointment of Clerk to the Council**

As the Clerk to the previous School Board was not interested in continuing in this role for the Parent Council, Andrew Sutherland agreed to pursue the possibility of finding a sixth year pupil who would be interested in taking on this task. If no volunteer is forthcoming, the post will be advertised locally.

**4. Confirmation of Council membership**

Parent members	Dave Marshall, David Fleming, Jon Guthrie, Jon Turnbull, Jane James, Elizabeth Duff, Mike Bidgood, Alison Bruce, Sue Richardson, Wilma Geddes, Nettie Thomson.
Co-opted member	Owen Ball
Co-opted teacher representatives	Liz Prosser, Wendy Jessamine, Ian Jackson
PTA Liaison	Lindsay Martin
Headteacher	Andrew Sutherland
Co-opted Councillors	John Loveday, Paul Johnstone

It was noted that only 5 of the 12 primary schools zoned for Meldrum Academy are represented on the Parent Council. These are Methlick, Rayne North, Daviot, Oldmedrum and Cultercullen.

**5. Constitution**

The draft constitution which had been discussed earlier in the year and sent out to the entire Parent Forum for consultation is currently awaiting ratification by the Council's Law & Admin department. It can be formally adopted by the Council once we receive it.

**6. Correspondence/upcoming events**

Andrew Sutherland presented a questionnaire relating to signage within the school and invited feedback. His personal view was that signs were generally too small and many members felt that the building was confusing in its layout for occasional visitors. Feedback via the questionnaire was invited by 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**7. Report back from Kintore Meeting**

Alison Bruce attended the meeting at Kintore Academy at which senior members of the Education Service presented their vision for the service and plans for the future. The audience was largely composed of primary school representatives. Increased funding for school buildings was announced and there was some limited discussion relating to Parent Council issues. The Council will now provide public liability insurance for all Parent Council activities.

**8. Links with PTA**

Lindsay Martin suggested that she could attend alternate Parent Council meetings as the PTA representative if someone from the Parent Council could attend the PTA meetings in between. No-one volunteered to take on this role during the meeting but hope was expressed that someone would be able to attend the next PTA meeting which is on 30<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in the school staff-room.

**9. Issues from parent members**

David Fleming asked whether the recent exam results were available. Andrew Sutherland promised to present a summary of the results at the next meeting. In summary, the results were generally positive. In all categories the school was performing above the national and Aberdeenshire averages. Certain pupils groupings e.g. the most and able, those with additional support needs and girls were performing particularly well. The areas that the school had identified as requiring additional targeted support were boys generally and particularly boys in the middle ability range. This led to questions and clarification about different exam types and the impact of continuing teacher shortages on the provision of courses. Shortages are currently most acute in Maths and BEIT.

**10. Headteacher update on matters of interest to the Council**

Andrew Sutherland reviewed the following items: a school rugby team has recently been established; modern languages are being promoted within the school; 4 student teachers and 5 probationary teachers are currently working in the school; a Principal Teacher of Health has recently been appointed; anti-smoking messages have been themes of recent assemblies and child protection will be the next such theme; pupil fora have been established; planning has begun for work experience for S4 pupils for the 08/09 school year; a successful enterprise event for S4 pupils was held in which they reviewed short courses; an induction at Haddo and a trip to Archaeolink for S1 pupils were both received positively; the school has a new chaplain – Matt the new minister from Methlick.

**11. Picking up ongoing issues from the School Board**

There are two issues which the previous School Board was involved with which the Council felt would be worth continuing to pursue. These are the Fair Share campaign and touch typing. On the former, Dave Marshall agreed to contact Charles Armstrong to discuss possible further action, Paul Johnstone agreed to obtain invitations to the Aberdeenshire

Council finance meeting and several members wondered whether Alex Salmond could be approached on this issue.

**12. AOB**

A short discussion was held on the newspaper article relating to the charging of a former pupil over the creation of a malicious website against one of the school's teachers. Andrew Sutherland acknowledged that "cyber-bullying" was an issue that the school was aware of.

**13. Dates of meetings for current session**

The Parent Council will meet on the following dates during the current session:

28<sup>th</sup> November 2007

30<sup>th</sup> January 2008

19<sup>th</sup> March 2008

4<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Dave Marshall closed the meeting at 9.30.