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| **Meeting Type** | : | Main meeting #1 |  |
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| **Meeting Date** | : | 04/06/18 |  |
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| **Meeting Venue** | : | Merrylee Primary School |  |
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| **Parents Present** | : | Fiona Hunter - PC Chair |  | **FH** |
|  |  | Sharyl Boyce – Treasurer |  | **SB** |
|  |  | Suchitra Wishart – Minutes Secretary |  | **SW** |
|  |  | Elspeth McNeil |  | **EM** |
|  |  | Mel Unkles |  | **MU** |
|  |  | Rubina Khan |  | **RK** |
|  |  | Vanessa van Scherpenseel |  | **VS** |
|  |  | Jackie Clark (PA Chair) |  | **JC** |
|  |  | Valerie Keoghan |  |  |
|  |  | Julie Dunlop |  |  |
|  |  | Rebecca Reynolds |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Staff Present** | : | Liz Mahindru |  | **LM** |
|  |  | Catriona Kirk |  | **CK** |
|  |  | Julie McElhone |  | **JMcE** |
|  |  | Colette Haddock |  | **CH** |
|  | : |  |  |  |
| **In Attendance** |  | Izzie Eriksen from Apparel Exchange (Agenda Item 4.01) |  |  |
|  |  | Mandie Running from GCC (Agenda Item 4.02) |  |  |

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|  |  | **Action** |
| **1.00** | **APOLOGIES** |  |
| 1.01 | Phil Goodlad. |  |
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| **2.00** | **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** |  |
| 2.01 | Confirmed as agreed and approved. |  |
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| **3.00** | **MATTERS ARISING** |  |
|  | **Road Safety –** on Agenda. |  |
|  | **Bike Enclosure** – Sign still to be put up by PC. | **FH** |
|  | **Charitable Status for PA** – Jackie spoke to Gillian at OLA Parent Council. 81 PCs have Charitable Status. OLA PC achieved this in 2013 with the main driver being Gift Aid but the main outcome has been to open up access to grant funding. More research needs to be done on the benefits of having Charitable Status so will be on-going.**Cashless System** – on Agenda. | **JC** |
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| **4.00** | **AGENDA ITEMS** |  |
| 4.01 | **Uniform/Lost Property**Izzy Eriksen from Apparel Exchange was invited to speak to PC following on from its correspondence with the school.This is a recently formed social enterprise which is hoping to work across the city to encourage uniform reuse. It is not intended to replace informal reuse or recycling where clothes are passed to family and friends. Ten schools are currently on board or in pipeline (including Netherlee, Langside and Riverside).The focus is very much on the positives of donating clothes and removing the stigma that can be associated with re-using second hand uniforms. This has been woven into the STEM curriculum for P6 and P7 pupils. In practical terms, a parent group arranges dates for donation drives and Apparel Exchange collects the clothes donated. Garments are resold from £2.50 to £4.00 per item from the Apparel Exchange's outlet in Shawlands Arcade. Free packs of garments can also be made up for families eligible for grant assistance with uniforms.At Merrylee, the PA makes a call for uniform donations at the end of the school year which are then made available for parents to select garments, for free, from the pods. It was agreed that suitable garments left over from this could then be collected and passed to Apparel Exchange. PA to take forward. | **JC/PA** |
| 4.02 | **ParentPay**Mandie Running from GCC had been invited to the meeting to share what the Council has done to date in terms of investigating options for a cashless system in Glasgow schools.Cashless Catering was a scheme that was piloted in Cassiltoun PS. This was specifically for payment of school dinners, which was cashless at point of sale.ParentPay is different from Cashless Catering in that it is truly cashless and enables online payments by parents into a single account. Children in any school in the city (so siblings at primary school and secondary school), can be linked to the one account.It removes the risk for children carrying cash to school, simplifies reporting and administration of money for schools and is more convenient for parents. It should be noted that it can be difficult to demonstrate the savings of a cashless system in tangible and quantifiable terms.ParentPay can be tailored to support payments for different things depending on the school's requirements. For example, St Paul's PS have used ParentPay for a toy fund. In St Andrew's SS it has been used to pay for trips, 6th year hoodies, the prom. ParentPay have also started working with Jordanhill schools. In Garrowhill PS, 97% of parents have registered to use ParentPay.School involvement in ParentPay has been opportunistic to some extent, for example, St Andrew's involvement in trial was down to one of its Depute Heads approaching the company directly to see if it could be involved in a pilot for free. Surveys about the service are currently underway in Garrowhill and St Andrews. An Options Appraisal will then be undertaken by the Council in mid July.Mandie suggested that if Merrylee PS wanted to get involved in a pilot, the PC should lobby Maureen McKenna and elected members. | **FH/PC** |
| 4.03 | **Head Teacher Recruitment**Applications were to be submitted by 28 May. Leeting to take place 14 June. Interviews to be undertaken on 21 June. The PC are entitled to 50% representation on the Interview Panel. There can be up to 6 members on the Panel, so a maximum of 3 representatives from the PC, with the other three being one Elected Member (who is also the Chair of the Panel), one other Head Teacher and one representative from GCC Education Department. It was hoped that Jackie, Sharyl and Sarah Kingsley would be available to go on the Interview Panel for the PC. The PC reps can be involved in the leeting but they cannot suggest actual interview questions. However, they can raise pressing issues for the school that should be addressed by candidates as part of the interview process. |  |
| 4.04 | **Home Learning Consultation**Julie McElhone, who has been leading on this matter, updated the PC on latest developments with the consultation. There have been further discussions with staff colleagues and more research undertaken. In terms of feedback from parents, there have been 10 email responses with 8 broadly in favour of the approach with 2 preferring something more structured. These respondents along with those who commented on Facebook were overwhelmingly not in favour of the blogs as a homework tool as they are difficult to access and navigate through. This will be looked at again as a separate issue to the new Home Learning policy.The main outcomes of the review have been:* that home learning is not optional; the expectation is that home learning is undertaken
* 25 to 30 minutes is the maximum time that should be spent on home learning
* any project work that is given out should reflect what's taught in class
* more detailed tracking of a pupil's progress (four times a year) instead of an end year report
* to encourage good study habits amongst children through seeing their peers working and sharing their passions and helping them realise that learning is fun and has lifelong value.

It was acknowledged that this year has been a big learning curve for the school community with regards the different approach to homework/home learning and will require on-going review and refinement. | **JMcE** |
| 4.05 | **Road Safety**Phil and Jackie will continue to attend meetings relating to this key issue for the school community. There was a positive response at a recent Community meeting about the boards that will be placed on grass area and to the plans for a path across the bottom end of the grass area. It was reported that Police Scotland are encouraging parents and residents to report all incidents of careless or dangerous parking or driving around the local area. This will be posted on the PC website and it was also suggested that another banner specific to reporting incidents could be commissioned. | **FH/JC** |
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| **5.00** | **CORRESPONDENCE** |  |
| 5.01 | There were a couple of items of correspondence to note:* Information on the Mini Dukes Award (a Duke of Edinburgh scheme targeted at primary school aged children) which Fiona will forward to Catriona.
* Notification of a national consultation on Food & Nutrition education in schools which Fiona will arrange to be posted on PC website.
 | **FH****FH** |
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| **6.00** | **TREASURER’S REPORT** |  |
| 6.01 | Funds remaining in the account after paying Alan will be transferred to the school before the end of the session, leaving only a working balance. | **SB** |
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| **7.00** | **SCHOOL UPDATE** |  |
| 7.01 | To be carried over the next PC meeting. |  |
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| **8.00** | **PA REPORT** |  |
| 8.01 | To be carried over the next PC meeting. |  |
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| **9.00** | **AOB** |  |
| 9.01 | None. |  |
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| **10** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** |  |
| 10.01 | Date: in August to be confirmed. | **FH** |