

Parent Council Meeting

13th Sept 2023

In Attendance: Apologies:

Bill Burns (Headteacher) Mr Pawlicki (Parent)

Jackie Anderton (Acting Principal Teacher) Stephanie Findleton (Parent)

Natalie Lisi (Class Teacher)

Tammie Hilferty (Parent)

Donna Westbrook (Parent Council Chair)

Andy Westbrook (Parent Council Vice Chair)

Sharon McLean (Dumfries & Galloway Directorate)

Ben Dashper (Local Councillor)

Willie Scobie (Local Councillor)

Agenda

1. Introduction and information from Sharon McLean on new headship recruitment process and how Parent Council and children are involved.
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. St Joseph’s Chair update
5. New staffing arrangements
6. Plans/ ideas leading up to Christmas
7. R.C Clergy Update
8. Date of next meeting

*Introduction and information from Sharon McLean*

Mr Burns updated Councillor Ben Dashper and Sharon McLean (Dumfries and Galloway Directorate) on his role and time at St Joseph’s and that he will continue until January 2024.

Willie Scobie informed those in attendance that he had been at a meeting with Portpatrick Parent Council the previous night and the school had reservations at splitting from their trio. The outcome of the discussion was the realisation that St Joseph’s and Portpatrick will need to work together to move the proposed partnership forward.

Sharon went on to explain the procedures for recruiting a new headteacher. The post is now advertised. There is an expectation that Parent Council members are involved fully. It is mandatory for the applicant to hold the SQH for headship, however, she explained that if a suitable candidate applied without the qualification then they can complete this whilst employed in the post on a temporary basis. Once the job applications have closed the authority will work to a time line and want the Parent councils to have a major part in the process.

Andy asked if the headteachers from partner schools will be involved ( Shiela Baillie and Bill burns). Sharon explained that they will not have a part in the process of selecting a new head for the partnership. There will be professional dialogue between Authority Officers as to who will through to interview stages.

There will be a formal interview involving a panel consisting of John Thin, Rodger Hill, a peer headteacher and parent council reps. Parent Council should decide what questions they would like to ask.

The next stage of the process is where candidates walk around the school with parent council members and children from the school. Schools usually put on refreshments. The candidates will give a presentation for 10 minutes and then answer questions from 6 parents, 6 children and 6 members of staff. The presentation topic will be decided nearer the time. Sharon did clarify that if there were no suitable candidates then the job will be readvertised.

There is a meeting for both parent councils organised for 28th September at the academy.

*Meeting Minutes*

Previous meeting minutes were adopted.

*St Joseph’s Staffing Updates*

Bill burns has put a letter together to explain that he will be staying on until January 2024. Shirley Drysdale is now filling the Support for Learning Teacher post covering a maternity leave in Belmont and St Joseph’s. Dawn Mann is now covering RICCT until the summer.

*Plans and Ideas for Christmas*

Cooking project has been put aside for now so that we can possibly work with Portpatrick on it in the future. We need to finsh off the outdoor area by adding the fairy doors etc. the the children have made. There is a funding bid in from Kellogg’s for Breakfast clubs.

Christmas Fayre – Sign Language Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer

Arrange for magician with balloons

A Visit to the Community Reuse Centre for recycling

D Hamilton to finish off art work

Shelter to be finished off

Painting the exterior wall of the kitchen. Funding available through the historical society. Perhaps we can work with Diane to create a mural around the theme of the Second World War.

Scottish Opera P5-7 with Sheuchan Primary

*Church Update*

Father Neil has retired and Father Ben is replacing him

*Next Steps*

Contact parents regarding the meeting on 28th September

Check folder for next Parent Council Dates