

St Joseph's Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting 3rd September 2018

Attendance

Parents	
Douglas Thomson (Chair)	
Julie Batchelor	
Deborah Boyd	
Derek Campbell	Apology
Jim Campbell	
Sharon Christie	
Lesley Cuthbertson	
Gavin Duffy	Apology
Mairi Gribben	Apology
Shirley Harkness	
Alison Hunter	Apology
Jackie Livingstone	
Kate McLean	Apology
Fiona Rosa	
Grace Walker	Apology
Staff	
Joe Kane (HT)	
Andy Boyle (DHT)	Apology
Stephen Cowan (DHT)	
Donna Shearer (DHT)	Apology
Councillors	
Fiona Campbell	Not present
Maureen McKay	Apology

Parent Council Chair Report

Dougie Thomson welcomed and introduced everyone to the Parent Forum meeting and delivered a short report on the work of the Parent Forum and Parent Council highlighting:

- The Parent Forum consists of all parents / carers of pupils at St Joseph's Academy
- The Parent Council is made up of a number of parents / carers of pupils at St Joseph's Academy, that maximum membership was 15 parents and that ideally there should be representation from each year group, which this year there is.
- The purpose of the Parent Council is to meet to share ideas and feedback to the school on any particular point(s) of interest / concern
- The Parent Council gives parents / carers a voice and enables them to contribute to school decision making
- Through consultation with parents / carers, represents the views of the Parent Forum to advise School Leadership Team of parents' views.
- That at St. Joseph's the working relationship between the Parent Council and School Leadership Team was one that was based on a genuine partnership approach.
- The HT is not a member of the Parent Council, but has a right to attend Parent Council Meetings

Parent Council Roles

Chair: Dougie Thomson advised that after three years as Chair he was standing down, and invited expressions of interest in becoming the new Chair. Jim Campbell was elected unopposed as the new Chair.

Treasurer: Lesley Cuthbertson was re-elected, unopposed as Treasurer.

Secretary: In the absence of any other volunteers, Dougie Thomson agreed to take on the role of Secretary for the next year.

All other existing Parent Council members present will continue as members.

Parent Council Business

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Dougie Thomson welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening prayer.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate representation of the meeting.

Matters Arising

- LC advised that Bank Account Signatories still to be resolved. **Action: LC / JC / DT / JK**
- From previous minutes, there was a discussion about the (perceived) inequity of the way in which senior phase travel was funded for pupils travelling to other schools in EA to study subjects not available at the required level (usually advanced Higher, but also Higher). e.g. Pupils at St Joseph's Academy are expected to pay for their own travel, while pupils from Stewarton Academy have it paid by school (or EA). *Fiona Campbell advised via email "Linda Macauley Griffiths assures me EAC do not fund any Higher/Advanced Higher travel costs. I await further information from her regarding the Stewarton situation."*
Jackie Livingstone advised that EA were actively considering the use of teleconferencing as a mechanism to include pupils for different schools to participate in Advanced Highers remotely as a way of reducing travel between schools, and that more information on this would be available following the EA Parent Steering Group (PSG) on 5th September.
The Parent Council expressed some reservations with regard to this initiative,
Action: JC to follow up with FC on travel funding at Stewarton
Action: JL to provide and update following EA PSG

Head Teacher Report (Appendix 1)

Discussion items included:

- DYW Shakers Launch
- School Prom
- Pupil Leadership Roles
- Staffing
- SLT Remits (Appendix 2)

HT:PEF 18/19 Consultation (Appendix 3)

Members of the Parent Council supported the PEF shortlist with the exception of the Tree of Knowledge, where the value was debated, and the PEF support costs which were questioned.

In addition Parent Council members suggested:

- An increase in home link workers?
- Funded trips (as opposed to targeted residential trips) for pupils in bottom 20% SIMD

Action: Any additional PEF ideas from PC Members to JK

HT: 18/19 Improvement Plan (Draft)

The draft improvement plan was circulated will focus on the following criteria:

- Vision / Values / Aims
- Catholicity: Taking pride in being the only Catholic secondary school in East Ayrshire
- Pupil Leadership
- S3 changes to provide more options in Senior Phase

Final draft of improvement plan target: 13th September

DHT: SQA Attainment (Appendix 4)

SC presented a summary of pupils' attainment in the SQA exams from May 2018 illustrating

- An improvement in S4 attainment, continuing a trend since 2014.15
- A dip in S5 attainment with a drop in all three criteria (1+, 3+, 5+ passes at SCQF Level 6)
- An improvement in S6 attainment, at its highest level over period from 2012/13.

Treasurer's Report

- LC advised that latest balance is £1495.85 (no change)
- The PC approved a payment of £425 to match fund the school's investment in an additional 40 lockers.

Correspondence

DT advised that there had been no correspondence to Parent Council

AOCB

A number of items were discussed throughout the meeting, including

- **Personalisation and Choice Criteria:** Selection based on facts and should be in consultation with pupil / parents.
- **School Trips:** Organised by individual staff / departments, and as much notice given as possible
- **Website Forms:** To feedback and record pupil successes outwith school
- **Assessment Calendar:** To be issued to pupils / parents
- **Show My Homework:** Being re-launched following GDPR issues
- **Mobile Phones:** Not all pupils have access so shouldn't be used to record homework
- **Scottish Government Parental Involvement Strategy (Appendix 5)**

Closing Prayer

DT led the closing prayer.

Dates of Meetings for 18/19

- Monday 8th October
- Monday 26th November
- Monday 28th January
- Monday 11th March
- Monday 29th April
- Monday 10th June