

St Joseph's Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting 25th January 2020

Attendance

Parents	
Gavin Duffy (Chair)	
Julie Batchelor	
Dawn Bias (Church Rep)	
Deborah Boyd	
Jim Campbell	
Pamela Chigbo	Apology
Mairi Gribben	Apology
Shirley Harkness	
Amanda Busam Kennedy	
Jackie Livingstone	
Catriona McCrindle	Apology
Paul McLaughlin	
Kate McLean	Apology
Anne Queen	Apology
Douglas Thomson	
Grace Walker	
Staff	
Joseph Kane (HT)	
Donna Shearer (DHT)	
Councillors	
Fiona Campbell	In attendance until 7:30pm
Maureen McKay	Apology

Meeting conducted via Zoom call, as a result there will be limitations to the detail of what can be discussed.

Opening Prayer

Gavin Duffy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone on the call, particularly new member, Dawn Bias who has taken on the role of Church representative on the PC. Gavin then led the opening prayer.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Passed as accurate, proposed by Dougie Thomson, seconded by Julie Batchelor.

Willowbank School

With the agreement of the PC, GD moved the update on Willowbank School to the top of the agenda to allow Councillor Campbell to participate, as Councillor Campbell had another commitment at 7:30pm.

GD indicated that there had been a meeting of representatives from the Parent Councils of St Joseph's Academy and of Willowbank School to discuss East Ayrshire Council's proposal to relocate the secondary element and pupils from Willowbank Campus to St Joseph's Campus.

With the exception of one parent, all the parents in attendance at the joint meeting were strongly opposed to the proposal citing the following:

- Normally with consultations of this nature, there are several alternative options tabled, in this case there is only one
- The consultation has been suspended due to the current Covid-19 restrictions in place, and the associated consultation meetings have been postponed.
- The lead officer for the project has indicated that there would be two separate consultation meetings, one for St. Joseph's and one for Willowbank. Parents thought that this approach was very divisive and that there should be one or more joint public consultation meetings.

- Parents from both schools indicated strongly that the proposal wasn't in the interest of either school.
- Parents supported the concept of inclusion but felt that there wasn't enough space on St Joseph's campus to accommodate the requirements of Willowbank pupils and that the space that was being proposed was far from ideal:
 - o Hasn't considered the full needs of the Willowbank pupils
 - o Hasn't fully considered the impact on St Joseph's
 - o Displaces HT & SLT of St Joseph's into a less accessible space
 - o Doesn't include the future impact of the proposed SLC for St Joseph's
 - o Willowbank roll rising at a significant rate and will quickly outgrow the proposal
- Parents asked why consideration for provision for Willowbank hadn't been included in the William McIlvanney campus
- Parents collectively indicated that a new purpose-built facility should be investigated for Willowbank to ensure that continued provision was suitable for both Willowbank & St. Joseph's

Councillor Campbell indicated that she and Linda McAuley Griffiths had a meeting with the new EA Chief Executive on 26th January and would discuss proposal and parent views with him.

GD proposed that he and Jane Slider (Willowbank PC Chair) draft a joint letter to Eddie Fraser outlining the parents' opposition to the proposal. The consensus in the meeting was in support of this, however, GD invited any additional feedback to inform the process by 27th January.

Head Teacher Report

Mr Kane presented the School Report, highlighting:

- Covid-19 restrictions and school building closure
- Support for IT issues / home schooling
- Live lessons and a variety of other interactive activities
- Pastoral Care
- Options Process
- SQA Update
- Staffing
- FAQs

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjosephsacademy/parents/parent-council/> for full detail of school report.

Treasurer's Report

No Report

Action: Change in Chair and secretary means Bank Account signatories will need to be amended.

Correspondence

No correspondence received.

AOCB

GW, GD and DT expressed their thanks to St Joseph' staff in relation the huge effort that they had made, at very short notice, to revert back to remote learning for all pupils.

Closing Prayer

GD led the closing prayer.

Date of Meetings:

- 08/03/21
- 26/04/21
- 07/06/21