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**Our Lady of the Missions Parent Council**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**19th May 2015**

**Present**

G. Boyle, C. Jamieson, Cllr Waters, Cllr McCaskill, C. James, M. O’Reilly, Cllr Fletcher, M. Moore, M. Hynes, M-C. Darroch, F. McKean, K. Kelly, E. Holland, J. Harkins, C. Bowes, J. Devlin, B. Docherty, J. McLachlan

**Minutes of Meeting of 26th March 2015**

Proposed – K. Kelly

Seconded – C. Bowes

**Apologies**

A.Forsyth, C. McCudden, C. McLaughlin, G. Bhatti, Cllr Robertson, Cllr Montague, L. Garety, J. Heraghty

**Update on Sub-groups**

***Food***

K. Kelly spoke about the Wholefoods scheme that the school has been chosen to take part in. A programme of events will be organised and N. Cochrane will be involved in arranging assemblies. Staff from Wholefoods will give presentations to the children and will provide a growing garden and give advice on using produce to make jams etc. C. Jamieson added that the school is also working with staff from Rouken Glen and that a greenhouse will be erected in the Chestnut Garden in which both classes and the Gardening Club will be able to grow food.

The Food sub-group is also putting together a second survey about the meals provided in the school. C. Jamieson explained that ERC will be carrying out surveys and holding meetings to discuss school menus. He has been asked to send six parent representatives to a meeting on 11th June. Pupils will also be asked to contribute to discussions. K. Kelly suggested that it might then be useful to complete the second food survey before that meeting. C. Jamieson said that he would be discussing it with the Health Committee and with N. Cochrane.

***Traffic***

G. Boyle explained that notices were continuing to be posted to remind parents about parking safely and that there was an ongoing improvement. However, the road into the overflow car park is continuing to cause problems.

**WEC Update**

Dr Guftar Shaikh from the Woodfarm Education Centre attended the meeting to explain how the community building requires refurbishment and that plans have been drawn up to build an extension. The plans are being finalised with the architect and will shortly be submitted to the Planning Department. The plan includes expanding car parking on the upper level beside the WEC and also expanding the overflow car park .

Dr Shaikh explained that the hours of usage of the building will not alter and that the busiest times are generally outwith school hours. There should, therefore, be no traffic implications for the school.

G. Boyle asked about the timescale for the project. Dr Shaikh replied that the plans were almost ready to be submitted for planning approval.

She asked whether parking would be developed on the upper side of the bollards. Dr Sheik explained that they had received a capital grant to develop the lower car park and added that perhaps the bollards could be moved to allow access to both car parks from the lower one. G. Boyle underlined the fact that one of the main problems currently is the narrow access road to the car park and this would need to be factored into any ongoing discussions.

C. James asked how much disruption was anticipated during the building project. Dr Shaikh replied that the main disruption would be confined to the overflow car park.

Dr Shaikh went on to say that he hoped it could be developed in partnership with the community and that there may be an ‘Open Day’ as a means of raising funds.

**Landscaping**

G. Boyle said that some ballpark figures had been received for developing different areas of the school grounds in various ways based on some thoughts and ideas supplied by ERC. It is important to prioritise what the school would like to achieve and for the PC, the PSA and the school to work together. Based on those early stage proposals and ideas, a tarmac play area would cost around £31,000; the installation of an all-weather pitch in the space where the huts are currently located would cost £63,000; a rubberised play area would cost £4000; an amphitheatre seating area would be £30,000.

Cllr Montague had sent a list of avenues for funding opportunities. The PSA already raise funds for the school and are keen to be involved in raising money for this too.

C. Jamieson said that the creation of a play space is a priority. He said that Rouken Glen staff can help in the creation of a meadow area. C. Bowes asked about the process for planning any work. C. Jamieson replied that it has to be managed through the local authority and that three quotes must be received for any work costing over £1000.

M. Moore said that Glenwood Nursery had received lottery funding for a new outdoor classroom. G. Boyle replied that it would be important to investigate a whole range of grants, though some have certain conditions attached to them.

**Achievements and Successes**

G. Boyle thanked staff for the beautiful First Holy Communion masses. M. O’Reilly said that the children had been so well prepared, particularly in their singing. C. Jamieson thanked B. Docherty and J. Devlin for their work in preparing the children for First Communion and Confirmation. He also said that the children who had attended St Vincent’s for the Feast of the Ascension had behaved impeccably.

E. Holland said that the Schoenstadt Retreat for Primary 7 pupils had been a great success and thanked Father Burke for travelling to say mass for them.

J. Devlin said that pupils had been commended for their good behaviour on the trip to the Scottish Parliament.

C. Jamieson said that he had been advised the corridor would be opened before the Summer Fete. There had been issues raised by the Fire Officer, who had asked for an upgraded alarm system to be installed. The Fire Officer is due to issue a pass certificate on completion of that work.

Clark Contracts have been asked to carry out some snagging work to bring the work to a finished standard. A pass certificate will be required for that work too.

Staff training on operating the lifts will be carried out at the In Service Day and the corridor should be opened at the beginning of June. C. Jamieson added that the corridor is bright, has under-floor heating and plenty of space for displaying pupils’ work.

**Headteacher’s Report**

As a result of the rise in the number of pupils at the school, the school now merits a new depute and principal teacher. N. Cochrane has been appointed Acting Depute and interviews will be carried out for two new PTs. This will allow more management time.

Mrs McArdle, a PSA, is retiring but a bid to the authority for support staff has been successful and the learning support available next year will be on a par with this year.

The process of gaining PVG status for parents will now be carried out by the Education Department. This means that there will now be a cost to the school and so there will need to be a closer look at the different types of activities requiring parental involvement. Those undertaking regulated work will still require to have the PVG, whereas those undertaking unregulated work will not.

It will be necessary to continue adding to the list of parents who help with football. Some details require further thought to ensure that vulnerable children continue to be protected.

Walk to School week took place, encouraging pupils to walk or cycle to school.

The meeting regarding the new relationship education course, God’s Loving Plan, was well attended. The resource is now being used. It will be evaluated and feedback given to the bishops.

The school is preparing to be assessed for its Green Flag status and for the Bronze Rights Respecting School Award. Every effort will be made to improve the school surroundings.

P7 pupils attended an interactive Easter class at Cartsbridge Evangelical Church. They have also attended the transition concert and have had a trip to the Scottish Parliament.

Pupils have achieved success in cross-country events, tennis and the school netball team won the East Renfrewshire cup. The Bikeability initiative has also take place.

The school will play host to the Rotary Club Quiz, the OLM team having won that quiz last year.

The PSA organised the family ceilidh and are preparing for the Summer Fete. G. Boyle appealed for any volunteers who can help either setting up the day before or helping out on the day of the Fete.

The Matt Carney Trophy will take place this term.

**AOCB**

K. Kelly asked if there could be more advanced notice of school trips as there are parents who would like to attend but need time to make arrangements.

Sports Day will take place on Thursday 11th June.

Following on from the last PC meeting, where A. Thomson drew attention to the dangerous zebra crossing at the corner of Orchard Park Avenue and Robslee Road, ERC is looking at arrangements such as a chicane to be put in before the crossing.

A leaflet is being prepared for P7 leavers with advice and useful information for starting St Ninian’s.

A uniform and blazer sale will take place in June. It will be an evening event (6.30 – 7.30pm). Volunteers will be required for this to run well. Blazers can be handed in to be sold on the parents’ behalf, or can just be donated, the proceeds of which will go to the school.

G. Boyle asked explained that only one of the cages is open after school for children to play in and she asked whether all three could be left open. C. Jamieson said he would discuss this with the council.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 18th June