



Our Lady of the Missions Primary School Parent Council

Minutes of Annual General Meeting – 14 September 2017

Welcome

Gillian Boyle welcomed everyone to the AGM and outlined the role of the Parent Council, noting that those attending would be given the opportunity to self nominate to become members at the end of the meeting.

Working group updates

G Boyle noted the working groups will re-commence work once the new membership has settled in. Meantime, she thanked everyone involved in the outdoor classroom project over the summer, in particular, Karen Kelly, Claire Clark and Annemarie O'Brien. There will be a further major push in the next few weeks to try and make further improvements before winter sets in.

Mrs Devlin noted that the children were enjoying the new space and feedback was positive. It was asked whether the school was taking advantage of any external funding available for projects like this. G Boyle advised that the project to date was mainly funded by external bodies with support also from the PSA. The playground group has researched and continues to update various possible funding sources and has applied for a number of grants (some successful, some not). This year, it will apply for "Awards for All" funding and any other funding options that become available. The Tesco grant for the chestnut garden is also coming through.

Headteacher's Report

Mrs Dillon-Ruddy noted some key points in relation to a successful start to the new term:

- SWAY newsletter has been issued for August
- P1 group of 118 has settled well with good routines having been established. School allows early entry from 8.50am to alleviate traffic congestion and to allow pupils time to prepare for class
- Staffing - advert had limited applicants, recruitment therefore postponed to the new year
- Outdoor classroom is being well utilised, all involved were thanked for their support. Muddy movers pictures can be seen on Twitter.
- Maths week – national showcase of work

- Uniform supplier – there are ongoing discussions with existing suppliers to ensure the school is getting best value. sample new products such as waterproofs were also shown and discussed
- Parental communication – noted there is a 24 hour policy for responding though it must be noted that deputies now have significant amounts of “in class” time so this cannot be guaranteed

School improvement plan

Mrs Dillon Ruddy highlighted some key areas in the school improvement plan, which would be issued to parents and pupils in an appropriate format:

- Architect and Design Scotland are advising on use of space in the school, report due soon
- STEM room/Library are being created – support required from parents eg to catalogue the library books
- Playful pedagogy – which emphasizes the importance of play in learning - is being implemented in the infant department
- Music Room/Mezzanine/Staff areas being reconfigured to make the most of available space
- Staff working groups in different areas being set up
- Literacy and English: Mrs Duns reported on initiatives in literacy and English including; promotion of reading in any form; trial of iHub and First News; creation of new library
- facilities such as Education City and iHub will be monitored and reviewed

The library requires parental support and suggestion was made to use parent’s night for book donations. Funding for the new library was applied for in May and outcome is awaited.

JP Sheridan raised issue of classroom with no natural light/ventilation. Mrs Dillon Ruddy said the plan would be to have the children out of this classroom as much as possible.

AOCB

- Recommendation to get parents involved in initiatives on days they are at the school anyway (Sports Day, Parents night etc)
- Query whether the Daily Mile is coming back - Mrs Dillon Ruddy advised it was under discussion but pupils would still have 2 hours of PE per week.
- C McLaughlin asked about future World of Work which Mrs Dillon Ruddy said would be spread more across the school year.

- K Kelly asked if there were plans to introduce drama/creative arts. Mrs Dillon Ruddy said this was being considered with the more flexible use of class rooms.
- Ongoing issues at the drop off in the main car park were highlighted - Mrs Dillon Ruddy is aware of this and will look at options to address it.

Self nominations and meeting close

Those present were asked to self nominate to become members if they wished to do so by completing a new member form and handing it in.

G Boyle noted all were looking forward to supporting a new era for the school under the leadership of Mrs Dillon-Ruddy and closed the meeting – next meeting date to be advised.

Apologies:

Clr Merrick, Clr Fletcher, Cllr Miller

Present:

Gillian Boyle (Chair), John Paul Sheridan (Vice Chair)

Catherine Dillon-Ruddy , Claire Duns, Jacqueline Devlin, Nicola Cochrane (school)

Gerry Devenney (church representative)

Jo Heraghty, Michael Harvey, Jacqueline Stewart, Mairead Brophy, Denis Heraghty, Joe McLachlan, Mary Moore, Geraldine Leonard, Catriona Bark, Pauline Hessett, Judy Taggart, Clare Bowes, Pauline Murphy, Chris Mclaughlin, Michael McKenzie, Joanne Logan, Claire Johnston, Annemarie O'Brien, Nicola Garioch, Steven Gray, Roisin Keane, Fiona Harkness, Claire Clark, Martin Kenny, Karen Kelly, Lindsay Murphy, Karen O'Hara, Lorna McIntosh, Shazia Parvez, Paul Frazher