



Our Lady of the Missions Primary School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting – June 22 2017

The meeting was called to order by chair Gillian Boyle and John-Paul Sheridan at 7:00pm

Approval of Minutes

The May 18 minutes will be approved by the council via email.

The March 23 minutes were approved by Marie-Claire Darroch and Pauline Murphy

Working Groups

Diversity/Inclusion Group

The Group held its first coffee morning today (June 22) which was attended by around 30-35 people and was felt to be a great success.

The Group also confirmed that International Day will take place on September 10 this year, so as to allow activities to take part outside. The group has received a number of responses to its flier asking for volunteers to contribute on the day from a variety of nationalities and it should be a fantastic day though there will be a lot of work to draw it together.

Reporting / Standardised Testing Group

The Group have recommended that its advisory leaflets on ER assessments be published alongside pupil reports.

Playground Group

The plan for the outdoor classroom is coming together and it is likely to be installed by the beginning of the new school year. The outdoor classroom will have an umbrella/canopy shelter, benches for seating and outdoor staging opportunities for teaching and science experiments and enough room for running and wheelchair accessibility.

The Group are also appealing for free/low-cost items that can be used in the project such as tyres, logs etc, and are looking for volunteers to help with this.

Anne Marie O'Brien asked about the TESCO fundraising campaign. In the competition, we are currently neck-and-neck with Busby so are still looking for

lots of support as there is a difference in the amount for third place (£1000) and first place (£5000).

Update on National Testing

Josephine McGrotty revealed that the national assessments will be put in place next year, and that the East Renfrewshire tests will be retained.

These differ from the East Renfrewshire assessments, as these are for P1, P4, P7 and S2 pupils instead of the regional P3, 5, 7 and S2 format, and that tests will be done online. Scores will not be shared with parents, but it is up to the local authority to decide upon this. The tests will be based around Maths and English, and teachers will be able to use their judgement to adjust levels to their pupils' potential.

AM O'Brien noted that the online testing format is similar to the exercises at Explore Learning in Darnley. Mary Moore however, was concerned that the process of introducing pupils to the tests would be time-consuming.

Private Members' Bill on Speed Limits

John-Paul Sheridan added an agenda item regarding the Green Party's proposal to change speed limits around schools to 20mph. This would cover adjacent streets around primary and secondary schools, and it is unclear whether these limits are restricted only to school hours. East Renfrewshire schools were not considered specifically in the draft bill, and both he and Gillian Boyle feel that the proposals need to be contextualized.

Chris McLaughlin was also concerned that there are other road safety problems being overlooked such as road design and the potential pitfalls of speed bumps being damaged and causing accidents.

Achievements and Successes

The P7 graduation ceremony went well, with a special leavers' ceilidh, a buffet and bagpipers (Anne Marie O'Brien).

The Summer discos were a big hit (Pauline Murphy).

The OLM Observers were a big success (Chris McLaughlin) and it was suggested that there should be a subscription plan through ParentPay (P Murphy).

The Summer Fete went very well - thanks as always to the PSA for all their hard work on this and other issues. (Gillian Boyle).

Acting Head Teachers Report

Staffing is not finalized, but four NQTs will arrive in August: Ms Caldwell, Ms Bruce, Ms Thomson and Mr McRae.

Ms Fawcett is leaving to become East Renfrewshire's Champion of Reading, and she will be attending sessions in London before she starts her regional training role.

The school sent 150 packed bags to Mary's Meals, but may consider having their appeal on September to coincide with Our Lady's Birthday after suggestions that June is a very busy time and the appeal was not as well advertised as in previous years.

Matthew Carney trophy went well, with Oliver McLachlan named Player of the Tournament. Some parents noted it was not fair that only pupils who played for OLM football club were selected to play in this and other tournaments. The football club is a separate entity from the school and is not a school team (despite the name). It was suggested that as with any other sporting event where the school required to be represented, the best players be picked whether by trial or otherwise. It was felt to be unfair that boys / girls who happened to play for other football clubs like Giffnock Soccer Centre / St Cadocs (or for pro youth teams) were not even considered.

The cricket team came eighth in their first ever appearance at the Scottish Championships.

The SCIAF bake sale raised £473.

The Ceilidh band came first in the Glasgow Mod.

The P7 Maths Cluster won.

The Girls team came 5th and the Boys 8th in the relay championships.

The school raised over £8700 for good causes in the entire year.

AOCB

Gillian Boyle noted the following thanks and wishes on behalf of the Parent Council:

- Cllr Jim Fletcher is now East Renfrewshire's Provost, and the council congratulated him on his new role and for all his support to the school.
- Gerard Devenney is currently poorly, and the council wished him all their support.
- The council thanked Josephine McGrotty for her Acting Headship this year, and she was presented with flowers by Marie-Claire Darroch.

- It is hoped that with we can now look forward to a period of stability and further development when Mrs Dillon-Ruddy joins us fully in the new term and we are all looking forward to this new phase.

Next Meeting

To be decided.

Present

Josephine McGrotty, John Paul Sheridan, Marie Kane, Gillian Boyle, Bridget Orr, Chris McLachlan, Pauline Murphy, Mary Moore, Anne Marie O'Brien, Provost Jim Fletcher, Marie-Claire Darroch, Mary Cluckie, Clare Bowes