



Our Lady of the Missions Primary School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting – 8 November 2017

Welcome

Introduction of members and welcome by Gillian Boyle as Chair.

Apologies from Judy Taggart, Joanne Logan, Michael McKenzie, Mairead Brophy, Mary Moore and Chris McLaughlin

Minutes

Approval of minutes of 24.9.17 meeting – proposed by J.P. Sheridan, seconded by Jo Heraghty.

ERC budget consultation

J.P.Sheridan represented the school at ERC's education listening event run by an independent facilitator for ERC and involving all schools. Consultation closes 28th November. Purpose is to get as many schools to participate and give feedback on proposals. There is a further event next week at which J P Sheridan can offer comments and questions from the PC. Noted that links to the consultation had been sent to PC members for background.

He then summarized some key issues highlighted by ERC at the initial event and discussion followed on these and other points:

- overall budget pressures and requirements for cuts
- welfare reforms
- increasing numbers of P1s
- budget of 243 million assumes increase of 3% council tax. Cuts have been significant and already saved 37 million over 5 years therefore not a lot of room for manoeuvre.
- ERC's education budget is half the overall budget so cuts are inevitable.
- new early year provision mandated by the Scottish government and new schools are already putting pressure on the budget.
- full details of potential cuts that could be made have been published.

How proposals would directly affect OLM were then considered:

- Proposal to remove all ERC PSAs except those involved in pupil support / trained in medical care etc. - in OLM, all our PSAs are engaged with pupils so this should not affect OLM.
- Cuts to training/CPD budget - Mrs Dillon-Ruddy said that one way to be more efficient is to train at cluster level and share good practice - this will be one way to mitigate effects of these cuts.
- Staffing cannot be altered as teacher to class ratios are centrally controlled. However, previously we had 4 deputies and 4 PT's, now we have 3 deputies and 2 PT's. *[note: this change was decided around 18 months ago but we were allowed to maintain a higher ratio for a longer period until our new Head Teacher was in post, hence the ratio now going down]*
- Parent Kerstin Connor said could facilities be looked at in terms of saving on procurement by looking eg at top 40 suppliers and identifying savings or benefits those companies could provide
- Karen Kelly felt the link was unhelpful and she found it difficult to decide where the cuts should be as we don't have the relevant information on what could be cut.
- Provost Jim Fletcher said tough decisions have been taken on the budget. He said ERC do use Scot Excel but agrees should be asking questions on procurement. ERC will be undertaking consultation to see where the cuts will fall.
- Karen O'Hara asked if reserves could not be used to offset the severity of proposed cuts. Jim Fletcher explained Audit Scotland recommend 4% of budget should be left for reserves. ERC can spend reserves but enough must be left for emergencies. If reserves are used, they can only be used for one year. 2.8 million of reserves used last year as a one off spend to ease pressures.
- CDR said staffing is an issue as there are simply not enough teachers. Currently 3 ½ staff short at present.
- Steven Gray suggested could the school benefit from community benefits from Citideal. Jim Fletcher agreed this was possible and Steven Gray said could this be explored further. *[note: CDR is liaising with ERC to identify whether any community benefits commitments might assist eg in playground developments]*
- JPS confirmed he was happy to feedback this information to ERC at the next ERC meeting.

Promoting Positive Behaviour (PPB)

CDR delivered a presentation on the various PPB strategies now in place within the school including stickers, special awards, recording pupil achievement, reflection sheets and house points. There is a working group within the school representing all areas of the school.

Schools aims and values are explored and recognised via various school charters and a new initiative – ‘Our School Journey’ - to begin very shortly.

Update on Additional Support Needs

CDR happy to host a drop in on ASN if parents would find this helpful.

There are 14 PSAs for school of 920 children – CDR has looked at how PSAs are used within the school and wants to build sustainability for the support of all children. PSAs working with staff to ensure support in classroom every day as opposed to been taken out x1/2 a week.

Discussion on new changes undertaken and agreed parents with questions will meet CDR individually as this largely involves queries regarding individual children.

Working groups

Karen Kelly asked if the wider issue of communication could be discussed at the next meeting. Gillian Boyle said working groups will continue this year including communication. All agreed great progress is being made with the playground and Karen Kelly has really helped to push this forward. Huge amount of work undertaken for £3000 budget.

GB said there will be another OLM Hub coffee/cake morning – possibly 17th November. Helpers needed.

Achievement/Successes

GB – Lockerbie Manor – thanks to all staff involved – children had a fantastic experience.

Pauline Doogan thanked all involved with the P3b assembly and Catriona Bark felt the certificates were a big success.

Headteachers report

- library development underway, staff trained on inservice day, final push – P7 children will help over next two weeks. Special thanks to Mrs Healy who volunteered and brought colleagues with her on a community day from work. Also a very special thanks to Mrs Spinelli who has given a huge amount of time and effort and this is very much appreciated.

- STEM room has been created – staff trained on inservice day, resources collated and labelled. Funding has been applied for.
- Outdoor Classroom – new timetable in place. Academy clothing to agree commission of clothing for outdoor. Awaiting feedback on this.
- Architecture and Design Scotland have produced a report for staff to maximise use of space around school. Meeting pending to prioritise projects.
- Digital developments ongoing with digital leaders being identified in every classroom to support and extend skills development.
- Budget – supported by ERC for Muddy movers initiative - £15000. ERC have funded a refresh painting of some classes. Areas of flooring needs repaired across both buildings.
- Staffing – Mr MacConnell has been successful in his application for Principal Teacher in Kirkriggs Primary in Glasgow. CDR thanked him for his hard work. Catriona Bark also extended a huge thanks to Mr MacConnell for all his time and hard work outside school spent with all stages of OLM football club. It has been very much appreciated. GB and Steve Gray also wanted to express their thanks for the huge contribution he has made to OLM football club in particular.
- Mrs Sannino has had her baby and both are very well. Mrs Milmore is also welcomed back after her maternity leave.

AOCB

Steven Gray asked to note a response from the OLM football club coaches regarding a brief discussion minuted at the May meeting on who should represent OLM in football events. He noted the coaches' view as follows:

- The coaches feel the school football team is not a separate entity from the club. All pupils are welcome to join the school team via the club. OLM football team is the only team that does not have trials. All children who want to play can play for the team. The team aims only to break even financially- there is no profit. The teams are solely run by parents. The Matthew Cairney tournament for example is run by coaches and other players competing would lead to more complicated issues – insurance etc.

GB thanked Steve Gray for these comments and for the commitment shown by the coaches for the club though also noted there were issues around this view that merited further discussion and exploration at a later date.

GB thanked all for coming to the meeting.

In attendance:

Gillian Boyle (chair), John Paul Sheridan (vice chair), Catherine Dillon-Ruddy (head teacher), Josephine McGrotty (deputy head teacher), Provost Jim Fletcher, Cllr Colm Merrick, Fiona McKean, Catriona Bark, Clare Bowes, Nicola Garioch, Steven Gray, Paul Frazher, Fiona Harkness, Michael Harvey, Denis Heraghty, Jo Heraghty, Riosin Keane, Karen Kelly, Martin Kenny, Joanne Logan, Lindsay Murray, Pauline Murphy, Lorna McIntosh, Anne-Marie O'Brien, Karen O'Hara, Jacqueline Stewart

Parents (non members) attending:

Lisa McLaughlin, Kerstin Connor