

# OLM PARENT COUNCIL – MINUTES

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31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 | 7pm | OLM Primary School Junior Dept



## Attendees

Mrs McGrotty, Mrs Dillon-Ruddy, Gillian Boyle, Anne-Marie O'Brien, , Jo Heraghty, JP Sheridan, Chris McLaughlin, Gerard Devenney, Steve Gray, Mary Moore, Karen O'Hara, Michael McKenzie, Cllr Merrick, Lorna McIntosh, Fiona Harkness, Catriona Bark, Claire Clark

Apologies, Cllr. Jim Fletcher, Mairead Brophy, Joanne Logan, , Denis Heraghty, Clare Bowes, Pauline Murphy, Lorna Drummond, Michael Harvey

## AGENDA TOPICS

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1. Apologies and approval of minutes for meeting 17<sup>th</sup> April
2. Chair's report and working groups
3. Communications strategy
4. School improvement plan
5. Achievements and successes
6. Head teacher's report
7. AOCB

## **Discussion / action items**

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The minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 meeting were proposed by John-Paul Sheridan and seconded by Jo Heraghty

### **2.0 Chair's update/ PC Working groups**

**Guinness World record** successfully took place and thanks were recorded for all those involved. Confirmation was still awaited at the meeting but this has now been confirmed by the Guinness World Records that OLM now holds the title with 887 participants. The event raised just under £12,000 for school funds.

Gillian Boyle

**International Day** The day was a great success and brought the community and school closer together with both pupils and parents really enjoyed taking part and learning of other cultures. 31 Nationalities were recognized on the day and it provided an opportunity for parents to meet others of the same nationality within the school.

It was agreed that we should look at taking this concept forward with some kind of annual celebration but perhaps not on such a large scale.

### **3.0 Communication Strategy**

No major feedback or concerns on the Communication Survey. The aim is to have this issued to parents before the end of term for results to be analysed and - where relevant - implemented as soon as possible in the new term.

All

There are to be changes to how the report cards look. These are to be more pupil specific and will recognize more achievements made at the school.

It was recognized the amount of time taken to produce these by teachers made it vital that they be as useful as possible. Information from the Standardised Tests is helpful though needs to be seen in context.

### **4.0 School Improvement Plan**

## **Discussion / action items**

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GB reported briefly on some suggestions from PC members in response to its survey and a number of points were raised for consideration / focus in the forthcoming year:

- Supporting parents on supporting their faith
- Homework
- Managing Traffic
- Literacy
- PE
- Re - introduction of Daily Mile
- School Diary has been introduced for P7, but perhaps introducing this for other years
- Privacy for parents to report issues

### **5.0 Achievements and successes**

These were largely covered at item 1 so the meeting moved on to the Head Teacher's report.

### **6.0 Head teacher's report**

Mrs Dillon Ruddy

#### **School Improvement Plan / Standards and Quality Report**

Plan is passed over to the Education Authority in mid June

#### **Staffing**

Staffing has been organized for the new year but this will not be finalised until as late as possible as the school is not advised until mid June about NQT's and this is also a busy period of time for staff changes.

It is planned to have a dedicated teacher to work in the STEM room and provide additional support for pupils requiring Reading Recovery

#### **Report Cards**

The report cards have been completed and are currently being proof read prior to issue before school finishes.

It was highlighted that a significant amount of teacher time goes into producing these individual reports for each pupil. Whilst it was recognized that parents want to see these personalized as much as possible, anything that can be done

## **Discussion / action items**

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to reduce the burden on teachers should be investigated.

### **P1 Induction**

The school inductions for the new P1s went smoothly and welcomed many new families into the school community in addition to those who already have a sibling(s) already in the school.

### **Head Teacher Drop In**

The HT drop in has only received minimal attendance.

It was agreed not to stop the drop ins at this stage, but additional work would be done to highlight this opportunity. It was also suggested that perhaps did not always need to be on the same day of the week, as this would widen the opportunity for parents who work part-time,

### **Father Burke**

A pamper pack was sent to Father Burke on behalf of the school community with our thoughts and prayers offered to keep him approving.

### **PSA / PC Merger**

The possibility of merging both the PSA and PC under one group was discussed. The HT noted the exact governance structure would have to be defined but this could be a sub group to the PC. It was noted that this structure is operated in other schools. This would enable greater synergies between funding and extra curricula school events. Differing views on this were expressed. It was acknowledged that better communication / streamlining would be a positive development, it was also noted that the bodies have very different functions and parents tend to be interested in one or the other. It was however agreed that it would be sensible to explore the issue further to ensure parent participation in school life is maximized.

### **AOCB**

Gerard Devenney advised he was unable to attend the interviewing panel training and requested if this could be re-arranged.

The Parent Council all wished to thank Gillian Boyle for her hard work as Chair of the Parent Council and all the time and energy that she has given to support the school.

## **Closing**

As this was the final meeting of the year dates and times for the year have still to be arranged.