

Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 12th November 2024

6.30pm

Location: St Ninian's High School

1. Welcome, apologies and confirmation of previous minutes that were approved and circulated

Attendees

Mairead Brophy	Catherine Dillion Ruddy	Claire Watson (PSA)
Tony Fitzpatrick	Nicola Cochrane	Cristina Scheefer
Mhairi Louise Flanagan	Karen Cumming	Syed Jaffri
Paul Pedaruth	Angela O'Connor	Jane Madden (PSA)
Lisa McCarrey	Chris McLaughlin	Emma Simpson (PSA)
Natalie Mosson-Kelly	Cheryl Burnett (National Parent Forum Scotland)	

Apologies

Lorna Murray
Jane Kane
Danielle Christie
Jenny Padaruth

2. Head teacher update

Refer to attached overview

Budget

- £110,000 - savings will be made by Christmas
- Running 2 staff down for this to be achieved and hoping to appoint additional staff after December once no mid session savings confirmed.
- Toilets - complaints re the standard of the toilets particularly in P4/5 and P7 boys so have quotes pending for refurbishment. This will include decoration, replacing radiators and general upgrade.
- P6 works now completed and subsidence continues to be monitored.
- Playground refurbishment - the quotes for active trail have finally been reduced to what seems manageable and works should be completed soon at a cost of approx £7237 (supported by PSA)
- New flooring through P1 & P2, P7 room 21; during Oct break - cost £13,573
- Ventilation works scheduled for completion during Easter
- Roofing - water ingress hopefully resolved during October

Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) of £33,480 has a remaining balance of £6,000 approx to be spent by June 25

Currently £8303 in classroom materials which will fund some additional titles for Big Cat

- Ebay/Amazon purchases hopefully replacing lost texts
- Current count - approx 140 books missing through P1-3

Parent sub-group meeting in September - learning spaces require East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) to upgrade but query pending re supervision of ERC Property and Technical department sufficient? Launch day agreed 29 November 11.30 - 1pm
Stage prices pending and likely to be quite expensive

Pupil Committees - successful term 1 due for completion and final activities prior to potential swap for term 2. Pupils shared action plans on display and presented at assemblies. Parental support invaluable so please pass the word for any interested parents for parent forum. Focus on school improvements from School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Parental support - during parent's night 9 stations set up for parents. Cluster programme of input based upon feedback from PC e.g. dyslexia support, Education City support (P1 - 5) parents/2 staff, P2 - 14 parents. Feedback on best approach welcomed for informing next planned activities.

Assemblies - learning assemblies - some technical issues but overall very limited attendance in streamed sessions. Please support families to engage and directly contact school if require assistance in getting online.

SIP developments - We have focussed on listening and talking for term 1 in the infant department and also had time to ensure the committees were fully established for the learner agency (pupil voice).

Speech bubble - 1 went home to inform term 1 learning and teaching. Speech bubble 2 (green) will come home soon and parents should be encouraged to look at the Experiences and Outcomes, discuss with the children and formulate the questions for the teacher to consider with the children. We are hoping to engage further parental understanding of the learning journey via this initiative.

School activities - nativity season is almost upon us so infants are starting their preparation. Auditions are scheduled for the annual music service in St Joesph's. Parental support would be beneficial for all activities. Thank you in anticipation of the PSA support.

School Fayre pending and P7 Dragon's Den 95% complete - look forward to seeing the families there.

3. Diversity & Culture

HT confirmed the school are looking for new parent members for the Diversity & Culture sub group; participants would attend events in relation to this area and update the parent council. Previous minutes are held on the school website and the group helps celebrate the diversity of our school, in some cases this will be through in school activities, and can also be involved in authority wide activity.

Recent racism incident raised at school - HT was asked to provide information on how we manage these situations. HT confirmed that all racist and bullying incidents are logged on a central system - this includes alleged incidents. This information is then shared with the East Renfrewshire Quality & Improvement Officer. The central system also states whether

the incident was resolved or unfounded. Most incidents logged are bullying related but all are investigated and logged. When such incidents occur, all parents of children involved are contacted. This information can also be accessed via the OLM school website.

Since 2016, 61 incidents have been investigated for bullying and/or racism. System changes make it difficult to get any further breakdown but of the 61 investigations, some were upheld while most were unfounded. I would hope the parent forum are reassured that we take all allegations seriously and are obliged to record/report all to ERC and as a result, the Scottish Government.

Additionally, under this area, the school has spent time ensuring our library provision covers more diverse topics and that each class works on topics linked with diversity and culture. This area has evolved over time and continues to evolve.

There is a Respect for all Policy held on the OLM school website -an updated version is due to be published shortly.

4. Our Hopes and Approach to working as part of the Parent Council

Paul covered this area as part of the parent council reset and to agree a positive approach:

- Being respectful - challenge difference in a positive way
- Listening actively - staying focused on the main conversation and avoiding interrupting
- Stay on point and on topic, keeping to time. Doesn't mean we can't deviate from topic, can be flexible but conscious we all have limited time
- Being positive and constructive

5. Update on learnings from tour of other school PCs

Mhairi Louise gave an overview of her visit to Giffnock Primary parent council meeting.

Was very positive and welcoming. Had HT update, fundraising update, discussed future events. The planning of the event is a separate discussion. Operate like a family, one part is a fundraising part, one part is looking at other areas. Can operate as an overarching club, with a charity part of it.

Giffnock Primary have a smaller school but more parents participating in the parent council.

May be useful to have a rep from PSA at the Parent Council meetings to give an update. And would be good to have a co-ordinated working group that tries to understand what parents want. Both are part of the same family - connected but separate for specific purposes. Will help with clarity of what each group does.

Currently have 2 new PC Chairs - recently were on the receiving end of some aggressive and rude correspondence from other parents. Want to clarify that we are just parents,

volunteering to help the wider group. Also trying to figure this out, how we can engage parents more, and get more people involved. Focus is on rebuilding the parent council.

Cheryl advised that whoever sends these emails should be made aware that this is an open forum and can be shared further, will be in the public domain. Also can be subject to Freedom Of Information request.

Discussion around whether to promote the PC and PSA at the Christmas Fayre - could have a stall. Agreed to consider how to present. An alternative option would be to participate at school assemblies, or link up with school pupil council.

6. Diocese update

New S2 curriculum - very ambitious but positive

Discussion on developing diversity and equality in the catholic context

The Holy See toured a number of schools in Paisley Diocese.

7. Working Session - Cheryl Burnett

Will return at a future date due to time constraints

8. AOB (Any Other Business)

9. Date of Next Meeting

Meeting proposed to take place Tuesday 21st January at St Ninian's High School

Actions

- Request for topics or questions ahead of next meeting -
- Request for details of any stats relating to bullying and racist incidents/log - HT to provide at next meeting
- Request for Parent Council whatsapp group to be set up for ease of communication
- Consider how best to present/promote PC/PCA at Christmas Fayre
- Parent Council and PSA will meet to discuss promoting both committees and working together for the OLM Family