

# St Ninian's Parent Council



## Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11 November 2013

|               |   |  |                                   |
|---------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Present       | M Ward<br>K Reilly                                | J McLachlan<br>P McGrotty                | J Mackie                          |
| In Attendance | J A Docherty<br>J Fuchs<br>J Cumming              | Cllr Montague<br>Cllr V Waters<br>K Ross | Cllr J Fletcher<br>Cllr G Wallace |
| Apologies     | C Merrick<br>Provost A Carmichael<br>J McAllister | R Convery<br>Cllr J Swift                | A McGowan<br>D Grant              |

### Opening Prayer

Mr Ward welcomed the Council and started the meeting with a prayer.

### Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (September 2013) were proposed by J McLachlan and seconded by K Reilly

### 4. Outdoor Sports facilities.

a/ Progress

It is understood that Malcolm Construction is ahead of schedule with regards to the construction work, although this has not been confirmed officially. Some areas of the work are easier than first thought, particularly the removal of knotweed for which there was a cost estimate of £60k.

## b/ Fire Muster Points

The muster points for a large part of the school are on the red blaes. Temporary muster points have been put in place.

c/ There is an area of red blaes between the new pitch and the changing rooms , removal of which was not part of the original plans and there is a concern over with regards to transfer of blaes onto the new pitch. If this area could be tarmac'd it could be used for that. Cllr Fletcher agreed to put this to ERC as there may be flexibility in the budget. It was agreed that the Parent Council will send a letter supporting this.

Cllr Fletcher was asked to get a price from Ian McLean on a new rugby pitch. It was proposed that "Friends of St Ninian's" will offer to put up 25% of the estimated overall £100,000 cost for a new pitch, to be paid for from funds raised by Friends of St Ninian's. This would be a great asset to the school and can be used for athletics during the summer. Cllr Fletcher is hopeful this pitch will be given the go ahead.

## 5. Proposed Car Park

It has come to our attention that there is a car park proposed that will be located where the Council Huts currently stand (outside Technical, Science and Home Economics Depts.). There are several safety and security issues that would come with the car park being placed here. Mr Ross, on behalf of the school, produced a detailed document as to why the car park should not be place so close to the school, these will be given to the Council.

Cllr Fletcher said that, in discussion with the Director of Education and Mr Cahill, a new car park was approved by the East Renfrewshire Council in 2013 and it was believed that this was after consultation with the School, but Mr Docherty confirmed that no discussion has taken place with the school. There may be scope to change where the proposed area is.

Cllr Waters advised that a number of extra spaces are required in the car park and it is more cost effective to put them where the huts are. There would

need to be an amendment to the ERC Capital Budget if the school is not agreeable to the proposal and it is to be located elsewhere.

The Parent Council is in full support of the school's objections and will write to ERC confirming such support.

## **6. Road Safety Matters**

Cllr Waters reported that crossing time has been extended at the Fenwick Road crossing. There are proposals to make this an entirely reactive crossing – otherwise known as a Toucan crossing – there is potential for it to be made a fully automated system. Re parents parking on the pavement at Eastwood Park Gates on the Toll, access needs to remain in place at the gates which means that bollards are not going to be put there (removable bollards are an option but there is a higher cost to this). There is the possibility of a barrier to prevent parents from dropping off/parking there. There will only be Police intervention if the parking that happens there causes an obstruction. ERC parking enforcement officers only deal with yellow lines and clearways. Cllr Watters offered to meet with Mike Ward and Roads department to discuss. Regarding the Roukenglen Road lights, the timing of the lights will be looked at again but the ERC Roads dept feel it's fine as it is.

Cllr Montague is happy to work in partnership on this with the school, the Council and Community Police to find a remedy to suit everyone.

## **7. Proposed new Primary School in Newton Mearns**

R Convery has advised that Father Boyle will meet any parent on the Parent Council to discuss any concerns. The closing date for the consultation is 20<sup>th</sup> November. Let Ronnie or Mike know if you want to meet with Father Boyle.

## **8. Head Teacher's Report**

Mr Docherty gave a short report on St Ninian's High School results compared to other schools and on the performance of young people once they have left school. Mr Docherty expressed a concern that Glasgow City Council Careers Service show an indifference to Glasgow pupils that attend this school and

that they don't get the opportunities offered to them that Glasgow Schools get. They don't engage with them until they have left school.

Cllr Fletcher will speak to Glasgow City Council Councillors to make them aware of what's going on with that

Mr Docherty expressed his thanks to all staff, pupils and parents for their hard work and support.

## **9. National Parents Forum**

J McLachlan gave a short report on the above which he had attended, including the removal of scribes from exams in many circumstances.

## **10. Religious Observance in Schools**

It was noted that there is currently a petition being placed at the Scottish Parliament which sought to change religious observance from opt out to opt in, and that the Scottish Parent Teacher Council had written to support this petition. The response date for the original petition had passed but it was agreed that M Ward would send a letter to the SPTC objecting to their support of such a petition.

## **11. Chairpersons Report**

### a) Polling Stations

There is a consultation regarding Polling Station locations which was circulated around the PC. The only response was a request not to use schools as Polling Stations

### b) Parent Council Chairs' Meeting:

(1) There had been a recent meeting of PC Chairs there was a request from the Education Department for PC's to have sufficient members trained on interviewing skills. M Ward agreed to collate information on members currently trained.

(2) It was suggest at this meeting that a Code of Conduct that sits aside from the Parent Council Constitution be put in place and a draft was produced from which amendments can be done.

#### c/ Membership

None of the parents responded to joining the Parent Council who had attended the previous meeting, however Paul McGrotty would like to join and this was proposed and seconded.

AM Forsyth has stood down from the Parent Council. There are now 11 members.

#### AOCB

Joe McLachlan advised that the SQA website gives good detail on the changes that will be taking place next year.

#### Date of next meeting and AGM:

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013.