

St Ninian's Parent Council



Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 9th June 2014

Parent Members Present	M Ward J McLachlan K Reilly	K Reilly D Manini J McAllister	P McGrotty J Mackie A McGowan
School Staff Present	J A Docherty M McKean	J Fuchs M Paoli	J Cumming
In Attendance	Cllr V Waters	Cllr J Fletcher	
Minutes	D Kennedy		
Apologies	C Merrick R Convery	P Burns	Cllr B Grant

1. Welcome & Prayer

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

2. Apologies

Received from C Merrick, P Burns, Cllr B Grant and R Convery.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (12th May 2014) were proposed by Mr J McLachlan and seconded by Mrs J Mackie.

4. Sports Facilities

Progress on Completion

J Fuchs advised that since our last meeting in May, the pitch has now been opened. The facilities are lovely which has given the community and the school a great boost. PE classes have been using the facilities during and extra-curricular clubs after school. There have been a few teething problems in relation to security issues but the school is working with Giffnock Soccer Centre to deal with these issues and are fully aware of them. It was advised that it may need to look into ensuring the gates to the facilities are locked to stop the damage being caused by unauthorised access & use.

A long jump pit is currently being constructed and we are also awaiting basketball and netball courts to be opened. J Fuchs is currently waiting for a response from Kathleen Holmes in relation to cricket nets being made available as they would be very well used.

J Fuchs also confirmed that a path has now been installed to the south of the 3G hockey pitch. This will allow for the side of the pitch to now be painted and grass to be cut.

Mr Docherty advised that everyone is delighted with the new facilities and that the Sports Day went well with the only real issue being the grounds needing drained and perhaps some surface work being done. Dog fouling also seems to be a bit of an issue so a fence would be good to keep the dogs off the grass.

Longer Term Provision

Mr Ward & Mr Docherty have considered how facilities at the school could be further improved to facilitate even better opportunities being provided. A draft document was distributed as a basis for discussion. The items on this list were discussed and in particular the provision of netball/basketball posts which shall be looked into and possibly the use of lottery money for this purpose. The removal of the rugby posts had in the past been put off due to poor weather and any information on costings would be appreciated. Mr

Docherty advised that more work could also be done in further improving the changing facilities even though they have been upgraded over the past few years.

At present there is no access to the Giffnock Soccer Centre changing facilities and it was suggested that this could be considered.

It was agreed that all members would consider the draft document and suggest any additions or changes and a further discussion on how to progress this would be held at the first Parent Council meeting after the summer holidays.

5. Proposed New Primary School in Newton Mearns

Mr Ward advised that he had not had confirmation but his understanding is that the consultation has been postponed until after September 2014. Cllr Fletcher advised that he had a brief discussion with his colleague Cllr Paul O’Kane in relation to this and that also was his understanding.

To be discussed at the next meeting in September 2014.

6. School Budget 2014/15

Mr Ward and Mr McLachlan have produced a draft letter re the school budget and this was distributed and discussed. The letter has not yet been sent.

Cllr Waters answered and discussed any concerns in relation to this letter and advised that there will be cuts in the budget and that one option would be to cut/reduce the placing requests but this would be difficult.

J McLachlan also expressed concerns with the cut in the education budget and that the priority would be the school deutes. Out of six deutes one will be frozen.

Mr Docherty advised that St. Ninian’s school budget is managed very well by Anne O’Neil, Senior Finance Officer. Mr Docherty and F Morrison have done an excellent job in putting a tight rein on the spending of the school. Cllr Fletcher suggested that the letter should also be sent to the elected

members as any proposals would come before the full council before implementation.

Mrs Manini asked if the 'mental/emotional wellbeing of children' could also be added to the letter as it is not just an education issue for children, it is also a health issue and therefore is very important that a Depute is available throughout their school years.

It was agreed that Mr Ward would send an amended letter also to elected councillors with constituencies within the school's catchment area.

7. Head Teacher's Report

Mr Docherty reconfirmed that the Sports Day was a great success and that there was a great turnout of parents.

The Shirley Roberts Football Tournament was also a great success and Shirley's family were delighted with what had been arranged by staff.

It was advised that football success has been truly outstanding have added to the trophies and Mr Docherty thanked everyone for their contribution.

The S6 Prom and Farewell Mass were excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The P7 visit for the Transition Programme went very well with a turnover of 700 people in school. There has been a lot of hard work and dedication given by Mr Cumming.

It was also noted that the Parent's Retreat was great with good feedback from parents.

'Oliver' preparations have been underway with pupils and staff working extremely hard. This looks to be a great show.

A number of trips have been happening and are due to happen.

The SQA exams finished last week and went exceptionally well with a very good attendance from pupils.

There have been a number of award ceremonies. The CARITAS award has also been awarded with the presentation taking place at the SECC.

The East Renfrewshire Volunteer Award Certificates came in this week and Mr Docherty made a special mention of thanks to Nina McCue, The Eco Group and The Helping Hands Group.

The 3rd year Music Night went well and was very well supported by parents.

It was advised that the Convenor's Awards start next week.

Mr Docherty fully recommended pupils and staff visiting the school Twitter site, which has been created by J Fuchs.

The school had a visit from Colonel Jim Dutton, a NASA astronaut based in Colorado. Mr Docherty advised that it was an exceptional talk and one of the best talks he had heard in the school and the pupils really enjoyed it.

Mr Docherty finished on saying that it has been an exceptional year and gave thanks to all his staff for their hard work and to the parents for their support. He also emphasised the importance of education and the support of the Education Department, Parishes and parents to do the best for pupils in the school.

It was also advised that staff have prepared well for the new exams starting next year and will utilise the budget well.

Mr M Paoli gave a great presentation on the Performing Arts entitled 'An overview of Performing Arts Faculty at St Ninian's High School'. Mr Ward advised that children get a lot out of the Performing Arts at the school and gave his thanks to Mr Paoli for an excellent insight into his department's work.

8. Chair's Report

Mr Ward, on behalf of the parent council, thanked Mr Docherty and his staff for their excellent work.

Last week the East Renfrewshire Parent Councils had their joint meeting at which the following points were raised:-

- (a) A presentation was given in relation to the 'New Nationals'.
- (b) It was advised that a presentation shall be held tomorrow in St. Ambrose HS, near Coatbridge, for the National Examinations.
- (c) There will be an extra In Service Day next year which will be used to prepare for the new higher exams.
- (d) There was a reminder on the rights and responsibilities of parents to get involved in the selection of Head & Depute Head posts.

9. AOCB

K Reilly briefly expressed her concerns with the SPTC conducting a survey to take religion out of the education curriculum and that it may be a good idea to disassociate with the SPTC as they seem to dismiss any denominational religions. Mr Ward shall advise the Friends of St Ninian's re this and shall make enquiries.

Mr Ward finished with saying that he looks forward to another successful meeting in September, thanked everyone for their contributions and wished everyone a good summer.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 8th September 2014.