

# St Ninian's Parent Council



## Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Parent Members Present	M Ward J Mackie G Boyle K Reilly	P McGrotty D Manini P Burns J McLachlan
School Staff Present	J Docherty (HT) J Cumming	
Other	Cncllr J Fletcher	Cncllr G McCaskill
Apologies	Cncllr M Montague Cncllr V Waters R Convery (Church Rep)	C Merrick A McGowan

### **Welcome & Prayer**

M Ward welcomed all to the St Ninian's High School Parent Council and started the meeting with a prayer.

### **Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by P McGrotty and seconded by J Mackie, and approved.

### **Call to Love Programme**

This item was again carried forward.

## **Primary School Pupils with 1<sup>st</sup> right of access to St Ninian's**

M Ward outlined the history in relation to this item.

- At the Parent Council meeting in January it was agreed to request information on the number of primary school pupils with automatic right of access to St Ninian's High School
- On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 M Ward had written to the Director of Education, Mrs Shaw, requesting that information. Mrs Shaw had responded that day to advise that this information would require to be pulled together and that it would be sent as soon as possible.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> February Mrs Shaw advised that analysis was being undertaken of this information and that it would not be possible to provide it before the March meeting of the Parent Council, to which M Ward had replied on 8<sup>th</sup> March expressing disappointment at the delay and enquiring if the information would be provided for the May meeting.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> April Mrs Shaw advised that work was ongoing and that she would be happy to share it with the Parent Council when it was completed.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> May Mrs Shaw further advised that it was her intention to present a paper to the Education Committee of East Renfrewshire Council at either its June or August meeting, based on the information being collated but also advised that she did not yet know the outcome of the analysis work or the recommendations to be made. Mrs Shaw advised that she would be happy to attend the Parent Council meeting following the publication of this paper.

M Ward then advised the meeting that he had recently received correspondence from the Chair of Our Lady of the Missions primary school parent council advising that the intake for August 2017 was 150 pupils, that is 5 streams which was contrary to assurances given to them that OLM would only be a 4 stream school.

A request has been made from the chair of OLM parent council for a meeting to discuss this matter which M Ward and D Manini would be attending.

M Ward commented that he believed that an issue with capacity at either St Ninian's had been identified in the short term as a result of the analysis being carried out which had required a paper to be presented. Cllr Fletcher noted that any recommendations would go to elected officials before being presented to parents.

There was a discussion regarding potential capacity issues at St Ninian's and solutions to these. It was noted that the school was already operating at full capacity with limited recreation space for pupils and PE / changing facilities being at maximum usage as well as music and science labs being fully utilised and more. Any increase in annual intake would represent a significant issue.

The issue of deciding automatic right of access to the school was also discussed and the possibility of introducing criteria which prioritised the right of Catholic children to attend the school. Cllr McCaskill stated that the latest legal advice that such criteria could be contrary to human rights legislation

although it was acknowledged that this had never been tested in court and other local authorities in Scotland applied and used such criteria.

M Ward advised that he had sought guidance from the Catholic church via R Convery and had received an interim response from Bishop Keenan who was considering the Church's position.

The success of St. Ninian's has been based on being a school open to all and Mr Docherty reminded the parent council of the outstanding contribution of those pupils from other faiths and none to the school community.

The Parent Council agreed to await the outcome of the paper being prepared by Mrs Shaw but were of the opinion that St Ninian's was school established for the Catholic community in Eastwood and that any restriction on access to that community would be a cause for concern.

### **Head Teacher's Report**

The Easter camp was a great success and been well attended.

The exam season has just started and there had been positive to date. Last Thursday (5<sup>th</sup> May) there had been 638 pupils sitting the various levels of English examination. The SQA Mass preceding the exams had been well attended. Exams at NVQ4 level are no longer set nationally but East Renfrewshire Council has implemented a system of vocational programmes and assessments which had required substantial investment.

A version of the School Plan was circulated and work on this is ongoing. A final version will be presented at the next meeting.

In football the U16 team had won the Scottish Shield and the U14 are playing in the Scottish final next week. All 5 age group teams had qualified for the St Mirren Cup final earlier in the month with 4 of these winning their matches.

There has been a successful S7 transition programme with a parents evening on May 5<sup>th</sup> which had gone well.

Finally, comments are welcome on how parental engagement can be improved within the school and a document on this was circulated to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Chair's Report**

Parent Council Chairs' Forum - The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February have now been circulated. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th June 2016 at St Luke's High School.

East Renfrewshire Council Education Committee - Latest meeting was on 31st March 2016 – nothing impacting directly on St Ninian's to report.

Parent Forum – The AGM is due in September and if anyone has changes to propose to the constitution please advise before the next Parent Council Meeting.

School Events – M Ward congratulated the school on an excellent S7 information evening with a different format from his last attendance. Good to hear the different music groups and so many different subject areas represented. Thanks to all involved.

Uniform – It was very impressive to see to see 60+ boys dressed in full school uniform at 8am on a Saturday morning to go to the football finals. Congratulations to all teams which made it to the finals.

Future Items for Discussion – If there are any items for discussion at future Parent Council meetings please let M Ward know.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed to move the next meeting from Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> June to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 subject to the outcome of any paper from ERC and the availability of the Director of Education to attend this later date. M Ward to confirm.