

St Ninian's Parent Council



Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Monday, 12th September 2016

Parent Members Present	M Ward J Mackie P Burns	P McGrotty D Manini J McLachlan
School Staff Present	J Docherty (HT) J Cumming P Marshall	J Fuchs M McKean L Howard
Other	D Graham (Church Rep) R Convery (Church Rep) B Riaz (prospective Parent Member)	Cllr Fletcher Cllr Watters
Apologies	A McGowan (Parent Member) C Merrick (Parent Member) K Reilly (Parent Member)	G Boyle (Parent Member) Cllr Wallace

Welcome & Prayer

M Ward welcomed all to the first meeting for 2016/17 of the St Ninian's High School Parent Council ("the PC") and started the meeting with a prayer.

Previous Minutes

Proposed, D Manini. Seconded, P Burns.

East Renfrewshire Council Consultation Paper “PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS AND THE TRANSFER OF PUPILS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY IN RESPECT OF ALL EAST RENFREWSHIRE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2017”

It was noted that East Renfrewshire Council had now issued the above consultation document which had a direct impact on admission policy at St. Ninian’s High School.

Mr Ward reported that the parent members of the Parent Council had met the previous week to consider in detail the document and noted that they contained the following proposals :-

- That the school should remain open to all.
- That in the event of over-subscription to the school, priority be given to members of the Catholic community for whom the school was established.
- That any pupils currently with a first right of access to St Ninian’s retain this right.
- That sufficient resources be put in place to address to handle the pupils currently in the school and those already with a right to attend.

and had agreed to give the proposals their unanimous support subject to certain concerns in particular relating to the proposed additional accommodation. These concerns related to the fact that the proposed accommodation solution was of a temporary nature and did not appear to make provision for additional specialised facilities such as canteen, social space, PE and changing room, all of which are already under pressure at the school.

Only J Mackie & P Burns had been unable to attend that meeting and they now confirmed that they were also in support of the proposals, which meant that all parent members agreed to support them.

Mrs Graham advised that Bishop Keenan was keen to ensure that the school remained open to all and was grateful to ERC for considering this issue and welcomed the proposals subject to certain caveats.

Mr Convery advised that the Archdiocese likewise welcomed the proposals and would be making a formal response as would SCES (Scottish Catholic Education Service).

Mr Docherty enquired if SCES was fully aware of the particular circumstances relating to St Ninian’s.

Mrs Graham stated that Barbara Coupar, the new director of SCES, had been invited by the Director of Education to meet and discuss the proposals.

Mr Docherty reported that a pupil consultation process was due to commence next week (19th Sept). He also noted that he had concerns regarding the temporary accommodation proposed.

Cllr Fletcher noted that accommodation had been identified and that the council would listen to parents' concerns.

Cllr Watters noted that the demographics relating to Our Lady of the Missions school had been unpredictable and had caused the high intake at that school this year.

It was therefore agreed that the Parent Council would write out to all members of the Parent Forum invited them to express their views on the proposals so that it could consider these at the next Parent Council meeting and formulate a response to the consultation document.

Head Teacher's Report

Mr Docherty reported that the 2016/17 session had got off to an excellent start and there were now 1,801 pupils on the school roll. The new S1 pupils looked fantastic with a high standard of uniform being worn and parents were thanked for their assistance and support in achieving this.

Mr Docherty gave a presentation on the results from the 2016 exam diet which showed an outstanding performance at all levels (National 5, Higher & Advanced Higher) and that all SIMD groups were over achieving when compared to ERC, national and virtual comparators. It was noted that although St Ninian's had a more diverse group of pupils from the various SIMD groups the results it achieved were in line with schools with more concentrated higher SIMD proportions. It was further noted that the average for pupils at St Ninian's from SIMD 1&2 out-performed the national average for pupils in SIMD 9&10. This was a tribute to the hard work of pupils and teaching staff in the school.

Mr Docherty noted that numerous trips from the school had already taken place including to Rome, Salamanca and Switzerland.

Mr Cumming outlined the various events that were part of the school's Faith Life and reminded all that parents were more than welcome to attend these and morning Mass in the school on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday each week.

Mr Fuchs advised that the Chief Dental Officer for Scotland would be giving a talk in the school on Thursday 15th September on careers in that profession as well as general health and wellbeing matters.

Mr Ward, on behalf of the Parent Council, thanked Mr Docherty and the school staff for the hard work and dedication to the education of the young people in the school and reminded them that this was not taken for granted and was greatly appreciated by parents.

Chair's Report /

Chair's Report

Mr Ward, reported that the dates for the Parent Council Forum meetings were as follows:-

Wednesday 5 th October 2016	Williamwood High School
Wednesday 22 nd February 2017	Woodfarm High School
Wednesday 7 th June 2016	St Luke's High School

The dates for the Equalities Forum are as follows:-

Thursday 15 th Sept. 2016	Mearns Castle High School
Thursday 19 th Jan. 2017	Mearns Castle High School
Thursday 11 th May 2017	Mearns Primary School

There is training available for those who would like to attend on Selection Procedures on Monday 19th September and details had been circulated

Date of Next Meeting

Dates of Meetings for the remainder of 2016/17 will be as follows:-

Monday 3rd October 2016
Monday 7th November 2016
Monday 5th December 2016
Monday 9th January 2017
Monday 6th February 2017
Monday 6th March 2017
Monday 8th May 2017
Monday 12th June 2017