

# St Ninian's Parent Council



## Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Parent Members Present	M Ward D Manini G Boyle Jo Mackie	C Forshaw A Wilmott A McGowan
School Staff Present	J Docherty (HT) J Cumming	J Fuchs M McKean L Howard
Apologies	R Convery (Church Rep) Cllr Montague Cllr Fletcher	P Burns J McLachlan P McGrotty C Merrick

### **Welcome & Prayer**

M Ward welcomed all to the meeting of St. Ninian's High School Parent Council ("the PC") and started the meeting with a prayer. A special prayer was said for the repose of the soul of Mrs Kay Reilly who had been a very active member of the parent council for a number of years and who had sadly died in November 2016 after a long illness.

M Ward welcomed Mrs Aundrie Wilmott to the meeting and reminded all present that the role of the PC was to consider general matters and not focus on or consider individual cases or circumstances. Mrs Wilmott had indicated that she would like to join the parent council and was duly elected, there being a vacancy.

### **Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as accurate by G Boyle, seconded by C Forshaw, and approved.

**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”**

M Ward reported that the Director of Education had produced her report in relation to the above consultation and that this was due to be considered by the Education Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

In general, it was agreed that the Parent Council welcomed the report by the Director but there were certain specific points that required to be addressed.

It was noted the paragraph 62 summarised the response from St Ninian’s Parent Council and stated that “best value for the transitional measures” be achieved. It was agreed that the response in fact made the point that best value be achieved from the budget available for the transitional measures and consideration be given to utilising this budget to make permanent improvements to the school facilities.

It was further noted that paragraph 78 reported that the implementation of the proposed arrangements was entirely legal and already in operation in other local authorities in Scotland.

Paragraphs 91 – 93 referred to the accommodation at St Ninian’s High School, and in particular para 92 noted the previous investment at the school. This matter was discussed and it was agreed that this investment was a number of years ago and was a catch up investment to ensure that the school was able to accommodate the number of pupils then attending the school. Paragraph 92 also referred to “reverting” the accommodation back to that required to meet the needs of the feeder primary schools. It was however noted that the school was already operating at over 1,800 pupils, which is approx. 100 pupils over the capacity noted on the ERC website (1,704) and that the current school roll was forecasted to be the long term school roll, therefore there was already currently a deficit of facilities for the school roll.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to all members of the Education Committee making the above points, which M Ward agreed to do.

**Youth Philanthropy Initiative**

Miss Howard gave a presentation on the Youth Philanthropy Initiative project currently run throughout the school with S2 being involved. Pupils were in small groups and were working with local charities to prepare presentations to win funding for their chosen charity. Following initial presentations, the best projects would present at a finals evening on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017.

The parent council thanked Miss Howard for a very interesting presentation and wished every success for such a positive initiative.

## **School Accommodation**

Following the discussions which had crystallised during the consultation regarding accommodation issues at the school, Mr Docherty gave a presentation on the issues currently being faced by the school, examples of which included:-

- 5 RE teachers but only 4 dedicated teachers
- Only 9 full size Maths classrooms, the 10<sup>th</sup> being very small and unable to accommodate a full class which meant that for S1-S3 pupils, maths classes require to be held outwith the department meaning a lot of travelling
- Music classes and practising being carried out outwith classrooms on the balcony and in corridors
- There had been an increase of c100 pupils since the last extension at the school

It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting for further discussion.

## **Traffic & Pedestrian Access**

It was noted that the volume of traffic moving around Eastwood Park remained high and that inconsiderate parking created an issue for school buses on occasion.

M Ward noted that there were often commercial vehicles parked outside the council headquarters and on the pavement. This was supposed to be the safe route for walking to the school from the Gates entrance. There was still a large number of pupils walking across the car park with cars moving around, particularly in the morning.

It was noted that there was a plan for a one-way system within Eastwood Park at one time but these had not been progressed.

Agreed to carry forward to the next meeting for full discussion.

## **Review of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006**

### **Governance Review of Early Years and Schools Education**

D Manini reported that following the last meeting it was agreed that the sub-committee established by the Parent Council chairs meeting would prepare a response from all East Renfrewshire schools.

## **Head Teacher's Report**

Mr Docherty reported that the school was very busy with lots of events scheduled in the run up to Christmas break. In particular there was numerous faith based events including daily Mass.

The final examination data was due to be received next week (w/comm 12<sup>th</sup> Dec) which would be analysed and any issues identified.

The P7 visits had now commenced and were going well.

### **Chair's Report**

Mr Ward reported that there had been a meeting of the Education Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> November but minutes had not yet been published. The next meeting of the Education Ctte was scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> December to consider, amongst other items, the Admission consultation report.

The next Parent Council chairs meeting is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 at Woodfarm High School.

There is a meeting being organised by SCES (Scottish Catholic Education Committee) on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017 in Carfin. If anyone would like to volunteer to attend on behalf of the parent council please let M Ward know

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017.