

St. Joseph's Primary School Parent Council



St Ninian's High School

PC Meeting Minutes – 19.4.16.



Attendees:

Parents: Brian Kelly (Chair) , Joanne Bastable (Secretary), Martin Morris, Siobhan Mulligan, Caroline Gray, Cristina Mio, Katrina Adams.

St Joseph's School Representatives: Carlyn Hill, Clionagh Leddy, Marie Byrne, Marianna Dastey, Frances Quinn & Jennifer Lavery.

Church Representative: John Hutcheson.

Apologies : Christine Lau, John Hutcheson, Sam MacConnell, Ian Anderson, Tricia Gordon, Stephen Nugent, John Hutcheson.

Minutes

- Call to Order, Introductions & Welcome Prayer.
- The previous Minutes prepared by Joanne Bastable (Secretary) were proposed, reviewed and approved.

Matters Arising

- We would like to pass on our condolences to Fr. Jim Duggan on the death of his mother. Brian is going to send him a mass card from the Parent Council.
- Katrina suggested that Brian contacts Busby Primary School regarding road safety around the school. Brian discussed contacting East Renfrewshire Council again regarding the crossing at Hawthorne Road. He thought Birch Avenue is particularly difficult to navigate. It is council policy to remove barriers rather than add them. Access to the new nursery was discussed. The Roads Department have done a feasibility study and the favoured route is through Newford Grove. Brian had received a letter from Friends of Newford Grove asking him to write in support of their concerns about the access to the new nursery. Brian felt this was not appropriate for the Parent Council to respond but obviously individual parents are free to do so if they wish.
- No new problems with vandalism/CCTV. Bench still away for repair. CCTV definitely has deterrent value and post event ability to review issues. Cameras are now positioned better.

Head Teacher's Report

1. Miss Hill welcomed back Mrs Dastey. She thanked Jennifer Lavery for all her support and congratulated Frances Quinn on her permanent appointment to the school.
2. Numbers very uncertain for the new Primary 1 intake in August 2016. There are currently 6 on the waiting list for the present Primary 1 - these pupils have been directed to other schools. Strong possibility there will be a composite class. Around 40 pupils are currently enrolled for new P1. Brian expressed concern about the prospect of composite classes. Miss Hill assured him the school was already forward planning for this eventuality. Concerns were raised about physically

- accommodating rising pupil numbers in the future. Brian is going to write to Fiona Morrison and Mairi Shaw about future capacity for these increasing numbers in the existing building.
3. **Transition Review.** Verbal feedback very positive for St. Joseph's - excellent report. Exceptional teachers and pupils doing exceptional work. Formal Report to be issued soon. General agreement that this success should be clearly shared with the wider parent body.
 4. Miss Hill would like the Parent Council to be involved in the Family Centred Award Approach - the school is hoping to complete the bronze award by June. Some initiatives are already underway eg. Masterclasses around Enterprise and Employability. Lots of parents have facilitated companies like Ikea becoming involved in this initiative. The action plan for next year is underway when the school will be aiming for the silver award when it is hoped that a wider circle of parents will become involved. Also hope to involve the wider community in these projects. Has been found previously that where the school ask for help in developing specific skills, parents have become involved much more readily.
 5. Miss Hill wanted to draw attention to the fantastic input from Barry Taylor in improving the school estate. Gutters have been cleaned and drained. Drainage system is being improved. Topsoil has been replaced and some of the less attractive areas of the playground have been improved. Only major work still to be completed are the internal walls and the P5 Boys' toilet walls. The drainage issues need to be addressed before this work can go ahead. Miss Hill thanked Caroline and her team for their invaluable input into this. Hope to continue to work with Barry to enhance the school. Brian also added his thanks to Caroline and her team.
 6. Miss Hill asked if the parent council could help with the following costs:
 - Adventure Trail £1000
 - Summer Trip buses £1000
 - Winning House Award £500
 The Parent Council agreed the above spend and also agreed to fund the Communion Breakfast.

Uniform Rep Brian suggested that maybe this role will need to cease. Miss Hill thought that a leaflet outlining the uniform requirement would be useful for new parents. Katrina is happy to take on this role but was unable to do so on the induction days. Miss Hill suggested that Katrina becomes a contact with the suppliers. Eileen Kelly is happy to help out at the induction days. Miss Hill suggested that Katrina liaise with Schoolwear Made Easy and it was suggested that three specific order days could be the way to plan the ordering in the future.

Social Secretary Report.

- Christmas Fayre. Made £3103 an increase of approx. £200 from last year.
- P6/7 Disco. £80 an increase of approx. £65 from last year. There were some issues with helpers and they are now trialling a new approach of targeting specific year groups to provide parental helpers at different events.
- Scottish family Night. Made £425 an increase of approx. £400 from last year. Really successful and tied in well with dancing in P.E.
- Book Day Recycle. Made £183. Was a shortfall of upper school books and would probably rethink the pricing next year.
- Sponsored Bounce so far has made £1741.
- Quiz Night. Sales £224 so far - slower than previous years - perhaps because the Confirmation was the previous night? Will possibly move this next year?

Treasurer Report

£8435.77

AOCB

Primary 4 parents have requested that boys and girls are put into separate rooms when changing for P.E. Miss Hill agreed to this.

There is now a Parent Council email address. The whole Parent Council should be on this. Trish Gordon has set this up.

Working Group - Funding Group.

There has been an offer of tyres for use in the playground. Group have contacted lots of local businesses. They have also met with the funding person from Whitelees. They plan to apply for an outdoor classroom to be situated near the Muga at the end of the school building. They are also considering getting benches for under the canopy which is covered by the CCTV cameras. School would have to fundraise about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the whole package (about £30,000). Can apply to big organisations to help with the fundraising. The Parent Council need to decide how much of an application to submit. Richard Cooke is going to be invited to a future meeting. Brian thanked Caroline and her group for their work on funding.

Meeting closed at 9pm. Minutes prepared by J. Bastable