

# St. Joseph's Primary School Parent Council



## St Ninian's High School

### Parent Council Minutes 26.9.17.



Attendees:

Parents: Brian Kelly, Joanne Bastable ( Secretary), Siobhan Anderson, Martin Morris, Katrina Adams, R.McKendrick, Lisa Dorrian, Jinal Patel, Maureen Harcombe, Helen Dougall, Andrew Mackie, Chris McGowan, Ian Anderson, Trish Gordon, Michelle Essler, Ann Boyle, Louise McKean, J. MacConnell, Wendy Johnstone, Councillor David Macdonald (Ward 4), Maureen Wright, Karen Todesco, Samantha MacConnell

St Joseph's School Representatives: Suzanne Martin, C.Leddy, F.Quinn, K.Wynne,

Apologies : John Hutcheson, Stephen Nugent, Christine Lau

### **Opening Prayer**

Current Financial Position - almost all funds have been used. Had to pay VAT on contribution to playground/outdoor works. P1 Welcome Night made slight profit, £1760 from Sponsored Bounce to date. In the past, have allocated funds for expenses expected to school. Have also traditionally agreed to make council funds for stationary available to school funds. Only event between now and Christmas Fayre is the Halloween Disco. Had previously discussed the possibility of asking parents to contribute a one off payment to the school funds but now not sure if necessary. Hoping to apply for Charitable Status as a school but this will require a degree of professionalism that has not been necessary in the past eg independent auditors.

All equipment for the school grounds have now been paid for this week.

Brian congratulated the parents involved in the improvements in the school grounds.

Photographs arranged for 6th/7th October. Still some availability.

Discussed the scope for official photographs to be taken at other events eg First Communion.

Christmas Fayre all organised in terms of stalls. Main hall full.

### **Communication**

General feeling that we need an improved communication strategy with parents. Had previously discussed the possibility of a Facebook page but was decided to wait until new headteacher was in place before a decision was made. Twitter account has been set up. Also discussed general communication with the whole school. Some felt a Glow page would be easier to update than a school Facebook page. Proposal to set up subcommittees to discuss communications, social media, outdoor learning etc. Is real opportunity to learn from other schools. Was pointed out that there is probably a need to prioritise plans due to the fact that there is a finite number of parents who are willing and able to help.

School roll - 432. Full teaching complement 24.4. Pupil Equity Fund - £12,000.

Brian thanked all who contributed to Miss Hill's retirement celebration and read out a thank you card from Miss Hill.

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

- Standards and Quality Report. Attainment in line with and indeed exceeding standards. Additional support is being targeted on pupils who did not achieve as expected.
- Pupil Equity Fund. Some funds have already been allocated to Neuro Linguistic Programming. Staff being trained this year, parents next year and children the following year. The programme focuses on language used, thinking skills etc.
- £10,500 additional temporary Principal Teacher - children identified through baseline assessments and standardised tests and information from class teachers. Aim to create support groups for literacy and numeracy. Will also be extension groups. Also aim to have extra teachers in classes working with groups. Hope to leave a legacy with this approach - so that even if the funding does not continue, the staff will be able to continue this approach.
- Was an issue during the summer with some of the play equipment in the playground.
- Pope Francis Award - enrollment in October - hoping to make this more of a community event.

Still an ourstanding list of building and fabric issues. Extensive list submitted. Trish and Siobhan happy to continue as the sub group. Muga surface needs attention. Has been ongoing dialogue with ERC. Is a general feeling that there is inequality between other schools and spending on St. Joseph's and that only small issues have been tackled rather than the overriding issues. Quality of the school estate is poor yet the school roll has increased.

Was agreed that the issue of future school uniform ordering should be discussed at the next Social Committee Meeting.