



# St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



Held at St Joseph's Primary School

## Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### Attendees

Parents: Andrew Mackie (Chairman), Louise McKean (Vice Chair), Ian Anderson (Treasurer), Ann Boyle (Social Convener), Katrina Adams (Uniform Rep), Jackie McHendry (Vice Treasurer), Mo Wright, Stacey Hogg, Alison Whitehead, Marie Rankin, Christine Lau, Sharon Constable, Maria Fagan, Kirsty McDiarmid, Caroline Gray, Paul Maher, Catherine Duffy

**St Joseph's School Representatives:** Suzanne Martin (Head Teacher), Clionagh Leddy (Principal Teacher), Jennifer Wright (Principal Teacher), Sian Lowrie (NQT), Mrs Wynne (Deputy Head Teacher)

**Apologies:** Daniel McKendry, Trish Gordon, Sam MacConnell

**Opening Prayer** – Louise McKean

**Minutes of previous meeting** – were circulated and approved.

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

#### Sub-Committees

We made a push to get the parent body involved and increase those volunteering, with mixed results as noted below. Going to be anti-bullying sub-committee.

#### Digital Literacy

Lorraine (Heads up a digital team at SDS) and Ciaran Roarty

Due to staff movements and Mrs Baker's secondment they have not yet been able to be utilised.

#### Fundraising (Fabric)

Paul Maher and Julie Flaherty

Paul has reviewed a number of funds (currently reviewing 9) to apply to however we require 3 quotes from council approved contractors for the proposed Trim Trail at the top area of the school. This has been passed to the Fabric Committee (Siobhan Anderson, Caroline Gray and Trish Gordon).

#### Library

Julie Hislops, Jina Patel. Currently having IT issues which are waiting to be resolved, Mrs.Leddy confirmed we can't bar code books yet. Library is still being fully utilised by the children without system.

### **So what else were we up to?.....**

- We have moved the meetings to the school to try and increase involvement. We asked at the last meeting if the PC could be allocated a separate email address in order to differentiate the messages from the PC from that of the school. ERC been asked to provide PC with separate email address. Mrs M to chase up.
- We have created a Twitter account but has yet it has not been used as it was considered that there were other items which were higher up the priority list.
- We have made a tacit decision to move away from the parent council moniker the rational being it may be viewed as a potential barrier to new members as a result we have a "Friends of St. Josephs" title and have created an email address. The email, I think stands, how we take the title forward is a work in progress.
- Newsletter – It has been further decided to include more into the newsletter, including links to relevant topics that come up at meetings the plan is to get one out when dates for the meetings have been decided. Newsletter done by Sam MacConnell and Sue Faulkner
- Dates – It was decided that we should have meetings not solely on a Tuesday with a Thursday being the most popular on the parent survey undertaken in July. Dates had been submitted however the school has a preference for a Tuesday to ensure that parents don't get confused and for staff availability. Mrs Martin will check Thursdays in calendar as to whether PC meeting could be set then.
- Class Representatives – The concept of class reps. Was discussed and taken forward from the questionnaire we put out, 33 people thought it was a good idea and several were willing to participation we have the details of 5 but would recommend that we send out an email to capture the details of the others. Need to understand what the role is. Could we do a year rep rather than a class rep.  
Sharon Constable volunteered to be the Class Rep Coordinator and Stacey Hogg to assist. Need to agree terms of reference. Needs to be clear that it's not a forum for being overly critical of school and teachers, as recently experienced in WhatsApp groups. Mrs Wynne advise to encourage parents not to wait until parent council meetings to approach with any issues.
- Minutes – It has been decided that minutes will be distributed to the parent body within a fortnight of the PC meeting in a bid to keep up a critical awareness of the PC itself.
- We put out a parental questionnaire there were 41 respondents we had hoped for more and effectively re-issued it in August but as we discovered this month there were no further participants.
- It had been planned that we would present the results of the survey here tonight and Jackie had prepared a presentation however Suzanne has requested she should liaise initially with the chair (whomsoever that will be) prior to presentation.
- In terms of what is planned for the coming year, this was to be informed in part from the survey as originally discussed two meetings ago, again it will now be up to others to take any agenda forward.

## **Treasurers Report**

£8,800 cash in bank

Mo Wright asked whether we could decide on strategy going forward on how to spend funds. How can we enhance the learning of the children? What are the strategic priorities? Discussion around these queries.

Discussion around buying chairs. Health and safety issue. Budget not available from ERC to pay for this. Hold off on chairs.

Mrs Martin confirmed that there is no budget from ERC for buses for P7 St Ninian's visits.

## **Head Teacher's Report – Suzanne Martin**

Fully staffed although waiting on replacement for Mr Hampsey. Lost a full teacher and only getting one day back

Mrs Grant on secondment with St John's Outreach.

Mrs McLaughlin on mat leave from November. Mrs Fry returned from mat leave

Mrs Baker taking on practitioner support for learning

Management team undertaking playground activity. 50% of PSAs removed. Knock on effect on management availability. Also doing dinner hall and bus duty.

PEF – received £10k from Scottish Government working with children on free school entitlement

Maths specialist – Miss Brooks. Saw significant improvement in standardised assessment in fractions/decimals and percentages in P7.

New SN structure put in place last year.

Reading recovery with Mrs Leddy 0.5 FTE

15 classes for this session. Roll drop. 2 primary 1 classes not at capacity.

Overall attainment very exceeding national average schools.

Playful pedagogy to be led by Miss Canning.

Looking at the DIY classroom.

New P2 classes, 3 classes merged into 2 classes

Awarded digital schools. Very proud of what staff have achieved.

Parental support last session was fantastic. Masterclasses, trips, wild week.

87 responses from open doors event. Understand that time doesn't suit everyone but ran after 6pm last year and didn't have great uptake. Any ideas on how we can effectively reach all parents.

New windows installed at the main entrance and new boiler.

New Janitor appointed, Mr David McArthur.

Library being utilised

Big empowerment push from Scottish Government. Encourage work/life balance. Reducing work load.

### **Social Committee Report – Anne Boyle**

Last Meeting to plan year ahead.

P1 welcome night very successful

Family portraits being done again this year. For every family that buys the package £15 comes to the Social Committee.

Halloween discos again. All in one night. P2-3 then P4-5. Tuck shop

Family curry night on night of Clarkston Christmas Light switch on. SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.

P6 and P7 disco

Summer Fayre 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020

Another adult only night in New Year

Suggest outside boards for Parent Council and Social Committee notices.

Important role for PC in communicating lack of funds to ERC. Lobbying is key role for PC.

### **Uniform Update**

Winter uniform order due in next few weeks

ERC advised that no strings allowed on hoodies

### **AOB**

Protected Characteristics raised. More information on this in S1 and 2.

Minutes Recorded by L McKean