



# St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



**Held at Williamwood Secondary School**

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 20 February 2020

## Attendees

**Parents:** Katrina Adams (Secretary & Uniform Rep), Jackie McHendry (Treasurer), Stacey Hogg (Vice Social Convener), Marie Rankin, Sharon Constable (Vice Chair & Class Rep Coordinator), Maria Fagan, KellyAnne Adams, Caroline Gray, Sam MacConnell, Ian Anderson (Vice Treasurer), Ann Boyle (Social Convener), Kirsty Smith, Julie Forbes, Kirsty McDiarmid, Angelique Duffy

**St Joseph's School Representatives:** Suzanne Martin (Head Teacher), Clionagh Leddy (Principal Teacher), Sian Lowrie (NQT), Mrs Wynne (Deputy Head Teacher), Mairi-Clarie Greene (Acting Principle Teacher)

**Apologies:** Trish Gordon, John Hutcheson, Danny McKendry

## Actions

- **St Joseph's day:** PC to decide if they would like to fund a treat for the children that day
- **Comms:** Sharon asked to establish new WhatsApp group with the current parent council members.
- **Mrs Martin:** Consideration to be given to the structure of P6 classes for session 2020-21. Parents will be emailed in due course.

## Decisions taken

- **Approval of funds:** £7,900 for buses for P6 Swimming Lessons and Wild Week and to purchase Orangutan for upper school

## Minutes of meeting

- 1) **Opening Prayer** – Suzanne Martin
- 2) **Apologies**
- 3) **Minutes of previous meeting** – were circulated and approved with corrections.
- 4) **Beat the Streets** – Iain Mulholland from Beat the Streets East Renfrewshire

Iain gave an over view of the initiative (<https://www.beatthestreet.me/eastrenfrewshire/>) and thanked the school for its enthusiastic adoption. It's a health promotion which was started by a GP. It aims to encourage a more active lifestyle for the whole community (more walking / cycling/ running) and the hope is to draw in people by starting with the children. It has been most successful in schools where the parents and PC have championed it.

There will be an accompanying programme which will record curb side emissions and give the data to the school. Iain highlighted there are plans from the council to reduce the number of cars dropping off / picking up at all schools in the area and different enforcement plans are being considered.

The website has more locations on it than the printed maps (5 extra). Iain encouraged all to register their additional cards (all fobs and cards that came through the school should be registered already) and for all members of the community to take part.

## 5) Respect Me (Mrs Leddy)

Mrs Leddy and Mrs Wright recently joined Respect Me training which focused on the Scottish Government Anti-Bullying policy (<https://respectme.org.uk/>). The presentation given by Mrs Leddy will be put on the school website and all parents are encouraged to read it as it will be rolled out to the whole school.

The presentation included several points of discussion with all attendees. The policy has a focus on empowering the child who is being bullied and seeking to give back the agency that has been taken away. There was group discussion on the discouragement to tell children to strike back and on cyber bullying.

Help requested for volunteers to help translate the policy into a usable guide for parents.

## 6) Sub-Groups Update

### 6.1) Digital Literacy

Mrs Greene is the ICT coordinator. The school would like some parent volunteers to help with the school website. In particular any views would be appreciated on the content and geography of the site from a parent's perspective. Ideal if people could arrange to come in and meet with Mrs Greene but can also correspond by email via the office.

### 6.2) Fundraising / Fabric

Paul Maher, Siobhan Anderson, Caroline Gray and Trish Gordon.

The big lottery fund was unable to provide funds for the upper school trim trail. Volunteers requested to join this sub-committee and seek other funding options.

### 6.3) Library

The volunteers have been great but more welcome. Three people volunteered to help from the meeting and any others are encouraged to contact Mrs Leddy through the school office.

## 7) Head Teachers Report (Suzanne Martin):

- **Staffing:** Mrs Johnston (long term pupil support assistant) is leaving at Easter. Mrs Allan (PSA) will be off on long term leave and Mrs McGee will replace her. The vacancy for a full-time teacher (carried from last year) is now being advertised. Mrs Grant (on secondment to St Johns) is expected back in August on a full-time basis.
- **Initiatives:** The children have been excited about the Beat The Streets programme. The Pyjama day was moved to 28 February (and the HT clarified that kids do not have to wear pyjamas if they don't want to). St Joseph's day will be celebrated on 19 March and the whole school will attend mass that day. Action on the PC to decide if they would like to fund a treat for the children that day.
- **Fair Trade Fortnight:** During fair trade fortnight the children will be encouraged to make their snacks fair trade and will be able to buy fair trade items on set days
- **Parent questionnaire:** The parental questionnaire has come out from East Renfrewshire council in 2020 rather than from the school directly to 20% of parents randomly selected.
- **Toilets:** The director received the letter from the parents about the infant boys' toilets a few days before her visit to the school. The refurbishment is now included in the plans for next financial year
- **Photographer:** The school have appointed a new photographer because the quality of the Tempest ones were has dipped. Horizon will allow single prints for £6 to be bought rather than full packages only.
- **Report Cards:** New format to be implemented this year, examples circulated at the meeting
- **Curriculum:** The Scottish Government are carrying out a broad general curriculum review
- **August 2020 P1:** New P1 capped at 60, currently just over 50 applications

### 8) **Treasure report (Ian Anderson):**

Highlights since last meeting:

- Christmas disco raised £325

This means the PC has £11,300 in the bank (before race night)

Vote agreed to transfer funds to the school for:

£1,200 for Wild Week

£500 for buses for Swimming

£6,200 Orangutan and associated ground works

### 9) **Social Committee (Stacy Hogg):**

Christmas discos were a success. Now fundraising for the Roll and Rope equipment in the upper school trim trail.

Race Night tickets haven't been as popular as the family nights.

**Upcoming events:** Race Night in February, guess the bunny's birthday, spring discos end April / start May, communion breakfast, Summer Fayre 13 June 2020, leavers disco 18 June.

### 10) **Class Representative Updates (Sharon Constable)**

All classes now have a representative. Timing for questions/ queries still to be worked out. Intention is to record the questions and get as many answers as possible in advance of the PC meeting, then bring agreed ones to the PC meeting.

Sharon asked to establish new WhatsApp group with the current parent council members. Old WhatsApp chats to be deleted.

### 11) **AOB**

- Eforms: Sometimes it's unclear if an eform has been successfully completed or not. Mrs Martin said she'll follow up the issue and explained the council are working on IT infrastructure issues but this will take a few years.
- Pyjama day: Kids don't have to wear pyjamas and are ok to wear other clothes if they would prefer
- Google classrooms: could each groups questions be separated to limit the amount of scrolling back and forth kids have to go? Mrs Martin to consider and she advised that children can always ask for a paper copy of homework.
- P5 – Mrs Martin to consult parents on keeping the same pupils in the A/B classes or mixing them for P6.

Minutes Recorded by Jackie McHendry