



St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



Held via Zoom

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 23rd February 2021

Parent Attendees

Katrina Adams (Secretary), Samantha MacConnell (Chair), Sharon Constable (Vice Chair), Jackie McHendry (Treasurer), Ian Anderson (Vice Treasurer), Stacey Hogg (Social Secretary), Julie Flaherty, Caroline Gray, Kirsty McDiarmid (Vice Social Secretary), Marie Rankin, Nicola Hill, Claire Campbell, Lynn Johnson, Trish Gordon, Gillian McKinnon, Ian McKinnon

St Joseph's School Representatives: Suzanne Martin (Head Teacher), Clionagh Leddy (Principal Teacher), Jennifer Wright (Principal Teacher), Mrs J Baker (Principle Teacher)

Apologies: Maria Fagan, Syed Rizvi, Carol Plunkett

Opening Prayer

Meeting Ground Rules

Minutes of previous meeting circulated and approved

Proposed by Samantha MacConnell Seconded by Katrina Adams

Matters arising

Chairs Update

Since our last meeting in November 2020, there have been a number of Connect Workshop offerings, some of which the pc membership has managed to attend.

The Classlists Event on 24th November 2020 clashed with our own pc meeting but we did receive slides from the event organiser, which can be shared on request.

I have attended two Parent Council Chairs' Meetings, on 25th November 2020 & on 3rd February 2021. Both of these were useful from my perspective as a new chair. Going forward I feel it would be helpful for me to produce bullet point summaries of these meetings at the time they take place to our members & I shall do this going forward.

There were 5 additional Connect Events held this month and last, which we were not able to attend. Several were repetition from events offered & duly attended at the last quarter of 2020. Another which Jackie had hoped to attend was mid-afternoon which is very difficult for a working member to accommodate. Going forward Katrina & I will coordinate a register of all Connect Event offerings, whether attended or not, noting whether slides were obtained and noting any other relevant issues. This will serve as a useful aid for us as a committee and for future committees. The register can be made available on request. All slides received from Events attended are filed by Katrina for reference.

The Equalities Forum scheduled for 02/02/21 was postponed until 16/03/21 and I shall attend and feedback on its contents thereafter.

I received a request from ERC to circulate amongst our office bearers a Children's Panel Vacancy, which we duly did. I have also been asked by ERC's Education Department to circulate to our membership the recently released Local Improvement Plan 2021-2024 for discussion. This paper was emailed out amongst the meeting papers last night. I should like to give time over to it in AOCB. Once discussed, I would propose that we move to circulate it amongst the parent forum for feedback.

I attended the NPFS meeting last Thursday on the return of our young people in early years and P1-3. Again, this was a useful resource available to all interested parties, which we notified our parents with children in P1-3 about via our Class Reps.

Our Class Reps have been very active in sharing various notifications which I receive as chair from ERC & which are useful for many of our parents. We were able to assist our HT in reaching out to parents via our Class Whatsapp Groups for feedback on remote learning this and last month. I would like to thank our Class Reps for all of their ongoing assistance, particularly in the current climate.

One idea which was mooted at the last Social Committee meeting on 02/02/21 was whether we might want to consider, moving forward, a system of limiting the tenure of Class Reps to one year and having a deputy in the wings to take over. That way there is constant back up for a Class Rep given we are aiming to increase our communications through this channel with our parents.

I had at the last meeting mooted that we might want to consider establishing separate Class Whatsapp Groups which would be strictly one-way channels of communication solely for pc business – the current class groups are busy streams with lots of updates from parents as well as pc business. The idea didn't receive enough support, and I can well understand that many parents feel they have enough of these groups to keep abreast of without adding another. Our groups as they currently stand appear to be working effectively & are well supported. I have therefore parked the idea for now, though it might be possible in the future to see if it is practical to create one giant pc only type whatsapp group for the whole school, which could exist alongside the chatty class groups – something for me to look at more closely in the coming year – to try and tick the box of issuing really clear, easy to locate communication. In the meantime, on the agenda under AOCB is our twitter account, which I would like to discuss and agree how we move forward to utilise and promote this with our parents. I would also like to get feedback on what historical sub-committees we should look to focus upon in the coming year, to open up engagement amongst parents.

Stacey chaired a Social Committee meeting on 02/02/21; From this it was agreed that I shall put out an interim flier style newsletter encouraging fundraising support via standing order from those that feel they are able to, whilst we are unable to host our usual in-person events, to promote upcoming Kahoot quizzes once dates & plans are finalised and other Easter ideas which are being worked upon. I would like to push our twitter account within this interim newsletter too.

Head Teachers Update

The Head Teacher wanted to recognise and thank the school teaching and support staff for all their work and effort over this lockdown. She felt the parents have done a great job and wished to thank them for their support.

P1-P3 have now returned and the school is very happy to have them back. An additional teacher has been assigned to each stage for support and to allow more one-to-one time with pupils.

The same model is being looked at for the p4-7 with Mrs Wright, Mrs Baker and Ms McCardle giving intensive support. Today's announcement of return on 15th of March will hopefully give these children and their families hope and certainty.

The school have been pushing for submission of school work from the p4-7 children to allow assessment of where the kids are. New concepts have been targeted so the teachers would like to see how the pupils are getting on with these. This will also allow them to not have to overly assess once they return to the class room. The school are not looking to 'catch up' and won't be using that term. Their focus will be any gaps in learning.

On staffing, Mrs Grant has now left for a role in a new school and St Joseph's wish her luck. Mrs Green is covering her P3 class. Mrs Wynn is currently absent and in her place Mrs Baker will cover additional support and P6-7.

The hub school has been quite full with around 70 children across the week and 38 in on any day.

Sacrament dates; the school are trying to give parents dates but these will be dependent on covid restrictions. The letters are going out with regards to the Confirmation. The sacrament of reconciliation will be held in the school on Tuesday 16th of March with preparation taking place in advance through online learning.

The school would like the PC / Social Committee to help with Wild Week planning and preparations. This will hopefully be held on the week commencing 14th of June.

The head teacher thanked the PC class representatives for coordinating parent feedback. They received more than they normally would. It was good to get, and they have tried to use the suggestions to help with online learning.

PEF: Nine devices were handed out to help with online learning.

Mrs Wright and Mrs Morrison have been helping parents navigate online learning and resetting passwords/ devices as needed.

The school are reviewing the information in the report cards and have pushed back the dates they will be issued.

The school was chosen as part of the online engagement audit, 5% of schools in Scotland were selected for inspection. The head teacher highlighted the lack of additional attainment funding due to the area the school is in. She explained to HMIE that the general view of the area is not representative of the diversity of family situations at the school. St Josephs is expected to deliver the same online results as school that are receiving thousands in additional support for technology.

The authority has advised that any carry over of funds will be taken off the schools next term. The school will therefore face budgetary pressures.

The school are planning to celebrate St Joseph's day with an assembly and performances from children.

The PC voted to provide treats for the children on that day.

The PC asked if there were any resources needed by the school, the following was suggested by the school:

- New Chrome books [school asked to advise on cost and number needed so fundraising can be planned]
- P2 reading book programme
- Books
- Books can be donated for the library for p4-7 (currently have plenty for p1-3)

Treasurer's Update

Opening balance last accounts (2 November 2020)	£4,586	
Income from Christmas Hampers	£1,885	
Additional funds donated by parents	£50	
Flowers for Ms Ross	-£31	
P1 Welcome night costs	-£181	
Camera equipment for school	-£143	
Hampers	-£130	
Reindeer Hire	-£550	
Rollercoaster	-£1,800	
Decorations, snow machine, treats	-£913	
Selection boxes	-£349	
Petty cash	-£112	
Revised balance as at 22 February 2021	£2,313	

Since November, funds have been spent on the P1 welcome night, the Christmas fun day, items for the school and thank you flowers. The p1 welcome night expenses were £181. The camera equipment for the school cost £143 and thank you flowers for Ms Ross leaving were £31. For the fund day, £1,885 was raised from parents for the Christmas Hamper raffle. Expenses including the hampers were £3,741. Since the start of the year £50 has also been donated by parents to general fund. This gives £2,313 in the PC bank account and £112 to be banked (marked as petty cash above).

Social Secretary Update

P1 Welcome night - 3 separate zoom calls held on Friday 27th Nov at 6pm, our Class Reps undertook an amazing job - very successful evening.

Christmas Fun Day 17th December all went to schedule, kids/teachers/helpers all had a fabulous day, Twitter went mental... plus we had a mention within Newton Mearns, Clarkston & Busby's Community Magazine!

Fundraising - Halloween generated profit together with Hamper baskets sales of raffle tickets, we generated approximately 70% of expenditure.

Social committee held on 9th February, ideas for up and coming fundraising/activities are as follows:-

Create interim Newsletter with suggestions on setting up DD or SO, due to circumstances.

Those who can contribute have the opportunity to do so.

Creating mugs / t towels for sale.

Activities

Feb/March- Create a Kahoot quiz for all to attend -3 different times to accommodate all families, school have unlimited access however still looking into access.

End March - Easter Treasure Trail - in discussions as to how to generate and collate. Prize per class.

May - Communion - await to see restrictions.

P7 leavers - await to see restrictions.

Next Social Committee meeting to be held via Zoom on the 16th March

Uniform Update

Leavers Hoodies – hoodies have been ordered all children ordered delivery date yet to be confirmed

AOCB

Communication/Twitter: Volunteers were asked to operate the PC twitter account. Samantha, Trish and Katrina volunteered to help.

Local Authority plan: to be circulated. All parents asked to read and feedback,

Next Parent Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th April