



# St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



**Held via Zoom**

## **Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 15th February 2022**

### **Parent Attendees**

Claire Campbell (Secretary), Katrina Adams (Vice Secretary), Sharon Constable (Chair), Samantha MacConnell (Vice Chair), Jackie McHendry (Treasurer), Ian Anderson (Vice Treasurer), Stacey Hogg (Social Secretary), Lynn Johnson (Vice Social Secretary), Frank Rankin (Dioscenian Representative)

Karen Jordan, Caroline Gray, Nicola Hill, Marie Rankin, Gillian MacKinnon, Daniel McKendry, Ruth Lilley, Kirsty McDiarmid, Kaneez Sakeena

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

Opening Prayer

Introductions and Apologies

**Apologies:** Lindsay Jack, Trish Gordon, Anma Saleem,

Minutes of previous meeting and circulated and approved

Proposed by Sam MacConnell Seconded by Stacey Hogg

Matters arising

### **Chairs Update**

#### **Education Reform – Scottish Government**

The Education Reform was a consultation about the vision for Curriculum for Excellence and SQA qualification. East Renfrewshire Council completed their response to Scottish Government at the beginning of February 2022. The Chairs of the Parent Councils were consulted on this and a copy of their response has been shared with the PC.

#### **Connect Update**

Connect has written to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and a member of the COVID-19 Educational Recovery Group about prioritising parental engagement by opening up schools to parents, carers and families as we move out of COVID-19 restrictions.

Connect have submitted a detailed and thorough response to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills about concerns regarding the Health and Wellbeing Census. No response has been received.

## **Equalities Forum 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

No update as I didn't attend the meeting.

### **Recruitment and Selection Training**

Parent Council Members are required to have completed a Recruitment and Selection Training Course within the last 3 years to enable them to sit on an interview panel. Ideally each Parent Council should have at least three members who have completed this course. I am attending this course tomorrow night but it would be useful to know if any of our members would be interested in doing this in the future?

Katrina Adams and Ian Anderson advised that they had previously attended this course but their qualification has now expired. With a view to the longer term, it was suggested that it would be most appropriate for parents with children in the lower school to consider attending this course.

### **Parent Council Chairs Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022**

#### **Additional Support for Learning Review**

A review was carried out to support the implementation of recommendations of the Angela Morgan Review – All Our Children and All Their Potential. The purpose was to identify service gaps and barriers and recommend potential solutions in relation to ASL provision within ERC. This would ensure children, young people, and families are engaged in reviewing, planning and evaluating ASL in ERC. An ERC Additional Support for Learning Action Plan will be planned and developed.

#### **Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy 2022-2025**

East Renfrewshire Council have a Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy with 3 main strands - Communication, Collaboration and Consultation. Some of the targets involve Parents Councils.

For Communication they will improve the ways that they will communicate with ALL parents to ensure that they are provided with the information and support that they need to be involved and engaged in their child's learning.

For Collaboration they will expand opportunities for ALL parents to collaborate at all levels within our education system. In relation to Parent Councils their targets are:

- Promoting and supporting greater diversity in Parent Councils
- Supporting schools and Parent Councils to develop approaches to effective collaboration with parents in planning and decision making with a focus on school improvement planning and participatory budgeting
- Providing Recruitment and Selection Training for Parent Councils
- Engaging with the National Parent Forum.

For Consultation they will support consultation with parents in a variety of ways to fulfil our statutory duties and shape our service.

## **East Renfrewshire Standards and Quality Report and Local Improvement Plan**

A presentation was given at the Parent Council Chairs meeting about East Renfrewshire Standards and Quality Report and Local Improvement Plan for 2021-2022. The presentation showed how the Council was:

- Gathering Evidence
- Everyone was attaining
- Everyone Achieving
- Excellent Experiences.

### **Scottish Government Health and Wellbeing Census**

The Parent Council of St Ninian's High School sent a letter about the Scottish Government wanting to conduct a Census of our school children. This Census is for school children ranging from P5 to S6. The letter identified concerns that East Renfrewshire Council has decided to issue the Census, in their schools before the end of April 2022.

The concerns raised were part of the Parent Council Chairs Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. The survey will be completed during class time that will take around 30-45 minutes. A young person can opt out of completing the survey. Not all pupils will be presented with every question; as the answers to some questions will determine which subsequent questions are presented.

The proposed adaptations to the survey relevant to primary are:

- Extending the timescale to June 2022;
- Sharing the survey with parents / cares.

Parents who had attended the St Ninian's Parent Council meeting advised that ERC seem prepared to be flexible about the survey. The survey has come from the Scottish Government, not ERC and 9 other Local Authorities have decided not to issue the survey at all.

From a Primary school perspective, the survey is likely to be opt in rather than opt out. Although the survey is supposed to be anonymous, the child's candidate number will be on the forms. St Ninian's has been told by ERC to issue information to parents. Mrs Martin advised that St Josephs' had received parent leaflets but have been told by ERC not to issue these yet. Mrs Martin advised that the school wouldn't see results of individual surveys.

Concerns were expressed that to date there has been no parental consultation or engagement. There was also concern that the proposed survey is understood to contain 34 topic areas but was expected to take only 40 mins to complete. There was concern that children would be distressed by the time pressure.

Not all parents were opposed to the idea of the survey, appreciating the aim of understanding children's needs in order to plan better for the future.

Overall the consensus was that there hasn't been enough information issued to parents and that parents need to know what questions will be asked.

The chair, vice-chair and vice-secretary will draft a response to St Ninian's letter taking into account the points raised.

### **National Response to Improving Mathematics**

We have received an email from Aileen Vance at ERC to inform us that Natalie McMillian is on the National Response to Improving Mathematics board as the National Parent Forum of Scotland representative. She would like us to share our views of what is going well with maths in our school, any areas for improvement and anything we feel would be pertinent to the future of maths learning in Scotland. As members of the PC would we want to respond or for individuals to reply? Her email address is [east.renfrewshire@npfs.org.uk](mailto:east.renfrewshire@npfs.org.uk)

### **Equality and Equity Toolkit**

I will attend a session which will introduce the Equality and Equity Toolkit to help school communities work together to understand and address equality on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022. There is a session on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, 20<sup>th</sup> March or 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 from 7.30 - 9pm. These sessions need to be booked in advance.

### **Newsletter**

I will organise a newsletter for parents. I will use the information updated for this meeting. Would you want this completed before the fund-raising event on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 or before?

Stacey confirmed that after the event would be better so that we can give details of the event.

### **Head Teachers Update**

Mrs Martin advised that Covid continues to cause problems with staffing levels - at one point in recent months there were 6 members of staff absent. An email was sent to parents advising that class teachers don't have capacity to upload lessons to Google classroom regularly for children who are absent and parents were directed to a national website with appropriate materials. Support was being given to children on their return to help them to catch up.

Support for learning program has restarted, targeting children in lowest 20%.

Feedback from Winter Wonderland has been overwhelmingly positive and Mrs Martin thanked the PC and volunteers on the day for giving the children this experience.

Social Studies - Each class is looking at a different country and this has allowed a wide range of learning areas to be covered as part of the topic.

There will be a Celebration Day in March and Mrs Martin will issue more details to parents by email.

School trips - After consultation with parents on the cost of these trips, P4 will go to Vikingaar and P2 will visit the Royal Concert Hall. These trips will support the social studies topics.

Lunchtime and after-school clubs have restarted and have been very popular.

Committees have started up again and children have responded positively to helping the school.

Have returned to 1 break and 1 lunchtime (with 2 sittings). This is working well. Concern was expressed that upper school children were going directly from the playground to the dining hall without washing their hands. Mrs Martin assured parents that children had access to the toilets to wash their hands all through break and lunch and that hand sanitiser was available.

Standardised testing for P3, P5 and P7 is almost complete. Children have coped well with this.

Parent questionnaires will be sent out next month. Mrs Martin asked if the class reps could encourage parent engagement through the WhatsApp groups.

A maths inspection by a team from ERC is due. The team will spend a day in school to review lessons, results and processes. Some children may be involved in the focus group as part of the review. Feedback will be about ERC in general and not St Joseph's in particular.

School budget - Scottish Government had provided an extra £15k for additional support staff for recovery. This will be used to minimise the impact of forthcoming budget cuts expected next year.

PEF - there is £20k available for PEF and Mrs Martin asked PC to feedback on how best to use this resource. Currently PEF is used to fund an additional principal teacher with the remainder used for resources.

### **Treasurer's Update**

The key financial movements have been due to the winter wonderland, the February fundraiser and the regular donations from parents. The values for the February fundraiser will be reconciled after the event so please treat as draft for now. In particular, please note there is approximately £5,000 of expenses to be paid out for the event so the bank account balance is artificially high due to the timing. In the opening balance there was £1,560 of income for February already received.

<b>Balance as at 16 November 2021 (last meeting)</b>	<b>£4,895</b>	
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
<b>Winter Wonderland</b>		<b>-£1,291</b>
<b>Rollercoaster (paid by school)</b>	£2,300	<b>-£2,300</b>
<b>Easy Fund Raising</b>		
<b>Parent donations</b>	£740	
<b>February Fundraiser</b>	£4,375	
<b>Revised balance as at 13 February 2022</b>	<b>£8,719</b>	

Expenses for the Winter Wonderland were for selection boxes, headbands, biscuits and other items. The school paid for the rollercoaster but the transfer came through the PC account. From

the opening balance of £4,895, a further £4,375 has been received for the February fundraiser. This brings the total bank income for this to £5,935. A further £740 has been kindly donated by parents in regular monthly transfers. Nothing has been received yet this quarter from Easy Fund Raising. This gives £8,719 in the PC account as at 13 February.

These numbers have to be finalised as some payments still need to be made.

### **Social Secretary Update**

#### Christmas fun day

A Magical Winter Wonderland - bigger and better than 2020!! Fun Fair Rides, activities,(Hot chocolate/movie station, snow machine, biscuit/cookie decoration stand, crazy hair & tattoo salon). Santa with a couple of his Reindeers. Decoration & Inflatables will be around the grounds. What a day kids, staff, volunteers all had an amazing time.

#### February Fundraiser

We are looking to raise funds to purchase the remaining Playground Equipment.

We have over 200 guests purchased tickets, friends & families of local businesses have sponsored our tables and stalls. Children are creating a thank you video. Will take place 26th Feb. Currently have a profit of £955, all funds raised on the day will be added to this!

Up and coming events:-

St Joseph's day - treats for children

Easter - still to discuss

First holy communions - gift bags given to all children

Fundraising summer event - still to discuss

Next meeting will take place March to discuss up and coming events.

### **Uniform Update**

Leavers hoodies Artwork has been finalised and order placed – All children have ordered one. Hopefully these will be with the children before Easter.

### **AOCB**

Diocesan meeting will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2022. These meetings are planned to be held twice a year. Unfortunately, the first one was held the same evening as our PC meeting in November. Frank Rankin to attend the next Diocesan meeting on behalf of PC,

Sharon formally welcomed Claire as new Secretary with Katrina remaining as Vice Secretary. Sharon thanked Katrina for all continuing support and contributions.

Holy Communion and Confirmations - will be full classes but with limited numbers permitted to attend the church. Consulting with Canon Stephen and other schools to ensure equitable treatment for all children. More details will be issued once known but the Confirmations will be at St Joseph's church on a weekday evening.

Transition - no details about visits to St Ninians as yet., though S6 pupils are due to visit the P7s on 22nd February. Mrs Wynne is liaising with St Ninian's and the transition process was raised at a cluster meeting a few weeks ago. The new headteacher at St Ninian's is keen to work with primaries to improve transition.

Concern was raised about the lack of drainage in the playgrounds, leading to some of the grassy areas being unusable after heavy rains. Mrs Martin will take this forward with ERC again.

Next Parent Council Meeting will be held on **26<sup>th</sup> April 2022**