



St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



Held via MS Teams

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 21st February 2023

Parent Attendees

Claire Campbell (Secretary), Samantha MacConnell (Acting Chair/Deputy Uniform Secretary), Nicola Hill (Vice Treasurer), Stacey Hogg (Social Secretary), Katrina Adams (Uniform Secretary), Aimee Scullion, Jonny Carroll, Angela Macklin, Leanne Macklin, Sharon Constable, Kirsty McDiarmid, Rebecca Harrison

St Joseph's School Representatives: Suzanne Martin (Head Teacher), Karen Wynne (Deputy Head), Clionagh Leddy (Principal Teacher), Hannah Addison (Acting Principal Teacher)

St Joseph's Parish Representative: Frank Rankin

Apologies: Lynn Johnson (Treasurer), Suzanne Kavanagh (Vice Social Secretary), Julie Richardson

Opening Prayer

Introductions and Apologies

Minutes of previous meeting and circulated and approved

Proposed by **Katrina Adams** Seconded by **Sharon Constable**

Matters arising

Outstanding matters will be addressed by the chair's update.

Chair's Update

I think the most exciting piece of news I have to share with you tonight, is that I have received no less than 3 offers from parents who wish to assume roles within our parent council.

Jonny Carroll, a P1 parent, has offered to step up and fill the vacant role of Chair and another P1 parent Aimee Scullion has offered to step to fill the vacant role of Vice Chair. All of this allows me to step back and concentrate upon uniforms. Rebecca Harrison has also offered to take over from our incumbent Dioscenian Rep Frank Rankin, provided that he is happy with this, as Frank no longer has children at the school, but graciously remained in post. As Jonny is going to be late joining the call, I propose to cover all three new appointments under AOCB.

I would say that one of the main focuses of the parent council since our last meeting has been upon the Council's proposed budget cuts, specifically to education and has involved us vigorously encouraging our parents to complete the Council's online survey in connection with same, which closed on 9 th December.

The parent council was invited to particulate in two budget saving meetings held on 14 th & 28 th November, which I & Katrina Adams attended respectively. Whilst informative I, along with other attendees, questioned the meaningfulness of questioning a cross section of parent council chair representatives on a complex array of proposed cuts across all sectors of the Council. We were promised sight of a report in January on the findings of those meetings and to date, no report has been issued to any of the attendees. If and when it is made available, it will be circulated to our parents.

Due in no small part to our inclusion within the Authority wide Chairs whatsapp group and also due to improved links with St. Ninians PC & those of Carolside & Williamwood, we were invited to attend a stand-alone meeting at Greenbank Church Halls on 6 th December to hear more on the reality of the proposed cuts to education. The HT of Carolside Primary outlined the proposals and our own HT outlined in considerable detail the reality of the proposals. Notice of the meeting was circulated vigorously to our parents, and a fair few attended. Claire Campbell & I attended on behalf of the parent council. I would like to thank our HT for attending and participating so eloquently.

Following this meeting on 6 th December, the Co-Chairs of St. Ninian's and the Chair of Williamwood drafted letter of concern to the cabinet secretary for Education, to various MSP's and to the Provost Mary Montague, on 9 th January. We alongside other parent council chairs in the authority were invited to co-sign these letters. Given the timing of these communications over the Christmas break, the 6 other office bearers and myself discussed and agreed to co-sign these letters. We joined secondary schools St. Ninians, Williamwood, Woodfarm, Barrhead & Eastwood & primaries Crookfur, Thornliebank, St. Cadoc's, St. Claire's & Netherlee.

I received an invitation last Wednesday, 15th, to consider co-signing follow up correspondence, again prepared by the parent council chairs of St. Ninian's & Williamwood. Given the proximity to this meeting, I wanted an opportunity to discuss the contents in this forum. Unfortunately, given the very tight time constraints, with imminent announcement by the Authority of its budget plans, the draft letters were issued yesterday 20th without us as signatories. Whilst this may be disappointing, the main thing is that representations have been made and followed up, for all the difference I imagine that these will make, at least we have tried. Councillors are due to set the budget on 1st March.

On 30th November last year myself and fellow office bearers met to discuss our responses to Scottish Education National Discussion. This meeting was also open to our parent forum, though attendance was poor. Minutes of the meeting and a copy of our responses, which were submitted on 5th December, are available to anyone who wishes sight of them. I believe that they are also available on the parent council section of the school website, which was updated at the end of November by Mrs. Morrison. Thank you to our secretary Claire for minute taking and compiling our responses.

There have been a few other Authority meetings over the past two months: The Equalities Forum meeting 18th January, which neither I nor any of the office bearers could attend. The meeting invite was pushed out to parents via Class Reps, though I am unsure of anyone did attend.

There was also an Authority Parent Council Chairs meeting 1st February, which I attended. I think parent council chairs should have more input in setting the agendas for these meetings; there are 3 of them per year. This was a comment communicated to the Authority by fellow attendees, as was the fact that there was a lot of repetition on previously covered topics.

In other news, we issued a Winter Newsletter to parents in December. Within this we included information about the parental support our HT is looking for in connection with Gardening, STEM / IDL & Additional Support Needs. I have remained active on the Authority wide Parent Council Chairs forum. Myself and

fellow office bearers have continued to communicate frequently with our parents through our Class Reps, and where necessary via email. We received a comment from a parent who suggested we ought to circulate parent council minutes via Class Reps out to parents, which we have taken on board and actioned in December.

On to Uniform recycling: I am pleased to report that our second event on 4th December was really well attended and supported and raised £157.50. This was split equally between school & church funds. We hosted our first Communion Clothes sale last Sunday 19th, jointly with OLM. This was a lovely event which raised £140, split between Missio and church funds. I should like to thank Mrs. Addison & Mrs. Leddy for all their help at the event. This is an event which the parent council will run annually from now on. I would hope next year we may be able to offer an appointment system for parents and children to view and try on items ahead of an open sale in the church hall, in the way that OLM do. Our

next uniform recycling event will be held on Sunday 5th March after 10 Mass in the church hall and will include all uniform items, as well as winter coats, our remaining stock of new school shoes, and our remaining stock of Communion Dresses and accessories. I have 9 dresses remaining in various sizes. I will be taking donations up until 3rd March. These can be dropped into the school office or I can be contacted directly to arrange drop off or collection.

May I ask if I might have authorisation to spend a bit, no more than £50 on two hanging rails? The ladies at Swansons have been kind enough to lend me a lovely large rail for all of the events we have run so far, but it would be good, and easier for me, if we had a couple of decent ones of our own. We have been donated two rails but these are quite small & flimsy.

Finally, the parent council bid Mrs Morrison a fond farewell with flowers when she left at the end of last term.

Sam asked if she could spend up to £50 to buy our own hanging rails for uniform sales. Treasurer noted that events so far had raised in excess of £50 and this expenditure seemed reasonable. Other attendees agreed this expense should be allowed.

Head Teachers Update

Mrs Martin firstly thanked Sam for stepping up to cover Chair role while a permanent appointee was found. She also thanked Sam for all her work organising the uniform events.

On staffing, Mrs Morrison left in December to work in the building industry. Lacey Hill has been successful at interview for the position of acting office manager. The current situation prohibits the appointment of a permanent post but hopefully this will be resolved soon. We have a supply office support assistant, Alice Bigley, who will be with us until after Easter.

There are currently 3 teachers on Maternity Leave, Mrs Tollen, Mrs Parsons and Miss McLaughlin. Natalie O'Donnell is covering Mrs Tollen's P2 class and joins us from St John's. She has settled well.

There is lots going on in the school and hopefully your children are sharing this with parents. Off Grid visits have continued and been very popular with the children. Teachers have enjoyed incorporating different aspects of the curriculum into the outdoor learning. Off Grid has been funded by our PEF allocation and we are hoping this will continue in the future.

East Renfrewshire's partnership with the Glasgow Science Centre has allowed every class to have a free visit with the school only paying for buses. Children enjoyed the workshops they were able to participate in at the Science Centre.

This term there is a focus on social subjects. Each class has taken turns to present at assembly. The topics cover a wide range of different aspects of the classes assigned country including, history and culture.

P4 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation today from Canon Stephen.

As per recent years, there will be limits to the numbers permitted to attend the First Holy Communion. Each child will be allocated a single pew to sit with their family. This has worked well over the past few years when numbers have been limited due to restrictions. It has allowed children and their families to focus on the specialness of the service.

After school clubs have been popular with varied offerings available. Efforts have been made to ensure each child who wants to has had the chance to attend at least one club. The clubs were chosen after consultation with the children eligible for PEF funding and they have been given priority.

The committees have been very popular and have been involved in a number of events, including "Pop in for a Pancake" and the bake sale for Missio. All committees are working through their action points.

Mrs Leddy is organising the Master Classes which will run over 3 Fridays. These will be varied and will be fun while covering life skills like sewing and cooking.

The annual Standardised Tests have been completed and sent off for assessment. Tests were given to P3, P5 and P7, with the P3 maths being particularly hard. Moderation of the marking will take this into account. The children were not anxious about the tests and have been very relaxed about the process.

The Feast of St Joseph will be celebrated with the infant classes attending Mass at St Joseph's church on Friday 17th. It is not possible for the whole school to attend morning mass due to the volume of children limiting access for other parishioners.

The Thursday before will see our "St Joseph's got Talent" show, which is always fun.

There are lots of opportunities for parents to get involved with school activities and it has been wonderful to be able to welcome parents back into the building. It is particularly nice to be able to engage with parents of our infant classes who have been so restricted over the past few years.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Winter Wonderland, the children love it. It was an amazing day and having parents back in the school made a big difference.

"Pop in for a pancake" raised £300. Thanks to the Co-op on Eaglesham road for their kind donations which made the event possible.

The bake sale for Missio raised £205.

There was a meeting on Monday 20 February about the imminent budget announcements. The budget will be confirmed on 1 March. The Scottish Government has stipulated that teacher numbers must be maintained so we can be reassured that teacher and PSA positions will not be cut.

Thanks to Samantha MacConnell and Claire Campbell for promoting and attending the meeting on 6 December. Mark Ratter noted that following that meeting, there was a large number of parents who emailed Councillors to express their concerns about the impact of potential cuts.

Diocesan Forum Update

The Diocesan Forum meeting in November included plans to focus planning of parishes around the school clusters, recognising the role of the Catholic schools in the parish life.

There are a number of self-assessment tools available to schools to help them with planning lessons. The Centred in Christ newsletter will now be available, along with other Developing the Faith resources, on the Diocesan website: <https://rcdop.org.uk/education>

Feedback from our previous Parent Council meetings has been shared at the Diocesan forums.

Each Sunday during term time, the Children's liturgy runs at 10 am mass, alternating between P1-3 and P4-7. The 1st Sunday of each month (excluding holidays), the mass is lead by one of the Primary schools.

Forty hours of Adoration will run from Thursday to Saturday to mark the start of Lent and families are encouraged to take some time to come to the Church to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Frank noted that the Church representative is nominated onto the Council by the parish priest to represent Canon Stephen and the Bishop at our meetings. Frank is happy to step back if a parent wishes to take on the role but they would need to discuss this with Canon Stephen in the first place.

The next Diocesan Forum meeting is on 15th May if anyone would like to attend.

Treasurer's Update

Opening balance as at 19 September 2022	£1,082	
Easy Fund Raising	£587	
Parent donations	£565	
Halloween Activities	£1,175	-£736
Winter Wonderland		-£947
Uniform Swap & Tie Sales	£170	
Ticket Sales for Family Event	£796	
Other Expenses (Flowers for Staff Leavers)		-£120
Closing balance as at 20 February 2023	£2,572	

The handover was still in progress at the previous meeting so this update includes details from September until yesterday.

There are still some parents kindly donating by standing order each month.

Social Secretary's Update

Winter Wonderland was wild, wet and memorable!! Our Elf Parent helpers were amazing, thank you for everyone's input in making our Winter Wonderland Wonderful, the children loved every minute!

February Family Fest will take place Saturday, great response 170 tickets sold. Funds raised from this event will go towards:-

St Josephs Day - treats for all children, Easter Egg Competition, Communion Brunch, playground equipment.

Up and Coming Fundraisers

- Sponsor bounce - April/May 23
- Tea Towel Art Packs for each year group - May/June 23

Next Social Meeting 19th April 23

The Family Fest event is currently at break-even point so all funds raised on the day should be purely profit.

Mrs Martin thanked the Council for confirming that we will supply sweets and treats for the St Joseph's day celebrations.

There will be some changes to the Winter Wonderland workshops next year to account for having to accommodate the whole school in a single day.

Mrs Martin suggested that the sponsored bounce would be better at the start of the new school term.

Tea towel kits have been ordered and will likely be sent directly to the school. Stacey will let Miss Hill know they are coming. The input from the children will likely be end of May/beginning of June and there will be one tea-towel template per year group. Parents will be offered the chance to buy the printed tea-towels before the end of term.

The First Communion brunch will be on Sunday 23 April after 12 noon mass.

Looking at the current bank balance and the expected profit from the February Fest, it is hoped we can purchase another piece of play equipment to be installed over the summer holidays. Stacey will go back to the original plans and get revised quotes.

Uniform Update

All leavers hoodies have now been received and labelled for school to distribute (this may change as hopefully they got them today!) One minor issue with one size being incorrectly supplied received medium ISO small but parent contacted and happy to swap.

March Order will be fully placed by Sam with me overseeing so that she can see the issues that arise. I will liaise with Sam next week for order form to go out before WC 6th March for return deadline Friday 10th March. These will be delivered after Easter Break.

P1 order/induction dates need to be advised so that we can start working on that too!

Mrs Martin will advise the P1 induction date once this has been finalised. Sam confirmed that she will have examples of both the new uniform items that can be ordered as well as P1 and P2 sizes of previously loved uniform items.

AOCB

Sam handed the meeting over to Mrs Martin to chair the election of a new Chair and Vice Chair.

Katrina nominated Jonny Carroll as Chair. This was seconded by Sam. As there were no other candidates, Jonny Carroll was elected as Parent Council Chair.

Stacey nominated Aimee Scullion as Vice-Chair. This was seconded by Sharon. As there were no other candidates, Aimee Scullion was elected as Parent Council Vice-Chair.

Sam thanked Jonny and Aimee on behalf of the other Council members and assured them of our full support and assistance.

Next Parent Council Meeting will be held on 25th April 2023