



St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



Held via TEAMS

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 8th November 2022

Parent Attendees

Claire Campbell (Secretary), Katrina Adams (Vice Secretary/Uniform Secretary), Samantha MacConnell (Acting Vice Chair/Deputy Uniform Secretary), Nicola Hill (Vice Treasurer), Angela Macklin, Jonathan Carroll, Julie Flaherty, Karen Trodden, Rebeca Harrison

Dioscenian Representative: Frank Rankin

St Joseph's School Representatives: Suzanne Martin (Head Teacher), Karen Wynne (Deputy Head) Clionagh Leddy (Principal Teacher), Mrs Sutherland, Mr McKeegan

Opening Prayer

Introductions and Apologies

Apologies: Jackie McHendrie, Stacey Hogg, Lynn Johnson, Suzanne Kavanagh, Sharon Constable

Minutes of previous meeting and circulated and approved

Proposed by **Sam MacConnell** Seconded by **Katrina Adams**

Matters arising - Drainage issue. Katrina has accessed the previous email account and will forward to the current account

Dioscenian Update

The children's liturgy has restarted and is held each week at 10 am mass. OLM and St Joseph's children are taking turns leading mass on 1st Sunday of each month. This is going well. Thanks to those who have taken part and supported this.

The next Dioscenian forum is on Wednesday 23 November at St Charles', Paisley if anyone wants to attend. Items for the agenda or topics you wish raised can be emailed to Frank by Monday: frankrankin1971@gmail.com

The latest edition of Centred on Christ has been shared with Secretary and Claire will ask school office to circulate to parents.

Catholic Education week will be 16th to 30 November and the theme is "Communion, Participation, Mission". It is an opportunity to reflect on the identity of the Catholic School.

A Travelling Crib initiative is being supported by the Diocese. The Sisters of St Paul to provide cribs to all P2 classes and will include a booklet to support families together in prayer.

Acting Chairs Update

As we are without a current chair person, I am standing in for this meeting to chair it and provide a very brief update in my capacity as acting chair on what I and other office bearers have been doing since our AGM in September.

I would like to start by addressing the current vacant position of Chair & Vice Chair within the Parent Council. Our Parent Council really does need a Chair to lead it. Since the AGM I and other office bearers have worked collaboratively to cover the necessary meetings and to continue to share useful communications with parents via our Class Reps and email.

Details of the vacant roles of Chair, Vice Chair as well as our newly created position of Communications Secretary have been shared by our secretary Claire & myself. As I have said, as a Parent Council we really do need to focus upon filling the role of Chair. May I open the floor to anyone who may wish to put themselves forward for this position or who may wish to ask any questions?

I am happy to serve either as a Vice Chair again or as a Co-Chair if that helps to encourage anyone to volunteer? I just don't have adequate time to cover the role fully myself, other than on an emergency basis, due to work commitments and as I also hold another position within the Parent Council. I can revisit to this point at the end of the meeting if needed.

Moving on to other matters: We ran our first eco-uniform recycling event on Sunday 2nd October at St. Joseph's Church after 10am Mass during the coffee morning. I was delighted with how well received the event was, both in terms of the generous donations on the run up to it and with the number of visitors on the day. I should like to thank Claire, Katrina & Stacey, fellow office bearers for helping me man the event on the day, and I should also like to thank Fr. Stephen for providing me with some much-needed storage space for donations. I would also like to make special mention of local business Pauls & Zapatitos for their tremendously generous donation of brand-new school shoes. We raised £190 which was split equally between church and school funds. Our next event is on Sunday 4th December, again during the coffee morning after 10 Mass. For this event I am taking donations of all badged and unbadged items, including barely worn shoes, wellies and also communion dresses ahead of communion season next April/May. Currently, I have an excellent stock of 30 blazers, in various sizes, 49 pairs of new shoes and a decent selection of skirts, trousers & shorts. I would welcome any items which parents may wish to donate at my next collection at school on Friday 18th November, or I can be messaged to arrange drop offs to my house. I would be especially grateful for donations of Storm coats and knitwear as we are low on stocks of both after the last event.

Mrs Martin gratefully accepted Sam's offer to include Christmas Jumpers in appeal.

I would take this opportunity to ask our HT if she wishes any assistance with ingather Christmas jumpers at all? I would also ask if our next event date in the new year, which will be 5th February, could be mentioned in the HTs newsletter please? I will email to request that mention of our event on 4th December goes into the next two weeks of the bulletin and I have arranged for a short article to appear in the next edition of the Community Magazine, courtesy of one of our parents.

Katrina kindly stepped in to attend the Chairs' Meeting on 21st September at Barrhead High School. I will hand over to Katrina to fill us in on the interesting content discussed at that event.

Katrina's update: There were 2 presentations given by Department of Education at Chair's meeting on 12 October. The first was about parental engagement with assessments being made by assessors within the cluster and then verified by assessors outwith the cluster. The criteria is the Family Centre Approach and schools can attain Bronze, Silver or Gold level. More information will follow.

The second presentation was about Making Maths Count. This initiative was brought about following the report from 2018-2021.

The chair of the Parent Council Chairs board introduced the National Discussion. Parent Councils are being requested to hold a discussion on this National discussion and submit a response. As there isn't another meeting before the deadline, Mrs Martin will ask the school to create Google form to go out to all parents to allow the whole parent forum to submit their response to the points raised.

Mark Ratter provided a budget briefing which highlighted the grim financial situation facing the council and the deep cuts to school budgets that are expected to happen next year.

It came to my attention just before the October break thanks to a fellow parent, that a campaign called Williamwood Cycle Lane had been created and was meeting with other local parent councils to promote their initiative, which is to see a cycle lane created from Stamperland up to Williamwood High School. Due to time constraints given that the consultation period to comment on this initiative closes on 14th November and our own upcoming Parent Council meeting looking to be a full one, I arranged for Jim Densham and Rebecca Brown, the promoters of the initiative to hold an online meeting for our parents on 1st November. Although not especially well attended by parents, the meeting nonetheless allowed us to hear about WWCL's plans and allowed us to circulate their presentation through our Class Reps for our parents to view.

I have been contacted by Brian Dillon, the Chair of Friends of East Renfrewshire Schools Music. He is looking to present to us about the charity, with a view to raising funds to assist all children in East Ren to access music. I wanted to ask what the thoughts of my fellow office bearers and members are on this: Stand-alone meetings generally aren't well attended. Would we want to invite Brian Dillon along to our next PC meeting to allow him to present at the start, then leave us to carry on with confidential business of our meeting? The thoughts of others are very welcome on this as we do have to consider our other fundraising priorities.

I discovered today, only because I am a member of St. Ninian's Parent Council, that ERC Education department are inviting PC Chairs to attend two 'budget saving' briefing meetings on 14th & 28th November, both 7-9pm at Barrhead High School. We haven't received any detail on this from ERC. I therefore called to register our interest and to also complain that I did in fact contact ERC 3 weeks ago to ensure our PC email address was definitely being used, as we are missing correspondence on various Chairs Meetings, to try again to get them to correctly add us to all of their mailing lists again. Fortunately, I am on ERC Chairs' Whatsapp group & both

Katrina & myself are on St. Ninian's PC Whatsapp, therefore we are hopefully at less risk of missing important information. Our Class Reps & parents are very most helpful at circulating information to us as well. It proves how useful these whatsapp groups are as a means of communicating and sharing information.

On a final note and in the same vein as above, with the help of Stacey & Claire I have continued to strive to keep parents fully informed of our events, to pass on useful school information and to circulate useful general information, such as details of East Ren Council's budget cut proposals and survey opportunities for residents. With Stacey & Katrina's help, I shall also ensure a newsletter goes out in the next week or so covering upcoming events.

Many thanks for listening and I'm happy to answer any questions if there are any.

Head Teachers Update

Thanks Sam for stepping into the acting Chair role.

Currently Natalie O'Donnell covering Mrs Paron's mat leave - baby girl Rose. Ms O'Donnell is covering non class contact time and will be a familiar sight around the school.

The children have enjoyed their time at Off Grid Kids. Mrs Martin thanked all parent helpers who have made these trips possible.

We received free tickets for Tennis at the Emirates arena and P6 went to watch today's match. From now on parents will need to pay towards buses. For today's trip, parents contributed £4 a child towards the cost of buses. The school will always try to minimise what they ask from parents but the current situation is that there is no money to subsidise this type of cost.

Mrs Martin is in discussion with active schools about the proposed changes to swimming lessons. Previously P6 benefited from this activity but now Scottish Schools have mandated that P4 will be the first class for swimming. Mrs Martin preference is for P7 to benefit before they go to St Ninians, but Scottish Schools now wants P4. As this is a curriculum topic, the school can't charge for buses to Eastwood and also need £300 to pay for each of the 2 swim coaches. The Scottish Government provides £1000 for curricular areas but this will all be used by swimming for a single year group. Mrs M in discussion on how to proceed.

Children want an extra play on 18 November to celebrate World children's day. Teachers will go out and play games with children that day. Similar activities last year were very popular.

P7 will have 2 visits to St Ninian's before Christmas. These will provide opportunities for children to work with St Ninian's teachers as part of the Cluster. Mr O'Neill values the cluster primaries and wants to work closely with them. He is driving a bus to bring sports leaders to St Joseph's to ensure our children can benefit from this.

Parent workshops held this term had a poor response with very limited attendance. The school will send out a survey to endeavour to find parents preferred methods of receiving support.

There has been very positive feedback for Parents Evenings and the format seems to have worked well. Will request formal feedback via survey

Costume swap went well with lots of children benefiting from the donated costumes. Thanks to Sam for storing the left over costumes.

Winter wonderland: Parents overwhelmingly agreed to pay £10 cost. Managing to provide all the same items as previously as well as some PC workshops. Staying within budget thanks to excellent negotiating.

Budget confirmation - grim reading. Budget consultation last week by Mark Ratter. Proposals to cut recovery teachers, PSA, lowest 20% support. Biggest spend in education is staff so there is likely to be staff cuts. Teachers jobs on line, we can't fill vacancies permanently and use supply teachers to cover gaps. With proposed cuts, the use of supply teachers is likely to be lost with an additional £23k being cut from the school's budget in addition to the £47k already cut. Really grim!

These cuts will impact significantly on capacity and quality of the service provided.

Mat leaves will be covered but after summer there may be people moved around as gaps aren't filled.

Feedback from the recent inspection visit was exceptionally positive. Confirmed our self-evaluation, agreeing our strengths and next steps identified. Children are so lovely; well behaved, articulate and enthusiastic. Children feel loved, safe and happy. Lovely positive ethos. The management team were very happy with the feedback and a report will be sent out to parents. Excellent lessons delivered by our staff and lovely to have other people see what we are capable of. Mrs Wynne commented that it was great to have our hard work validated.

Mrs Martin asked that parents engage and get involved in the National discussion. As agreed during Chair's update, the school will prepare and issue a survey to guide parents through the points raised and allow them to contribute their thoughts.

With regards to the cuts, Mrs Martin asked that the Parent Council help get message out about what we are losing. We have children supported 1 2 1 by PSA and in some cases this is only way these children can be in mainstream school. If that help isn't there it will impact on all children in that class.

Additional support services such as the Nurture group, Trail, Season for change, and 1 2 1 support for PEF children will not be possible. Principal teachers will need to go back into classrooms and not be able to provide these important support services. The school will need to look at what is legal required to provide rather than concentrating on what we want to deliver for our children. The attainment of our children will take a hit.

Treasurer's Update

A handover of responsibility from Jackie to Lynn is scheduled for next week. Jackie has advised that as of this morning, the bank account balance is £1,734 following Halloween costs and income and monthly donations from parents.

Social Secretary Update

PVG - Samantha Macconnell, Lynn Johnson & Stacey Hogg have now received their registered PVG

Fundraising and Events

Halloween disco for p3-p7 was a success, thanks to all parental helpers who gave up their time to decorate the grounds, gym hall & reception, plus attend the discos.

Lynn Johnson as always set up an amazing balloon arch display at reception.

Halloween howl on the Friday, all children were provided with treats, sweets & games.

Profit of £700 was made from disco entry & tuck shop funds.

Winter Wonderland is next on the list - Parent Council will assist school with workshops & activities.

February Family Event - we have. We have booked 121st Glasgow scout hall for 25th February 2023 - the hall has various sections, therefore we are able to have Family Disco, Cinema experience, games, raffles and many more fun things on the go!! Tickets will be on sale soon.

Next social meeting will take place Wednesday 16th November @ 7pm - on line.

Uniform Update

Uniform order went out. 1 order to be delivered/collected. Asked teaching staff - possibility of smaller hoodies have draw strings option for younger children to have zippers as this means don't need signature release from parents. Mrs M doesn't mind as long as they are all same colour as worn as part of uniform. Katrina will investigate option of zippers. Order forms will be out before Christmas.

AOCB

Sam will cover meeting on 14th November

Katrina will cover meeting on 28th November

Any other fundraising for Christmas. Rosa Sutherland - enterprise committee doing some small edible items and bookmarks, snow globes. These will be on sale towards the end of December, the day before Winter Wonderland. PC to request glass jars and small Christmas decorations to donate.

Looked at company OLM use for Christmas cards, mugs etc. Will put out a questionnaire - possible mother's day tea towels etc. Will gauge appetite for re-starting Christmas card. Deadlines are too late for this year. Will look at this again for next year.

Next Parent Council Meeting will be held on 21st February 2023

DRAFT