
Meeting Minutes

Call to order

A meeting of St Marks Parent Partnership was held at St Marks primary school on 13/03/2024. Attendees included Annamarie Johnston (chair), Kari Pearce (Vice chair), Anthony Hutcheson (Headteacher), Julie Neil (depute head teacher) Liz (church representative and Jennifer Williams (taking minutes). Members not in attendance and sending apologies included Marie Sweeney, Louise Kennedy, Paul Townsend Caroline Mills and Frankie Robertson.

Approval of minutes

No minutes from previous meeting to be approved.

Reports

Chair Update;

Information from Connect has been shared on both the office bearers chat and on the wider PP chat by both AnnaMarie Johnston and Louise Kennedy. Individuals are encouraged to follow up on this and get further information to assist with their particular roles going forward. Connect information is available to all members regardless of office position.

In particular, AnnaMarie wished to highlight the PP constitution and the social media policy which can be found on the school website under the PP section and would encourage everyone to have a look at both these sections.

Also to specifically highlight that the function of the PP is to work in Partnership with the school raising attainment, parental engagement, improving school policies and improving the quality of the school experience for our children. Although fundraising is not a core function of the PP it can be done by anyone at anytime as part of the PP or out with.

AnnaMarie noted that from the information she has gathered from Connect, it is essential that we are recording every PP meeting and it was highlighted that this has not always been the case and improvement we need to make as a group. It was suggested potentially employing a St Luke's pupil to take minutes to free up every one at the meeting to be fully involved in discussions. No action has been taken on this yet.

Finally, The chair gave a run down and reflection on the end of the last year/opening of this calendar year and the successes the PP have had, they were;

Very successful 100 club – the most successful yet

Halloween disco/ Halloween parade

Christmas fayre

And Christmas Eve coffee morning

OFFICE BEARERS UPDATE

Vice chair Kari added the possibility of the treasurer and the secretary swapping roles to their more desired role, which would be addressed at the next AGM.

Also, the possibility of sending out information with job roles to the wider parent community to encourage more individuals to get involved in PP.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

- **Attainment:** Each year we are asked to track progress of children and record where they are in relation to national levels for CfE. Our projections for this year's P1, 4 and 7 data suggest that we are set for our strongest year to date in 7 year's worth of results, with children from our most deprived areas significantly outperforming local and national averages. This is testament to the impact of our PEF work in recent years and from the relentless focus on early intervention, raising attainment in literacy and numeracy, whilst promoting a holistic approach to wellbeing. The school's progress and successes in these areas has been reflected in the number of visitors we are hosting and our involvement in key discussions and consultations at a local and regional level.
- Positive term to date with the school well represented at Cross Country, Football, Netball, Basketball, Euroquiz, Music Festival and Rotary Quiz. Grateful to staff who have prepared the children so well at lunchtime and after school clubs. In Term 1 alone one third of the school accessed an after school club (compared with 28% of the school in the entire previous year). Children in SIMD 1 and 2 and FME are prioritised for places in these clubs in order to tackle inequity and promote access for all.
- The profile of some of our key priorities for learning has been further raised in recent months through our participation in Languages Week Scotland, World Book Day and British Science Week. There have been fantastic levels of engagement from the children (and their families) and we are delighted with the excitement for learning across the school in the areas of STEM, Reading and Languages.
- **Whole school accreditation:** Following on from our Silver Rights Aware Award accreditation from UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools, we are underway with our journey to Gold. We have a newly elected committee who are sharing a UNCRC Article of the Month with the whole school at assembly. Staff have also undertaken further training and are making links between rights and the curriculum, with an emphasis on children understanding that the adults are duty bearers and children are rights holders.
- In addition to RRS, we are also aiming for the Sport Scotland School Sports Award (Silver) and to build on our Scottish Book Trust Reading Schools Award from last year.

Church report – no report given

Spring disco – the possibility of a spring or summer disco was discussed. This will be put to the wider PP group to see if anyone would like to organise and suggestions for dates. The school has summer shows on June so dates would need to be late May.

A space for a parent partnership stall will be given at the parent night, again this will be put to the PP group to see if anyone is available to run it.

Kari discussed the question from other members on raising the profile of the PP and being more visible to the school community. The suggestion brought to the meeting was the possibility of lanyards or something similar to allow individuals to know who they should approach. AnnaMarie suggested having photos of office bearers visible in the school entry way. Jennifer suggested using the opportunity at the Parents night to have a display board with images of office bearers and info on the roll of the PP with an enquiry box for people to post their contact details and then we can contact individuals to give them more information. It was agreed that again this would need to be discussed with the larger PP group.

Easter coffee morning and summer fayre – both items were introduced and it was agreed that a summer fayre may need to be pushed back due to timescale and organisation of event.

AnnaMarie suggested that a PP meeting should be held before the end of summer to put dates in the diary for next year to ensure that items can be actioned in plenty of time.

A church coffee was agreed in principle but would rely on the larger PP becoming involved and a date would need to be agreed by the group.

Any other business

First communion photos. Fr Joe has agreed to let the tea room for use if weather doesn't allow for outside pics. It was agreed Shem would be used for photos as he had got the most votes on the PP chat.

P7 leavers disco will be held in St John's church hall 24th June. DJ is booked and food and gifts to be arranged. Food vendors to be contacted – Mcds or Dominoes pizza. The school has props for pics etc that can be taken to the church hall and used.

Gifts for leavers – no longer purchasing calculators for leavers as too expensive. This was agreed from previous meetings and it was agreed discussions need to take place to decide on this year's leavers gifts. Suggestions were paying for ties and yearbooks. Possibly printed t-shirts, or smaller items like printed balloon, cake, mug. Nothing was agreed. AnnaMarie/Kari will order a Costco cake for leavers disco.

The information will be shared with PP group and jobs can be outlined from there.

Motion

Feedback to PP

Mins taken by Jennifer Williams

Date 13/3/24

Next Meeting will take place St Luke's
7pm on 1st May 2024