

**St Ninians High School  
Parent Council Meeting  
15th June 2022**

Present J Stewart (joint chair) ("JS")  
A Wilmott (vice chair)  
S MacConnell  
K Adams

Apologies S Reid (joint chair) ("SR")  
J Millar  
J McLaughlin  
J Mackie  
D Wilson  
P Hessett  
M Pagliocca  
C Umeh

School G O'Neil  
J Wilson  
J Cumming  
T Creighton

**Welcome and opening prayer**

The Office Bearers ("OB") welcomed all the Parent Council ("PC") members in attendance and members of the Parent Forum who had taken the time to come along. JS led the meeting in an opening prayer.

Jacqueline led a tribute to the outstanding effort, contribution and hard work of both Jo Mackie and John McLaughlin for their many years of contribution to the Parent Council. John's youngest has now left St Ninian's and Jo has to resign due to other commitments. All present offered their thanks to them and to all other retiring members.

SR was unable to attend and sent his apologies due to the death of his father. All present offered him their condolences and prayers on his loss.

**Apologies**

Above

**Adjustments/Approval of previous minutes**

Minutes were approved and seconded by K Adams and S MacConnell

## **Eastwood Park Development**

No new updates reported. The OB have sent a letter to Mark Ratter requesting a meeting (copied to PC members) to discuss infa-structure, forward planning and effects on SNHS now that BAM have been awarded the contract. Mr O'Neil has also emailed Mark Ratter and, at our request, asked for the meeting to be prior to our September AGM and first meeting of the new school year. We await his response in due course.

## **School Uniforms - Scottish Government's Consultation on Proposed Guidance**

It was agreed that as a PC we wish to respond and *will table this agenda item again at the September 2022 meeting as the closing date is 14th October 2022.*

It was suggested that PC members read and respond with their thoughts via the PC email prior to the next meeting.

Mr O'Neil and staff feel the uniform is vital and that there would be added pressure on parents and pupils to wear something different every day, and that more pressure would befall parents for branded items etc.

This was the agreed general consensus around the table and, after some discussion, on balance the uniform with all its inherited tradition, was the majority's preferred option. An important point was raised in that if a child requires an adult size this is then subject to VAT which doesn't seem fair as it costs 20% more. *This should be raised in our response and G O'Neil agreed to include this in authority forums and with the Scottish Government.*

It was mooted that the 'consultation' does not appear to be asking or changing anything.

We requested that *the school use their email to share the consultation to the wider parent forum* and Mr O'Neil is happy to do this.

## **ERC Parent Chairs Forum Update**

A digi hub will be set up.

Reducing the attainment gap - this now seems to have been de-prioritised by the Scottish Government. ERC is looking for any PC input on how poverty related funding could be spent in this regard.

Summer camps for children age 5-14 whose families are in poverty will run through the summer, however the council is not in a position to advertise this due to lack of funding. *SNHS are happy to do this within the school and will also be able to identify some of these families directly.*

## **PC Constitution**

The revised Constitution will be *re-visited in the new term* given time constraints.

## HT report

Mr O'Neil reported that the exam diet went very well with success in the exam period. The new timetable is working well (although there are some shortage of staff issues) but we have 12 NQT teachers starting.

Mr Bradshaw Principal RE teacher is retiring and Mrs Carroll has been appointed to take over.

We are advertising for additional pastoral support teachers and a DYN (Developing Young Workforce) officer also.

P7 transitions went very well. We have 360 new S1 pupils joining the school in August, a record high year and our current S1/S2s as of June 2022 are a high of 340 bringing the school role in August 2022 to approx 1896. This will mean 65 Alpha classes. As we now have 6 new classrooms this will be manageable and effective for all, and although moving around the school between classes can be busy at particular times, staff are always supervising and the upper school having more double periods alleviates this issue greatly.

The lunchtime queue (particularly as pupils are more accustomed to school lunches due to the free lunches in primary) will be monitored however it doesn't seem to be an issue at present and is managed well by both school staff and canteen staff with different year groups allocated separate queuing times. It was also mooted that the PFI ends in 3 years and the running of the canteen (and other areas within the school building) will revert to ERC.

The S6 prom went brilliantly and was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff. The behaviour of our young people was exemplary.

Graduation too was a wonderful evening with our guest speaker CEO of Mary's Meals Magnus McFarlane-Barrow giving a wonderful and insightful speech. He also presented the young people with their scrolls. Many thanks to him. Bishop Keenan offered the Graduation Mass and the evening began at 7pm and ended around 10.30pm with refreshments at the end.

SNHS football team reached cup victory in the Scottish Cup against Renfrew winning on penalties. Great achievement.

Mr O'Neil and staff are working on the school calendar at present and *hope to publish this on the school website at the beginning of term and will also email to parents*. They appreciate some work is still required on the timeline in the website and that Duncan Downie is at the moment trying to streamline and update this with other members of staff. *School will also check the website protocols* as when using a phone the information appears different from using a pc.

## **AOCB**

### **Friends of St Ninians**

*Mr Cummings is to update us on this at the next PC meeting as at present this is a work in progress.*

It is also noted that Thursday PC meetings don't work well for the school as there are many other events on a Thursday. The proposal day going forward for PC meetings will be Monday.

### **Uniform Recycling Project**

Mr O'Neil said that a number of donations had already been made and that there is now a tab on the website with a numbered list of all items for sale (part of the cost will cover the dry cleaning of the items). *It is hoped that Parentpay can be used to pay for items and then items collected directly from the school. Once up and running the school also hopes to promote the project within the feeder primary schools.* This may prove to be quite a lot of work for the school however the consensus was that this is an excellent initiative.

### **Other Sundry Matters**

It was requested whether the school would tweet the St Joseph's parish newsletter. Consensus that this was an excellent idea and would be great for all the affiliated parishes of the school. It is easy to do when tweeting the newsletter by simply *tagging @StNinians will allow the school to re-tweet.*

Easy-funding - a great scheme for school fundraising where just by going via this platform to purchase anything on-line with affiliated members the school can earn money. St Joseph's Primary has earned £1307.00 in 18 months. SNHS has the membership but hasn't promoted for some time and *will look into re-launching.*

Mr O'Neil gave his sincere thanks to all the PC members and wished us all a safe and happy summer break.

JS on behalf of the OB thanked everyone for all the hard work and assistance and also wished everyone a happy and safe summer break and looked forward to seeing us all in the new term. We will send out the new dates for our future meetings shortly.

JS also proposed a vote of thanks to all retiring members particularly to our long standing members Jo and John and read texts from them to all. We all wish them every success and send love and prayers to them and their families.

### **Closing prayer**

JS led the meeting in a closing prayer.