

# THE PARENT COUNCIL OF ST NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL

## PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

Present: J. Stewart (Joint Chair) ("JS")  
S. Reid (Joint Chair) ("SR")  
A. Wilmott (Vice-Chair)  
Christopher McLaughlin  
Jennifer Clare Abalo  
Michela Pagliocca  
Anne Marie O'Brien  
Mo Wright  
Lynsey O'Dwyer  
Anne Marie O'Brien  
Mairead Brophy  
Dougie Wilson  
Katrina Adams  
Meenal Poddar  
Julie Flaherty

Apologies: Mukesh Poddar  
Elizabeth McHaffie  
Joanne Logan  
Iltaf Dean  
Lorna McIntosh  
Samantha McConnell

School: G. O'Neil (Head Teacher) ("Mr O'Neil")  
T. Creighton  
J. Cumming  
Ms C. Boyle

### 1. **Welcome**

The Office-Bearers ("OB") welcomed the Parent Council ("PC") Members in attendance. JS led the meeting in an opening prayer.

### 2. **Apologies**

A note was taken of the PC Members & School staff in attendance, and of intimated apologies.

### 3. **Adjustment/Approval of Previous Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on 7 October 2024 were proposed and approved, subject to an adjustment to record that a request had been made at the previous meeting regarding the order of the Head Teacher's Report on the Agenda.

### 4. **Update on Action Points from Previous Meeting**

The OB reported to the meeting on their attendance at the recent Diocesan Parent Forum Meeting convened by the Diocese of Paisley. The Diocese has prepared

Guidance on the Catholic approach to issues of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. These slides form part of the new suite of materials being prepared by the Diocese to support teachers in their understanding of the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church on issues such as social justice, inclusion, equalities, bullying and discrimination.

## 5. **Head Teacher's Report**

Mr O'Neil reported on the following:

- (i) Throughout November, Mass is being offered for the repose of the souls of those who have died. Pupils are being invited to complete November Lists.
- (ii) SNHS pupils provided the musical accompaniment at the Catholic Head Teachers' Conference. The pupils were "phenomenal".
- (iii) A Cluster Mass will take place at St Joseph's next week (19 Nov 2024) at 7pm
- (iv) Pastoral teams are carrying out well-being checks with the new S1 cohort.
- (v) S4 pupils have completed their Work Experience Week; S4 Parents Evenings have just been completed; S4 Prelims are about to commence.
- (vi) S5 Reports are imminent; S5 Prelims are approaching.
- (vii) S5 & S6 Halloween Discos were well-attended.
- (viii) University Applications are being submitted (including for Oxford & Cambridge). Many former pupils returned to offer interview experience.

## 6. **School Values**

At the PC Meeting on 7 October 2024, Mr O'Neil advised that the School had started a consultative process to identify and articulate the School's "values". This process has been instigated by Education Scotland.

The OB circulated a Discussion Paper. It gave illustrations of "values" adopted by others.

The OB recommended that, if a handful of "values" is to be adopted at all, they should, at least, be Catholic, and deeply rooted in the teaching of the Church. The OB offered the following suggestions to the Meeting:

### Suggestion 1 (St. Matthew's Gospel, 5-12):

*Blessed are the peacemakers  
Blessed are the merciful  
Blessed are the pure in heart  
Blessed are the meek  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right  
Blessed are you when people persecute you because of me.*

### Suggestion 2 (St Paul, Corinthians, 3:13):

*There are three things that last:  
Faith, Hope and Love  
And the greatest of these is Love.*

### Suggestion 3 (St. John Gospel, 14:6)

*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life  
No one can come to the Father except through me.*

The OB also suggested that the project could be extended to have Biblical references painted onto empty internal walls of the School, as beautiful visual reminders of the teachings of the Faith.

A lively discussion ensued with many useful observations from PC members.

Mr O'Neil confirmed that he will give the matter further thought.

### **AGREED ACTION**

**The agreed action point was:**

- 1. Mr O'Neil will keep the PC updated on progress with the "school values" project.**

### **6. Eastwood Park Development: Update on Planning Application**

The OB reminded the Meeting that ERC had lodged a Planning Application seeking permission for the demolition of the existing leisure centre and theatre in Eastwood Park, and for the construction of a substantially larger Leisure Centre and Theatre.

The OB advised that the time-limit to respond was due to expire shortly.

There was discussion as to whether, in principle, the PC should respond to the planning application - specifically, whether the response should be in the form of an objection.

The previous PC Response to the ERC's original (now superseded) Planning Application was not *explicitly* formulated as an objection, but it did express multiple concerns about the development, and expressly requested that consideration be given to the execution of a memorandum of understanding for the benefit of SNHS pupils.

The OB recommended that a formal objection should be lodged to the present application. Various reasonable grounds were identifiable.

Mixed views were expressed.

The OB agreed to draft and circulate a letter for consideration by the PC members.

### **AGREED ACTION**

**The agreed action point was:**

- 1. The OB will circulate a letter for consideration by the PC.**

The business of the Parent Council Meeting was then concluded.

The next PC Meeting is on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

<i>The new Leisure Complex</i>		
<b>1. For consideration by the PC, the OB will draft and circulate a letter responding to ERC's planning application.</b>	<b>OB</b>	<b>Nov 24</b>
<i>Head Teacher's Consultation on School "Values"</i>		
<b>1. The PC will consider and suggest a list of School "values" for consideration by the Head Teacher and the Parent Forum, in advance of the Head Teacher's proposed consultation.</b>	<b>PC</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>