

## **Draft Minutes of St Clare's Parent Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 23 October 2019**

**Attending:** Aundrie Wilmott, Romana Ahmed, Elizabeth McHaffie, Anna Reid, Nicola Steel, Jacqui Tsang Barnett, Mark Sheridan, Siobhan Raji, Heather Ferry, Kim McGlone, Arfah Shafiq, Benjamin Clark, Sinead Mordue, Mrs Absolom, Mrs Callaghan, Mrs Pinna

**Apologies from:** Nadia Capuano, Audrey Martin, Diane Madsen, Mags Ferrier, Lynda Kerr, Clair Graham, Khurram Bhatti, Pankaj Nagar, Suhas Mitra, Stephanie Ford, Ajoke Toriola, Gemma Doyle

1. **Welcome** - Aundrie Wilmot, Chairperson
2. **Prayer**– Mark Sheridan, Church Representative
3. **Update on Equalities Committee**

Heather Ferry provided an update on recent Equalities Committee meeting at Mearns Castle High School, attending by representatives of ERC and other parent councils. The EC are trying to improve gender balance in subjects that boys and girls choose at high school and try to mitigate unconscious bias. For example, within STEM subjects, there is a tendency for girls to choose biology and boys to choose maths/physics. There is also a general trend for primary school teachers to be female. The EC are considering ways of encouraging men into primary teaching.

#### **4. Chairperson's Update**

Aundrie updated on recent Parent Council Chairs' meeting, chaired by Paul O'Kane and Mairi Shaw, ERC. The Scottish Government and ERC are working on an initiative to empower families in school communities. Meetings are to be held in Greenock in December, March and June. Mrs Absolom noted that St Clare's encourages families to be involved in school life and welcomes involvement of carers and parents.

Aundrie also updated on the recent St Ninians PC meeting. It was reported there that the Local Development Plan phase 3 (which would have seen the development of 13 new housing sites) has been put on hold by ERC. Accordingly, ERC have put plans for a new catholic secondary school in Newton Mearns on hold.

Aundrie noted that the recent fire at Mearns primary had, fortunately, been localised within the building and there would be no impact on St Clares's eg in accommodating Mearns Primary pupils.

#### **5. Headteacher's Update - Attached**

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Moneys have been raised from recent discos and Dress as You Please days. We noted various expenses plus forthcoming significant costs including: a shipping container for storage of equipment; new chrome books plus playground equipment for P1s.

## **7. Christmas Fayre**

This is to be held on Saturday 30 November 2019 and is a significant event in the school's fundraising calendar. More helpers are required. Nicola Steel has set up a PTA Social site which allows parents/carers to register and indicate in what way and for how long they can help at events. We agreed that all help was welcomed and we need to expand upon the pool of parents/carers who will assist generally at these events.

## **8. Ladies Night/Family Night**

More details to come at a later stage but a Ladies Night has been fixed for 21 February 2020. We talked about holding another Family Night: not yet fixed.

## **9. ACOB**

**Carpark:** we noted that many MCHS parents and pupils were still using the school car park, though not seemingly collecting any children from the St Clare's/Calderwood campus. Some St Clare's parents have contacted MCHS to complain. The Junior Road Safety Committee are working on placard signs. We noted that it was unfortunate the speed bumps did not extend the full length of the car park as some drivers zig zag around them. Mrs Absolom shall speak again to ERC to highlight that.

## **10. Next meetings**

6 November 2019 – fundraising meeting  
19 February 2020 – Parent Council Chairs' Meeting  
[TBC ] – St Clare's PC meeting

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