 **St Thomas Aquinas RC Secondary School Parent Council**

**MINUTES of**

**Meeting Wednesday 9th March 2022**

**7.30pm on line by Zoom**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Claire McInally – HT Marie Armstrong**

**Sophie Igoe – PT Parental engagement Susanne Millar**

**Christina McKitrick – Chair Anne McCormick**

**Shirley McCrae Kath Brough**

**Pauline Bradshaw – Secretary Carol Hassan**

**Terez Korondi Carmela Reilly**

 **APOLOGIES**

**Leigh-Anne Donnelly – Treasurer**

1. **Opening Prayer**
2. **Chair’s Report**

To follow; Welcome to new parents attending this evening.

1. **Finance report – submitted in advance**

Balance £530.00

Only payment off the account since last meeting is the monthly Zoom payment.

Purchase of toasters for the Breakfast Club to be reimbursed to Christina.

1. **Head Teacher’s Report**



1. **Fundraising Strategy**

 HT still having problems accessing the funds despite contacting the fundraising site helpdesk. Hoping to resolve this in the next couple of weeks

1. **Health And Wellbeing Survey**

There was a lengthy discussion about the Health and Wellbeing survey which was being promoted by the Scottish Government.

The main concerns were around privacy, the content of the survey, the wording of the questions, and the lack of a catholic/moral context for the questions.

There was a lively and detailed discussion which benefitted from the input from parent council members with professional knowledge and experience of similar surveys used by Glasgow City Council and information from the HT about how the survey would be conducted in school and how the young people are being, and would be supported in relation to the issues covered by the survey.

The survey is similar to one which has been carried out in Glasgow schools for a number of years, the results of which have informed various initiatives and policies in schools such as campus police officers and provision of mental health counselling.

The survey will be completed in school, if parents wish their child to take part, and with teachers available to support any child who raises issues or has difficulties as a result of answering the survey. The questions are ‘iterative’ and if a young person answers a question with a negative response, they will not progress to the more detailed question. The subjects covered by the survey are dealt with in school and are taught in a catholic context.

The discussion concluded with the parent council being content with the reassurance that:-

* The survey is not compulsory; If a parent of a child does not want their child to complete the survey, they can opt out.
* A young person can complete only part of the survey; questions can be skipped
* No child or young person will be identified from the survey either at a school or local authority level
* The information obtained from the survey will be used to inform the services across the authority and in the school.
1. **Parent Pay**

Parent Pay take up is still only at 60%. There are difficulties in implementing the process from both school and parent sides. Implementation and operation will be monitored.

1. **Parental Engagement – PT Parental Engagement**

Family Learning Blocks – have continued, following in Design and Technology, following successful trial in Home Economics.

Breakfast club – Funding sources still being investigated. Poor response in terms funding from business. Application made to St Nicholas Care Fund.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Application funding submitted.

Leading Parent Partnership Award – hoping to be one of the first schools in Scotland to achieve this

Study Skills Workshop – c.75 parents/carers took part in this late week.

1. **Climate Awareness and sustainable travel**

Glasgow eco Trust been into the school and are on stand by to do cycle training and assist with food growing.

Grant applications being processes

Cycle shelter – coming soon

No follow up from letter on sustainable travel

1. **Reports from training courses attended; upcoming training**

No courses attended

1. **AOCB**

SQA – announcement yesterday on mitigation measure for upcoming national assessment

General disappointment at the content and inconsistent nature of what has been announced.

The school will continue to support the young people sitting assessments in the way they always have; attendance at supported study has been good.

1. **Date of next meeting**

**TBC**