

St Angela's Parent Council

Minutes of a Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 6.30p.m.

Present –Mr Kerlin, Eabhnat, Emma, Aqsa, Mrs Isaac, Paul, Luciana, Jacqueline, Mo, Fiona, Selina, Lisa and Teresa

Apologies – Thomas, Nicola, Lucy and Olu..

Eabhnat welcomed Mo to the meeting.

Mr Kerlin started the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting – All okay

Head Teachers Report

P4 teacher is still off and there has been no parents' night for the children because of this. Parents will be contacted individually about this. The class is being covered by Mrs McLeod.

Luciana- I'm sure if there were any issues, we would have known about them by now.

Mrs Isaac – If parents want to, they can phone the school.

Our EAL teacher is also unwell at the moment. The school currently have an ex EAL teacher on the staff and they have been doing their best to support the EAL pupils. The school are trying their best to find a solution.

Please keep both staff members in your thoughts and prayers.

I'm off at the moment on paternity leave.

Head Teacher situation – No change as yet. The job requires an Inter Headship qualification and, I am pleased to say, that I have been accepted for that.

7 new teachers next school year. Hoping to classify them soon.

School Lets – Guidance was given out. GCC are tightening up on who is the Let holder. If the PC needs a let for an event, it needs to be booked by the PC and not the school. Liability lies with the school if it is not done this way. Mrs Fisher will be happy to book a let on behalf of the PC if they wish to do it that way.

PEF – This is based on SIMD. We are not as well funded as other local schools and there are a few reasons for that. If in privately rented accommodation, this may be seen as home ownership as not an authority property. Also, those not applying for free school meals (whether they are going to use them or not) means that this will not count towards the SIMD.

We have £47,000 that we can use as we see fit. We would like to use this for our pupils who are “off track”, especially our EAL pupils. We are looking to have an extra teacher for EAL pupils to reduce the attainment gap. They will be employed full time for the next school year. Are you all okay with this? What are your thoughts? This will need to be put out to the wider parent forum also. We will be keeping Mrs Cassidy.

Fiona – Can the PC do anything to help with the application for free school meals?

Mr Kerlin – Yes, I think so.

Luciana – How do other schools communicate this out?

Mr Kerlin – Some people think there is a stigma involved in seeking help. Will speak to GCC about how they come up with the PEF figures.

Parental Survey – (graph shown to all members). All classes have had replies. The school also receives comments that they take on board and reply to if necessary. The graph looks really positive overall but we will look at where we can improve.

Road Safety – see attached. There were no councillors invited to the meeting so will try to remedy this. The reply to Holly was quite negative (read out to PC by Mr Kerlin) and nothing will be getting done for the foreseeable. I will reply to the email and speak to the local councillors.

Eabhna – Should the PC send a similar reply?

Mr Kerlin – Yes.

Emma – I am still receiving verbal abuse in the street by parents. Holly’s suggestions are good. I know of another school who put out a letter to the parents putting the onus back on them to park safely. Our parents can easily park at Sainsbury’s and walk over safely. The JRSO were there on Friday to give out posters etc.

Jacqueline – I think we should start fining them.

Mr Kerlin – That might be the next step.

Emma – We are trying to avoid a serious accident or a tragic event.

Eabhna – What else can the PC do?

Emma – We will attend the Joint Action Day.

Mr Kerlin – Others outside of school need to be getting involved now.

Emma – Start with the P1 parents when they are here.

Summer Trips – The McAnespie fund are no longer giving out money to groups, only individuals. We can apply if we have a family in need but not for group things. They gave us £1000 to help with the summer trips. The whole school will be going

to Ayr beach this year (including the nursery). Cost of buses is £3225. Do we need a fundraiser to help pay for this? The school could manage to pay something towards the costs, but not all. We are happy to use the playground draw money for the next few months as anything we buy can be reused in the school.

Luciana – Maybe families have business connections that will help. We can have sponsorship on leaflets, flyers etc.

Mr Kerlin – Will let families know that the next two draws are for the school trip.

Fiona – Have you applied to the Area Partnership fund? Not sure of the timescale but should be successful if it's for all 400 pupils.

Mr Kerlin – Maybe some of the local businesses should start giving back to the community. I'll contact the local housebuilders etc and see what they can do to help.

Are we still having the Quiz night?

Luciana – No, that's not happening.

Jacqueline – What about a parent's social event?

Eabhnaid – Not sure we have the time to organise an event at the moment.

Transition – Can now contact P1 parents

P1 – 1ST and 8TH June

P7 - 10th and 11th May

We are oversubscribed for P1 this year and 15 placing requests have been declined.

Mrs Isaac – If you know of anyone, please ask them to appeal the placing request as the situation changes constantly.

Mr Kerlin – P7 work with St Paul's staff as this is our feeder high school. Staff have been coming in to the school to work with our P7's.

PC Interview Panel – The Head Teacher job will be put out for interview at some point, so PC representation is needed.

Eabhnaid – Olu and Mary Louise are both trained.

Report cards – Underway at the moment and will be sent out in June.

Attendance letters – Parents who take their children out of school for a holiday should know this is an unauthorised absence. There are some exceptions (see attached). The letter sent out is generated by SEEMIS and not personally from the Head Teacher.

Prizegiving – Looking for your thoughts on this?

Luciana – Loved the event when it took place outside.

Mr Kerlin – There will be no attendance prize this year as it is not the fault of the pupil that they haven't made it to school, or are consistently late.

Fiona – Are parents sending their unwell children in just so that they get a certificate?

Mr Kerlin – What do you all think about prizegiving?

Mrs Isaac – I think everyone should get some award.

Mr Kerlin – We work to the 4 capacities from Curriculum for Excellence so can use these. If things don't need to change, I don't mind continuing as we have been.

Emma – Sometimes it can go on for too long.

Mr Kerlin – If we work to the 4 capacities, we can group prize winners together so saving some time.

Parent's night catch ups are underway.

Hoodies – Please make sure they don't have drawstring hoods. This has come from GCC.

Luciana – They don't have them. The hoodies will be here next week and can be given out at any time.

Mr Kerlin – We will give them out at an assembly to make it a little more special.

Action

Treasurer's Report

Total balance - £12173.66 (PC Funds £2713.60 SALTIRE Funds £9460.06)

Fundraisers since last meeting –

Easter raffle £264.39 minus expenses = £258.39 profit

Spring Fling Disco £721.05 - £203.12 expenses

SALTIRE Wellbeing grant - £9800 approved funding for marshmallows at SALTIRE event and workshops with Sapna Agawal.

Expenses - Raffle £6 on bags. The rest was met by the £100 donation from Thomas.

Spring Fling - Let, snacks, glow sticks and tattoos - £203.12

SALTIRE Fire lighting training £228.00 seeds/compost/soil/borders £456.37
Sapna workshop £180.00

Parents Evening biscuits £8.40

Future events

P7 leavers ball, Hoodies, SALTIRE drill raffle, collecting money for Mr Kerlin's baby girl

Eabhnaid – Thank you Aqsa. Do we have money to donate to the day out? Is it ours, P7's etc? What about the Sacramental gifts, nursery donation? Do we have money for those.

All – Yes to Sacramental gifts and nursery donation.

Emma – Are the Sacramental gifts just for First Communicants and Confirmandi or do we include Reconciliation?

All – Include all.

Emma – Are they given out at the Thanksgiving Mass?

Mr Kerlin – Yes.

Mrs Isaac – P7 Mass will be in the school. We can have the Sacramental Mass in the school or at the church. We would be able to invite all families if it was in the church but not in the school.

Luciana – I think it would be lovely in the church.

Mrs Isaac – The Mass is not necessarily very well attended but would be lovely in the church. It is provisionally booked for Monday 19th June.

Mr Kerlin – We are a catholic school so should be at church often.

Mrs Isaac – Father Joe has been brilliant with the school. We can use this Mass for the Sacramental children and as a thanksgiving for another great school year. The Graduation Ball and the P7 leavers Mass will be in the school on Tuesday 13th June.

Eabhnaid – How much money will we need?

Emma – Was £35 last year but may be slightly more this year if we are including Reconciliation.

Mr Kerlin – If we are concerned about costs, the buses don't have to be paid until after the event so we can talk about this at the next meeting.

Luciana – If we wanted to personally put money towards the costs are we able to do that?

Eabhna – Can we pay more in to the Playground Draw rather than just £1?

Mr Kerlin – I can reset this to pay what they want.

Luciana – I think it would be okay to ask families for a nominal amount towards the cost of the day out. Maybe £3. There are families out there who don't mind doing this if it means their children get a school trip.

Mr Kerlin – Yes there are parents out there who don't mind. I'll open the Playground Draw and see how we go from there.

Jacqueline – I think we should ask families for a nominal payment.

Mr Kerlin – We don't want families thinking they HAVE to pay.

Action

Health, Wellbeing & Sustainability

Funding success – see Treasurer's Report. Eabhna and Mrs Shaw will be going on the fire lighting training. The money is to be used for adult HWB. There will be something on in the school every second Tuesday. Survey has been sent out (PC were shown survey). All events will be connected to SALTIRE project, outdoors, building allotment at side of MUGA etc. Adults can do their side and children can continue this during the day.

Celebration event on 6th June. The band has been booked and we are hoping it will be as successful as last year. We were short on support last year and Nicola never got out to see anything. Lots of people attended so much more support is needed. We had a steering group meeting this morning – fire pit in P1 playground last year helped to keep a slow steady pace around the event. Do we keep it this way again? We will have a map this year with prizes given out for finding certain items on the map.

Mrs Isaac – Do we need to give out tickets for the marshmallows in case some people have loads and some don't get any?

Eabhna – No, it's for everyone and we are paying a lot of money for this. If they want to keep coming for marshmallows then that is fine.

We need loads of help so will be asking for parents/carers help.

Emma – Can parents of former pupils come and help?

Eabhna – Yes that would be fine. We only want people to volunteer for a half hour so that they can then enjoy the event.

Aqsa – What time is it on?

Eabhna – 6.00p.m. – 8.00p.m.

Mr Kerlin – We had a timetable last year that we can use again.

Eabhna – I'll make up a blurb and it can go out.

Action

P7 Sub Committee

Lucian - Hoodies will be here next week. The children voted for either Subway or chicken and chips. Will get costings for these. They also want – chocolate fountain, slushie machine and candy cart. Will get costs for all of these too.

Mr Kerlin – St Paul's have a candy cart that we could maybe borrow.

Lucian – So we will only need the sweets. The girl with the chocolate fountain also has popcorn and candy floss machines. Will get her to give a price for all.

We want to keep the costs to £15 per head for pupils to pay. Invites have been created and will go out this week. I can design and print tickets at work for £8 for 50. These will have the children's names on them and can be a keepsake.

Emma – The slushie machine needs to be plugged in so make sure that's done.

Luciana – They want the same theme as last year. Have messaged my cousin who has a balloon business to see what she can do for us. Is there anything else?

Fiona – What about a DJ?

Paul – I can speak to someone I know and see if they can help. Re balloons. Lisa from the nursery has graduation on the same day.

Luciana – I will speak to her and we can work something out. Quietly happy with how things are going.

Emails have gone out for photos and replies are coming in. Have been delegating the jobs recently too.

Eabhna – Can you put in a Let for the SALTIRE event please. Will need the hall, toilets and MUGA.

Action

PC Housekeeping

Need a shared calendar on the website as May and June are very busy. Dates are constantly changing so would be good to make a “live” calendar of events.

Dates so far –

May 20th Communion

May 23rd Sports Event

May 30th PC meeting

3rd June SAPC event

6th June SALTIRE

13th June Leavers Mass

16th June Graduation Ball

19th June Sacramental and Thanksgiving Mass.

Emma – We have donated to the nursery in the past. Can we vote on doing this again?

All – Yes, we will do this again.

Emma – How much will we give?

Mr Kerlin – It was £100 last year.

Emma – Lisa would be delighted with that again.

All agreed to donate £100.

Aqsa – How do we give that?

Mr Kerlin – Through the school fund.

Action

AOCB

Paul – Re SALTIRE and nursery. I have someone coming on Friday to price up jet washing that path.

Fiona – Can they do the mud kitchen and cycle path etc?

Paul – Hoping not to be charged for this but could SALTIRE fund help if a charge was needed?

Eabhnat – Hadn't thought about paying for this. Hoping to do it ourselves.

Paul – This was tried but wasn't successful.

Eabhnat – Can't answer this without a cost. Might come under school health and safety. Come back to me with a price when you hear.

Mr Kerlin – and me too.

Paul – I might be able to get some planters for the nursery too.

Mr Kerlin – If it needs done the school can pay if there is a cost.

Eabhnat – Thank you Mo for coming along tonight. We would love you to continue as part of our PC.

Mo – Thank you I'd like to help the school community as best I can. I have an interest in helping getting access to swimming for the pupils. I spoke with Mrs LaCombre before about this.

Eabhnat – We have a WhatsApp group that you can join as a member of the PC.

Fiona – There are also sub groups that you can join.

Eabhnat – Thank you everyone. We would like to say congratulations to Mr Kerlin on the birth of his daughter Aoife.

Mr Kerlin was presented with a gift from the PC.

Eabhnat closed the meeting. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 30th May in the school at 6.30p.m.

- £100 cash for the nursery was given to Mrs Isaac from the Spring Fling cash. This cash, and the £108 left over, was put in the safe.

The next meeting will take place in St Angela's Primary on Tuesday 2nd May at 6.30p.m.

