

# St Angela's Parent Council

Minutes of Parent Council AGM on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 6:30p.m.

Present – Fiona Rich, Paul McIlroy, Thomas Morrison, Jacqueline Broadhurst, Aqsa Imran, Rachel O'Malley, Mo Dingle, Mr Kerlin, Mrs Isaac and Eabhnat Ní Laighin

Apologies – Asmara and Nicola

Minutes of the last AGM – All okay

Mr Kerlin began meeting with a prayer.

## **Chairs Report**

The academic year 2023 – 2024 was another very busy and successful year for St. Angela's Parent Council.

We ran a series of successful events for the school including the Community Days of Action, Hallowe'en and Spring Fling discos, the Christmas Fayre, the Christmas, Easter and SALTIRE Raffles, a new and very successful Eid Bazar, the SALTIRE Celebration Event as well as the wonderful P7 Leaver's Dance. On behalf of the Parent Council I would like to thank the event organisers for their hard work, and the rest of the council and parent/carer volunteers for their support in facilitating them. These events raised essential funds for the group and provided fun experiences for the pupils of St Angela's.

Throughout the year we supported the school in a range of events including refreshments for Family Learning events and for St Angela's Feast Day, as well as providing sacramental gifts, money for nursery Christmas presents and graduation, the panto and beach trips and P7 Leaver's Hoodies.

We also supported the school in other ways. As a group we contributed to an email to elected representatives expressing concern about the proposed cuts to education and drawing attention to the need for school repairs.

Our Health, Wellbeing and Sustainability subgroup, along with parent and carer volunteers, ran another very successful SALTIRE project, working with pupils

from across the school, supporting staff in the delivery of Learning for Sustainability experiences and further improving the grounds.

Allotment & Food growing plan

Go Green for St Patrick's Day

Pupil Outdoor Learning workshops

Family Outdoor play sessions – professional therapist

Sowing Seeds P1 Playground Development with Area Partnership Funding

Rangers Mason & Greig visited to work with us, adults, children and steering group

Grounds work – edible hedge, more fruit trees, spring flowering bulbs

Composting Funding – New Jora Composter with funds for workshops and another composter for this coming session.

Most significant aspect was our adult wellbeing workshops, which helped build our group of adult volunteers. Workshops around the theme of Climate Resilient Communities included: clothes repair, willow pruning and repair, Woodwork, singing, art as therapy, growing food, foraging, yoga,

I would like to thank all volunteers for their support throughout the year, who turned up every week to help make SALTIRE the wonderful success it is

The Celebration Event was a wonderful celebration of our outdoor space, providing free family fun and entertainment and a chance to come together as a community. Our thanks to The Torrance Family Band, SAPC and Operation Play Outdoors for their contribution.

A special thanks must also go to Mrs Shaw and Mr Kerlin as well as teaching staff for their constant support throughout the project and on the evening.

### **Minute Taking**

Thank you to Teresa for her hard work writing our minutes

We continued to build a positive and supportive working relationship with all school staff. Mr Kerlin with Mrs Thompson, Mrs Isaac Mrs Shaw and Mrs Robertson also acting up in positions of leadership. I would like to thank them all, and all teaching and support staff, for their hard work and dedication to our children and their constant support and commitment to our Parent Council. We look forward to another year of strong collaboration and support.

Teresa Aitkin, who retired as minute taker in June, left this note at the end of June's minutes:

Note from Teresa

I just wanted to say a big THANK YOU to the PC and the school for my lovely flowers, card and gift voucher. It was so lovely of you to do this. I have enjoyed every minute of my time as minute taker for St Angela's PC. I have met lots of interesting people and made a few friends on the way. I'm not sure you realise what a wonderful group of people you are. Your kindness, compassion and commitment to the children of St Angela's is fabulous. I will miss being at the meetings, but it is time to move on and make way for someone new. I know you will look after Labhaoise as well as you've looked after me. Wishing you every success for the future.

Eabhnat finished by seconding Teresa's words. This is a wonderful group and we achieve a great deal for the pupils and families of St Angela's.

### **Treasure's Report – Aqsa Imran**

Total money - £4,100.45

PC Money - £1718.46 (Includes £50 for next prom)

SALTIRE - £1751.10

Nursery Playground- £630.89

## **Headteacher's Report**

### **Challenges**

As with most years in education we are very lucky to experience successes throughout the year, however it must be noted that such successes are accompanied with challenges. 2023 -2024 was no different.

Staff moving to pastures new. Sadly in June we bid farewell to a number of staff. Tricia Malone, Anne Gillies and Angela Geoghegan all retired. Robyn McCaffery, Robyn McCallum and Amy McGonnell have moved on to pastures new. We wish them well.

The budget and financial position of all within the public sector prove to be a challenge, and the same is said for St Angela's. A relatively small PEF budget of £47,000 has encouraged our leadership team to think creatively about how we can close the poverty related attainment gap.

The situation on our roads in the local area continued to be a challenge last session. We have managed to engage a number of partners in conversations, however the problems persist in terms of the car free zone and surrounding areas. Recently I have been increasingly contacted by residents in the local area regarding the parking of cars at drop off and pick up. This could be a potential area for partnership working with the PC this session.

### **Buildings**

During last session, we had a number of challenges with the school building, affecting events such as the Christmas show. Leaks in the main corridor, a leaking water tank and other miscellaneous items have caused challenges throughout the year.

Sadly during the start of summer, our school was the target of a number of incidents of vandalism. In collaboration with NRS, increased security was implemented, with no more acts of vandalism.

### **Successes**

On a happier note

SIP- Teaching and Learning, a key priority on the SIP for last session. A significant amount of work spent on developing teachers' pedagogy and the positive impact of this has been seen in the positive attainment results across the school. Mrs Thomson and Mrs Isaac must be thanked for this work.

Pupil and staff wellbeing and the engagement of families were also key priorities of the SIP last year. As a school, we feel we have made strong progress in these areas, however these priorities are also going to be carried forward this session, to strengthen our support for pupil, staff and family wellbeing. The work of the SALTIRE group has also dovetailed nicely with this priority, and we are very much looking forward to continuing this work this year. Our QIO Officer has called it "sector leading." Thank you to Laura Shaw and Eabhnat for driving this forward.

As a school we placed a key focus on the inclusion and cultural responsiveness of our families. Through positive collaboration with families, we have made positive strides with this work, and will continue to prioritise it as we move forward this year. Thank you to the culture committee, the saltire group and the wider parent body for their support this year.

Building works – significant progress has been made in the last 6 months with regards to the building works. The water tank has been replaced, and is no longer leaking. The P1 walkway is starting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. We are currently continuing with exploratory work to determine the cause of the leak in the hallway, but I am positive of a solution soon. Thank you to the PC for this.

The work of the SALTIRE group has been sector leading in my opinion and it has been fantastic to see the increase in engagement from new families. Thanks to the SALTIRE group, and I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Parent Council support has been vital in developing the sense of community in the school. Events such as the Halloween disco, Christmas fayre, spring fling, Eid bizarre, saltire celebration, Ayr beach, p7 leaving events, sacramental gifts and p7 hoodies to name a few.

### **Appointment of Auditor**

Eabhnat- Will we ask Tracy Rigley?

Aqsa- Tracy should say yes.

Eabhnat – All okay with Tracy?

All – Yes

Mr Kerlin- Can we add Nursery to Form?

Eabhnat - Yes

## **Appointment of Office Bearers**

Eabhnat- Rachel is happy to continue as Vice Chair.

Fiona – I am happy to chair the meetings but not do all the admin work as I am on three other committees and would not have the time.

Eabhnat – I am able to support Aqsa and Rachel. Chair is a big responsibility as you must help the group stay positive. As a chair everyone looks you. It would be much harder if there isn't one person to delegate. I will leave this decision open to the group.

Mo – I have considered it, but probably no.

Paul – I would have no time to organise it all. Still happy to help with everything I can but cannot take control.

Eabhnat- It would not be fair to let Rachel Chair as a new member.

Rachel – Maybe next year I would chair once I'm 'Shown the ropes'

Fiona & Rachel – We can manage if we share the work.

Fiona – If we have people helping and we grow the team. We should bring back the sub-groups they are always very good.

Eabhnat – Yes, a lot of success was due to the different teams.

Aqsa- I am happy to be the person in between the events committee and the PC.

**Chair** – Eabhnat is no longer a parent at the school so therefore cannot be chair. Fiona was nominated. Aqsa proposed and Thomas seconded. Fiona is the new Chair.

**Vice Chair**- Rachel was nominated. Aqsa proposed and Thomas seconded. Rachel is the new Vice Chair.

**Secretary**- No volunteers

**Treasurer**- Aqsa will stay on as treasurer. Eabhnat proposed and Thomas seconded.

Eabhnat – Thank you all very much.

The AGM closed at 7.10pm