

## **NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

The Chairperson, Joe Keith opened the meeting by welcoming all those present. He welcomed, in particular, new parent member, Lilian Peters and thanked Councillor John Crowther for his support on the road calming measures at Dunlop Street.

**Sederunt:-**

Mrs. Pauline Burns  
Mrs. Ann Marie Bysouth  
Mrs. Janice Cole  
Mrs. Kate Couttie (**Head Teacher**)  
Councillor John Crowther (**SNP – Ward 7**)  
Mrs. Clare Cunningham (**Staff Representative**)  
Mr. Joe Keith (**Parent Council Chairperson**)  
Mrs. Angela McAulay  
Mrs. Pauline McLevy  
Ms. Elaine McLoughlin (**New Council Education Officer**)  
Mrs. Lilian Peters  
Mrs. Janette Ramsay  
Mr. Mark Ruddy  
Mrs Margaret Wilson.

**1. Apologies:-**

Councillor Graeme Brooks (**Conservative – Ward 4**)  
Councillor Jim McEleny (**SNP - Ward 3**)  
Mrs. Julie Maestri  
Mrs. Pauline Truss  
Mrs. Jackie Williams  
Mr. John Wilson.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting:-**

The Minutes were read and approved.

**Proposed:** M. Ruddy

**Seconded:** A. McAulay.

**3. Matters Arising:-**

None.

**4. Correspondence:-**

There was a letter to Joe Keith from Gerard Malone, Head of Inverclyde Council's Legal and Property Services, in response to an email sent to him by Joe on 17 January 2019. The email was in connection with the proposed traffic calming measures at Dunlop Street, Greenock. Mr. Malone informed

the Parent Council that the members' comments had been considered. He ran through the various options that had been suggested to Inverclyde Council viz. chicane design, traffic signal crossing, speed cameras and speed bumps. He concluded his letter by saying that Inverclyde Council believes "that the proposed chicanes are the best solution for this location by encouraging vehicles to reduce their speeds and, in turn, making Dunlop Street safer for all road users." He referred the Parent Council to Elaine Provan, Supervisory Engineer – Traffic and Transportation (T: 01475-714800) should any further information be required. Councillor J. Crowther then informed the members that, on Thursday 7 March at 3 p.m., the Environment and Regeneration Committee will hold a meeting, which the public can attend, in the Council Chambers. Proposed road calming measures will be on the Agenda because of a maintained objection. A very long discussion followed in relation to Mr. Malone's letter.

#### **5. Road Calming Measures – Dunlop Street:-**

Further to all that had been discussed, there was a feeling among the members that a letter should be sent to the Police on the matter of speed cameras with Mr. Malone's letter attached.

#### **6. Parental Engagement – Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) (Scotland) Act 2006:-**

Inverclyde Council must make access for parents a straightforward option. Please email J. Keith with any comments about Parental Engagement before April. How can Notre Dame communicate better with parents? How can we engage with the objectives of the legislation? C. Couttie indicated that the School does many things that are not widely publicised. It holds particular events for specific situations e.g. the School has held events for Nurture pupils in a discreet way, it involves people who have issues with social media and has good attainment levels for poorer pupils. She suggested that we itemise ways in which parents can be involved and informed the members that Education Scotland is coming to the next Science Fair in Notre Dame which is always well attended.

#### **7. Parent Council Funding and Expenditure:-**

Under the Notre Dame Parent Council's Mission Statement, we must work for the benefit of all pupils.

J. Ramsay suggested holding raffles to raise money and K. Crossan told of a very successful, but simple, fundraiser held at St. Laurence's Parish. Members of the congregation pay £1 to place their names and phone numbers in a square on a numbered sheet. If your number is chosen, you receive half the income and the rest goes to Church funds. This takes place on a monthly basis and is easy to operate. It could possibly be copied at events in the School e.g. Parents' Evenings and concerts etc.

## **8. Head Teacher's Report:-**

- (i)** C. Couttie began her report by commenting on the “fantastic performances” by Notre Dame pupils at the recent Music Festival in Greenock Town Hall. She praised Gerard Gordon, Principal Teacher of Music for the “tremendous effort” he puts into all his activities. Pupils, Sophie Bysouth and Euan McDonald are having great success in all their musical undertakings, as are many other pupils who are absolutely committed to many of the activities which the Music Department has to offer.
- (ii)** Two appointments have been made using the Pupil Equity Fund viz. Donna Burns who will be working with on pupil wellbeing and Donna Wilson, Learning Assistant, who will work with Sheila McFarlane, the School’s Home Link Worker.
- (iii)** The SQA Prelims will be taking place shortly. Supported Study is in place, but some pupils are struggling to stay for the extra hour. For pupils who do come, they have the advantage of one to one teaching. The Senior Management Team is there to offer guidance and advice and to target pupils who are not doing so well in certain subjects. It is all about encouragement.
- (iv)** It looks like there will be a reduction in our Staffing formula for next year, but our roll is still increasing. We expect to have one hundred and forty six pupils in the new S1 in August.
- (v)** Mrs Flynn of the Science Department held an excellent STEM Day and opened it up to other schools. The Science Fair takes place in the School on Thursday 14 March with its theme entitled “Science I have Read About”.
- (vi)** We won the Lego Competition and are going to the finals in Birmingham. Accommodation in Birmingham will be paid from the Pupil Equity Fund.
- (vii)** The Feast Day Mass was “terrific” and the Lenten Cluster Mass will take place in St. Mary’s Church, Greenock at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 12 March.
- (viii)** Some pupils made a trip to Flanders in Belgium with the help of £6,000 from the Scottish Government and several pupils went to Dalmally to the “cradle” of Mary’s Meals run by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow.
- (ix)** Mr. Dalziel is in the throes of preparing next session’s timetable.
- (x)** There will be an induction meeting on Thursday 6th June 2019 for the parents of children who start at Notre Dame in August.

## **9. School’s Comparison and SQA Results 2018:-**

The attainment gap is being tackled by improving the performance of lower attainers relative to higher attainers. Many pupils in Notre Dame were above

the national average this year. If children are in class, they are learning and achieving. We are ahead of where we were last year.

**10. Proposed Dates of Parent Council Meetings Until December 2019:-**

This item has been transferred to the Agenda of the next meeting on Wednesday 1 May 2019.

**11. A.O.C.B.:-**

(i) M. Ruddy, who works in Paisley Grammar School, told the meeting of an S3 Parents' Evening and Groups' Parents' Night held in his school recently. It turned out to be an excellent experience.

(ii) Elaine McLoughlin, Inverclyde Council's new Education Officer has replaced Norman Greenshields who now has the job of updating the websites of all the schools.

**12. Date and Venue of Next Meeting:-**

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on Wednesday 1 May 2019 at 6.30 p.m. in the School.