**Holy Cross Primary Parent Council – Draft Minutes…..work in progress**

**Date/time of Meeting: 4 November 2015, 6-7pm**

**Attendees:**

Parents: Andrea Kelly (AK), Anne-Marie Maloney (AMM), Donna Carrigan (DC), Donna Wallace (DW), Sharon Quinn (SQ)

Church Representative: Robert O’Donnell (ROD)

Staff: Marie Murphy (MM/HT)

**Apologies:**

Parents: Catherine Davidson (CD), Suzanne Goldie (SG), Anne Jackson (AJ), Lynn Kelly (LK), Marie Lang (ML)

Teachers: Mrs McKenna (CMcK)

1. Welcome

2. Minutes from previous meeting (23-Sep-15 AGM) and matters arising

Minutes proposed by ROD, seconded by AMM.

Access to *First Class Icon* – DW will check who has been given access already and if anyone else needs to be granted access.

Parent Council Constitution – MM distributed copies but also available via *First Class*

Status of ICT Suite – see HT update - [DW]

3. Head Teacher’s Update [MM]

ICT – Ian Smith has looked at the ICT suite which requires a review – MM has asked if the PCs can be exchanged for laptops thus providing a portable system. The ICT suite could then be used as a resource room. School currently have 12 ipads but would like to purchase another 20 plus a charging bus. The projectors for the classroom smartboards need replacing– will be done on a rolling program.

Architects visit – Looked at the possibility of reconfiguring offices, for example to create a

welcome office and medical room at the front entrance, but the cost would be prohibitive.

MM said the priority are the windows in the four downstairs classroom which face onto

the P4-7 playground. MM has identified bottlenecks at the bottom of stairs and although

still able to vacate the building in just under 3mins in recent fire drill has asked if fire doors

could be created in each of the classrooms when the windows are being replaced. This is

costed at £25000 plus the doors.

Front doors – Got approval to replace the external front doors and also agreed to replace

the internal doors. For security reasons must have a double barrier at main entrance. Will

also look at camera system.

Parking – Cars parked below church car park (owners using train?) prevented buses

stopping there. Roads department contacted to get yellow lines re-done as well as the Police.

Improvement Plan (Language) – MM has been looking at significant aspects of learning, experiences and outcomes and is very happy to-date.

Maths – Linda Keith will come just before Christmas to do *Twilight Training* with staff. She

also provides a follow up so it is a really valuable experience.

In-service training 16 November – all staff will get *Solihull training*. Looks at how best to

support families; attachments and how behaviour is a response and other factors. Parent workshop hopefully next year. In February an educational psychologist will also come out to the school to do work on attachment.

Mrs Shaw is currently doing the *Seasons for Growth training* which will help support young people dealing with bereavement, loss, divorce and separation.

Had a visit from improvement officer Robert Dalzell. He was very impressed with presentation and conduct of pupils; positive environment; good lesson content. Will not get a Quality Improvement Visit at moment – maybe in 1yrs time. Last HMI visit 7yrs ago. Self Improvement Visit not planned at present.

P3-7 panto in school at a cost of £450 approx rather than going to Motherwell (£400) price including buses in excess of £3000 and Giggles the Clown (£80) visiting P1-P2.

4. Feedback from visit to St Patrick’s Parent Council [AK] They have a Parent Council meeting followed by a PTG meeting so ran for 2hours – quite a commitment for those people who do both. Although we have newly re-formed we are not far off the mark and maybe underestimated what we have been doing. There are more training events available – will re-circulate details to members [AK/DW]

5. Parent consultation and engagement. [AK] (See National Improvement Framework)

National Improvement Framework - Raised by AK. Will forward documentation to DW to circulate between members.

Asked MM to comment on Standardised National Testing for 7year olds in England which was

recently reported on news. MM not for such testing. MM explained there will be reintroducing of standardised assessment – currently use CEM baseline test at start of P1 and again in June. Government plan to also assess in P4 and P7. The National Framework is not finalised and includes assessment and ongoing professional development of staff. Role of Parent Council is to support whole parent body and provide and receive accurate information about this framework and its purpose and not just what is in the press.

Various members felt school is about learning and not performance and that testing would put

unnecessary extra pressure on children. DC said assessment should assist learning. MM noted that

many entrepreneurs/creative minds do not respond well to formal testing and we need to prepare

the children for the future. MM said assessment primarily to improvement learn not just to prove. Assessment is part of Learning and Teaching. DW commented that as a parent would be reassured from results of benchmark tests (which are currently distributed in another local authority) because she is aware of many parents who were told throughout school child doing really well/excellent in say language/numeracy and then get a shock in S4 to discover too late that their child was

struggling/failing in these subjects. DW noted that previous homework policy said *one purpose*

*was to reflect what was being covered in class*. This is not true of the new homework format so she feels even less aware of progress being made in class.

AK said may need to revisit how to pass information on pupil progress to parents. [AK/DW]

6. PTC members contact and email information DW collected email addresses and contact numbers for those present and these will be circulated. AK suggested using something like What’s App for online discussions rather than forwarding emails between members. [DW]

7. Reward and recognition of achievement. Golden Time information for parents. Parents were informed at the Open Evening in September. MM explained that *Golden Time* does not work as originally intended and new incentives were now in place such as a *Star Pupil* per class (awarded for achievement, extra effort, something they did etc.) and *Star Class* (rewarded with the Wii which can be used once class work completed). These are announced weekly at assembly. Star pupils get a sticker. Also use photos and twitter to acknowledge wider achievements.

8. PTG Update – provided by DW

Halloween Disco well attended – approx. 130 at P1-3 disco, 180 at P4-7 disco. Costumes

fantastic. MM asked for future events to provide names of helpers in advance.

Want to hold a Toy Sale on a Friday morning before Christmas ideally in November. MM

will provide DW with suitable date events

Christmas Fayre – PTG assisting with Fayre to be held on November 28.

Christmas Cards – too late to do these this year. [MM]

9. AOB – None

10. Outline Agenda and Dates for Next Meetings

Parent Council will meet at 7pm on Wed February 24th and Tues May 3rd .

Email any ideas for agenda prior to next meeting.