

20 Sep 20

MINUTES OF THE OUR LADY OF GOOD AID CATHEDRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL HELD ON 14 SEP 20

Present	Andrea Faulkner Graeme Young Lorraine Campbell Nancy Clifford Marie Clare Duffy Lyndsay Connor Karyn Findlay Louise Hannah Katrina Heenan Donna Higgins Anthony McCann Brenda McCoy Fiona Lafferty Rani Ron Mary Frances Verrecchia Stephen Massetti	Vice Chair Head Teacher Depute Head
Apologies	None received	Treasurer Secretary

Item (a)	Action (b)
<p>Item 1 - Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>1. The Vice Chair welcomed all to the meeting. There were no Apologies received for this meeting. The Secretary reminded everyone of those who had recently left the PC. They were Ian Munro, Maria Shields, Julie McMahon, and Linda McInnes. He also announced that he had received an email from Stevie O'Hara, who has decided to withdraw from the PC due to other commitments. The Secretary thanked them all for their contribution to the PC over the years.</p>	
<p>Item 2 – Welcome to the Head Teacher and Introductions by the PC Members</p> <p>2. The Vice Chair welcomed the new Head Teacher to his first PC Meeting.</p> <p>3. The PC Members then took it in turns to introduce themselves to the Head Teacher, however, due to technical difficulties this was not completed fully. In the interest of time the Vice Chair continued with the agenda.</p>	

Item (a)	Action (b)
<p>Item 3 – Head Teacher’s Introductory Address to the PC</p> <p>4. Mr Graeme Young introduced himself to the PC. As a Head Teacher of 9 years standing he was coming to Cathedral with experience of leading a Primary School. Having started his career in North Lanarkshire he was glad to be returning. He informed the PC that he was at Cathedral for the long term.</p> <p>5. The Head Teacher informed the PC that the School Improvement Plan was due in October. This PC Meeting fell at the beginning of his second week at the school but he told the members that his first week had been spent in a variety of meetings getting to know the school, its, staff, and the children. His focus initially would be on Learning and Teaching but he would also be looking at the curriculum. He said that he was building on great work that had already been done and he praised the engaged staff and well-behaved children that we have in Cathedral.</p> <p>6. The Head Teacher mentioned that a way of communicating with parents that he has used effectively in the past, is that of a daily on-line newsletter, rather than a newsletter every month. This is something that he has already started.</p> <p>7. The Head Teacher finished off by informed the PC that new ways of working were being developed in North Lanarkshire whereby schools were being required to work in primary and secondary school clusters. Whereas this was something that had happened in the past, it was now a requirement and each cluster would have funding and staff to support the grouping of schools.</p> <p>8. A question was asked if a link could be put in the School App to the Head Teachers daily newsletter/ blog to make it easier to access. The Head Teacher agreed to look into that request.</p>	
<p>Item 4 – Head Teacher’s Report</p> <p>9. The Head Teacher’s was given verbally at Item 3 above.</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Fund Raising Committee Report</p> <p>10. The Treasurer informed the PC that, due to the length of time that the school had been closed through Covid, there was an unusually large amount of funding that was waiting to be used. This was the money that would have been spent over the last 6 months. The current balance is £3694. The Treasurer was in the process of organising a fundraisers’ meeting. The Treasurer also discussed the intention of starting the 200 Club now that the school had re-opened. She was considering how to make collecting the money for the 200 Club easier and safer by, for example, enabling money to be transferred directly into the Fundraising account without the need for cash to change hands. The Treasurer said that she would sent the Depute Head Teacher the 200 Club form for sending out on the app.</p>	Treasurer, Depute Head
<p>Item 6 – Return to School - Initial Feedback</p> <p>11. The Head Teacher reported that there had been a really good return to school with good measures in place to protect the children and staff. Stringent risk assessments had been undertaken and mitigation measures put in place. He reported that the children had been fantastic, adhering to the new rules and taking everything in their stride. He also said that staff were working very hard to ensure that everyone was complying with the guidance whilst trying to keep everything as normal as possible. The huge amount of hard work that had been carried out in the background had made school a safe but relaxed place to be in. The Head Teacher ended by saying that ultimately children had to find school fun.</p>	

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<p>Item 7 – Return to School – Feedback from NLC to PC Chairs</p> <p>12. The Vice Chair informed the PC that she had been on a meeting with Derek Brown of North Lanarkshire Council reference the challenges of getting back to school. There were several schools represented at the meeting. Of the issues raised, the most relevant one for Cathedral, which seemed to be a common theme across most schools, was the challenge of getting parents to socially distance whilst waiting for their children at the school gate.</p>	
<p>Item 8 – AOB</p> <p>13. The Secretary informed the PC that there had been 3 items of AOB brought to his attention before the meeting.</p> <p>a. Homework. There had been a query about homework but this had been resolved before the PC when the homework information was distributed via the school app.</p> <p>b. The Timing of First Communions. A question had been raised about the lack of consultation with parents about the programming of First Communions this year. They had been programmed to happen mid-week rather than at the weekend. The Head Teacher explained that First Communions were a Parish event not a school event and as such the school had to fit in to the wider Parish programme. The school had therefore taken the lead from the Cathedral Church.</p> <p>c. Teachers' Pictures on School App. There was a request for teachers' photos to be placed on the school app. This would help children, especially younger children, with pointing out their teachers to parents. The Head Teacher said he would look into it.</p> <p>14. There were an additional three items of AOB raised at the meeting.</p>	Head Teacher
<p>a. School Lunches and Younger Children. There was a report by one of the PC members that, with children eating their packed lunches and school-provided sandwiches in class, younger children were finding it difficult to open water bottles and eat fruit such as oranges. They were bringing un-eaten and un-opened food and drink back home. The Head Teacher will make monitors aware of the situation and will also discuss the provision of more easy-to-eat fruit with the kitchen staff.</p> <p>b. Video Streaming of First Communion Masses. There was a request for the First Communion Masses to be streamed but it was felt that this may not be achievable in time.</p> <p>c. New School in Ravenscraig. The Head Teacher informed the PC that there was to be a meeting about the new school in Ravenscraig at which NLC had asked for a PC member to attend. He would pass on the details to the Secretary to arrange representation.</p>	Head Teacher
<p>Item 9– PC Points</p> <p>15. PC Points were:</p> <p>a. PC Thanks to School Staff. The Parent Council would like to pass on their thanks to the school teaching and support staff for all the hard work that has obviously gone into making the school a safe environment for the children to go back into. Feedback from the transition back to school is that the children have been fantastic in the way they have adjusted to the new rules in place. The teaching staff</p>	Head Teacher, Secretary

Item (a)	Action (b)
<p>have worked hard in the background to ensure that these new rules have not detracted from the normal, relaxed, and fun environment that school should be. Thank you.</p> <p>b. A Call for new PC Members. With the start of the new academic year we find ourselves with places on the Parent Council. We are looking for people who can devote a small amount of time to support the school staff in delivering care and education to our children. We are especially, but not only, looking for parents of those children newly joined the school at P1 and in the nursery. If anyone would like to discuss what is required please approach the school who will put you in touch with a member of the Parent Council.</p>	
<p>Item 11 – Date of the Next Meeting</p> <p>16. The dates of the next meeting were not known but would be circulated by the Depute Head. The Secretary reminded all that the next meeting would be an AGM followed immediately by a PC Meeting. He asked for all PC members to consider if they would be prepared to put their name forward for one of the PC positions. He would remind everyone again once the calling notice for the AGM was circulated.</p>	Depute Head

Stephen Massetti
 Secretary
 Parent Council
 OLGA Cathedral Primary