St Ambrose High School Parent Council



Minutes of meeting Monday 12th November 2018

**Key – EL = Elected Member, PF = Parent Forum, DHT = Depute Head Teacher, SL= School Leader, TS= Teaching Staff**

Present: K Robb (Chairperson), M McQuade (Vice Chairperson), A Millar (Church Representative), S Harvey (Clerk), R Wallace (EL), K Hamill (EL), Pauline Doran (EL), K McGhie (EL), J Gilmour (EL), E Warnock (EL), Paola Madau (EL), Michelle Smith (EL) P McGowan (PF), D Goldie (PF), A McDermott (PF), M Corns (PF), Mark Grant (PF), E Douglas (Head Teacher), J MacPhail (DHT), E Denton (DHT), A Simpson (TS), F Weir (TS), M McQuade (SL),

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| **Minutes** | **Action** |
| 1. **Prayer** |  |
| 1. **Apologies**  * R Blair (SL) |  |
| 1. **Correspondence**  * Voluntary Groups in St Augustines have been advertised on website |  |
| 1. **Previous minutes address**  * Council have contacted Mrs Denton with latest update on the gate. The council are costing this and although we do not have the manpower to operate a manual gate, it is more than likely that the manual gate is proving to be the solution so far. * IPads were distributed and group took part in an electronic feedback survey regarding their visit to the nurture room. * Mrs Douglas spoke to PEF staff team regarding Nutella in the nurture room, this was removed, and team will discuss allergies etc. * Parents had received letter regarding pupil support changes. * Sharon is in discussion with Gregg from IT about designing opening page of parent council on website. * Mrs Douglas thanked whole parent forum for sponsored walk contributions, which stand at present at approx. £7500. * Diary sales are up since last meeting. * Group members survived their sleep out and school will contribute. * 12 students have arrived in school and our two guests have finished their 6-week block. | SH will produce results at next meeting  KH will email SH details of who cheque has to be made out to |
| 1. **SQA Attainment**  * NL conducts Attainment Review incl. PEF activities, exclusions, Broad General Education etc. on 29th November. * Teaching professions are looking at issue of N4 being internally assessed. * Currently if a young person is not sitting a N5 we would try to make sure that recognising positive achievement takes place. This will now not happen. Whereas before this was good for a safety net for pupils who failed at N5, now they could be left with no result. This is a bit of a worry as it adds stress to the young person and adds stress to staff to make sure the pupil is at the correct level for a positive result. There is real variation across the nation when teaching from unit position in N5. New courses do not tie in with the old unit assessments. There are a number of Principal teachers not teaching units as it disadvantages the pupil from sitting N5. * Analysis of our own data. Mrs Denton demonstrates a presentation to group using INSIGHT. INSIGHT is a virtual comparator that government uses to look at attainment results etc. Mrs Denton covered every area in depth and throughout the presentation; the figures from St Ambrose consistently show that in comparison our results, leaver’s destinations, closing the gap etc. St Ambrose not only exceed the average but we are continually improving. Mrs Douglas added that although these were all statistics, we at St Ambrose chase every school leaver not for the stats but because we do not want to lose any child in statistics, it is the child that matters, and because of this, we often know the statistics before they are published because of our approach. * Mrs Douglas thanked Mrs Denton. |  |
| 1. **Professional Learning – INSET DAY 3 – Developing Staff**  * We will focus on staff learning and impact of this in class. Mrs MacPhail will work with Maths Department professional learning framework. Included in this will be – what time of day does pupil come to maths and how does this affect them. * Moving from first class to GLOW and including one drive. What would be good in class. * Pupil Support are logging into Professional learning. * Parent Council do have access to first class but with moving away from this is it worth our while. * School spent monies on ICT before the summer and we may be using Microsoft mail in future. |  |
| 1. **NLC – Recent changes**  * Corporate is the way forward * First class needs to go. * New Chief Executive D Murray took up post. * Education, Youth and Communities is now Education and Families. * Derek Brown from Education and Alison Gordon from Social Work will share this post but we expect big sweeping changes to come. * The past year and a half has met with Head Teachers gaining more responsibility for their own school and NL want to meet with Head Teachers regarding this. It is important for us to be reading the signs of things to come. Losing the locality of schools i.e. Airdrie, Coatbridge and Bellshill currently are a locality headed by Mrs Douglas. We then have Gerard McLaughlin, Alison Humphrey and Jan McCone as part of the Leadership team for this locality. We would lose the fact that people were just that and not just names including our Psychologists etc. | . |
| 1. **Report from Head Teacher**  * Staffing is dire and members of staff are bending over backwards and definitely going beyond. * Training programmes, appointments etc. have been cancelled and colleagues have been covering shortage of teachers in their own departments and sometimes even ignoring contracts to do this. * Two colleagues returned from Maternity leave. * Our P7 information evening is coming up and we will see what our placing request figures will show. * Choir is singing in Edinburgh Castle as part of the National Reception to mark 100 years of Catholic Education in Scotland. 2 schools were selected to sing. Ourselves and Notre Dame. This will be an excellent experience for our young people. * Our Prelims start in December with our S4 and S5 and S6 will continue in January. We have started our Saturday Supported Study classes. * Our Patronal Mass will be held on Friday 7th December at 1:45pm with Bishop Devine celebrating Mass. Invites will be emailed. * Budget allocation to Parent Council of £613 to pay for copying etc. £105,000 carried forward. £5000 for telephone bills. Material, Apparatus and Equipment has a write off £21,000 and group agrees to this. * Good work letters etc. are now sent by email and others letters will be looked at as this saves on postage. | Sharon to email Patronal Mass invite. |
| 1. **A.O.C.B**  * Group brought up the facebook post and noted that it was one sided and other schools were brought into to it. Group member noted it was a shame and how it went on and on. Mrs Douglas thanked group for their support and said staff, pupils were phenomenal, and all took the position of not discussing this. Group agreed to move on. * Mrs Douglas thanked staff for all after school study, Saturday supported study, homework clubs and all other clubs that are organised and covered on a voluntary basis. Parent Council group wished staff to receive their thanks also. * Strictly event coming up. Tickets are like gold dust and Father Kane will be competing. |  |
| 1. **Next Meeting**  * Monday 3rd December 2018 at 6pm |  |