



St Brendan's
Primary School and Nursery
45 Barons Road
Motherwell
ML1 2NB

Parents
Council
Meeting – Minutes

Date : 16/01/24

Time : 18.00

Meeting chaired by : Donna Matthewman

Distribution of Minutes:

All attendees
Catherine Sweeney
Motherwell Cllrs

Attendees :

- Mrs Oates (HT - MO)
- Mrs Colton (MC)
- Donna Matthewman (C - DM)
- Lisa Hewitt (VC – LH)
- Lesley-Ann Henderson (SEC – LAH)
- Collette Feeney (CF)
- Kate Anderson (KA)
- Martin Grey (MG)
- Karen Nailen (KN)
- Chloe Robertson (CR)
- Cllr Kenny Duffy (KD)
- Cllr Kaye Harmon (KH)

Apologies:

- Miss Burns (MB)
- Louise Curley (LC)



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<u>Reference</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Action by</u>
1.00	<u>PREVIOUS MINUTES</u>	
1.01	Agreement that previous minutes reflected the discussions at the last meeting and everyone happy that the minutes had been shared with the wider parent forum via school app and social media sites.	
2.00	<u>P7 RESIDENTIAL TRIP</u>	
2.01	Some parental concerns had been raised around the short timescales given by the school regarding payment of the trip. MO explained that it doesn't get confirmed if the school has been awarded a spot for their P7s until October so the school felt it would have been difficult to ask parents back in August to start paying for something that might not happen and when there wasn't a confirmed cost either. As soon as a spot was confirmed, the school asked the P7 parent body back in October if they wanted to go ahead even although they still didn't have a confirmed cost of the trip. The consensus from parents was to go ahead. Around this time, parents were also being asked to pay for the panto trip and then it was Christmas, so the school felt it was a very expensive time for families. As soon as school returned, the cost of the trip was shared but the school understands that only having two months to pay for the trip may be difficult for some. MO very firmly reiterated that if any family is struggling to meeting this deadline to reach out to the school if needed as they're striving to ensure that no child will miss out. MO also confirmed that a recent donation has been received towards the trip reducing the balance from approx. £230 to £170 per child. This amount excludes the cost of the busses for the trip as the school have very generously covered this cost for parents from school funds. P7 parents are also exploring fundraising opportunities to further reduce the cost per child.	
3.00	<u>COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY</u>	
3.01	Any surveys that are done on this subject indicate that uniform and trips are felt to be the top things that drive up the cost of the school day. MO explained again that St Brendan's PS don't receive a lot of PEF money to spend. Because of this, the school is not able to subsidise things like trips and outings to the extent that many other schools in the authority are able to do. Most of St Brendan's PEF budget goes on staffing and therefore the cost of any trips/outings has to be passed on to parents and are sometimes subsidised through fundraising efforts.	



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3.02	PC to issue school uniform flyer after Easter holidays to help parents/carers plan for the cost of the new school year.	
3.03	CLlr KH suggested exploring the grants available via the Scotmid Membership scheme – LH to look into this	
3.04	Thanks given to the Parent Fundraising Committee as they used £2,600 from raised funds to cover the full cost of the buses for the Aladdin trip before Christmas. This allowed the overall cost per child to be kept low at £16. This gesture meant that almost every child in the school benefited from this and got a marvellous experience as a result. Thanks also given to the SVDP who also provided financial support towards the trip.	
3.05	At Parents Night, there were representatives from the Financial Inclusion Team in attendance to reach out and be available to families who may need financial advice or support. They can provide services that can open the door to alleviate financial pressures felt by many. If you'd like to be put in contact with them, please contact the school office.	
4.00	<u>PARKING</u>	
4.01	Meeting being arranged with Muirhouse PS to jointly focus on the cause of road safety around our schools. PC to reiterate messages on this subject through our social media – DM to look out comms used before. School to raise issue again in their Pupil Council.	
5.0		
5.01	<u>FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE</u>	
5.02	Ladies Night planned for 3 rd Feb '24. Tickets on sale end of Jan before and after the school day. Raffle prizes will be welcomed and can be given into the office or to a member of the fundraising committee.	
5.03	Lots of play equipment and storage for it has been bought for use in the playground – this is something that will benefit all children and the school are very grateful for this gesture.	
5.04		
5.05	Musical Instruments have been purchased, allowing the school to arrange music lessons for children.	
5.06	School Disco planned for March time – more info to follow.	



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	Fundraising committee will also fund/part fund things like P7 hoodies, gifts for the First Communicants, School Ties etc.	
<u>6.0</u>	Nursery Fundraising – managed to raise healthy funds through football cards, raffle at 'Breakfast with Santa' and in May they're planning on running a family night in the Cherry Tree (more info to follow). With funds raised, they've been able to replace some equipment and buy some new things, particularly in the Ourdoor/Garden area.	
<u>6.01</u>		
<u>6.02</u>	<u>HEAD TEACHER REPORT</u>	
<u>6.03</u>	Staffing – Miss McDermid returning from Maternity Leave after the Feb break meaning that Miss Kearney will be leaving us as she was covering this. Nursery still short staffed but should be back to normal very soon. Staff are still covering Lunchtime Supervisor post. The position was advertised and filled but unfortunately the candidate did not start so this will be readvertised.	
<u>6.04</u>		
<u>6.05</u>	Sacramental Meeting has been arranged for Thurs 25 th Jan at 6pm in St Brendan's Church. This is for parents of children making any of the 3 sacraments this school year.	
<u>6.06</u>	Staff Training – this is ongoing and one area of focus continues to be 'exploitation' as this appears to be an issue in the local area.	
<u>6.07</u>		
<u>6.08</u>	Afterschool Clubs – these are now back up and running.	
	Library – school received their £5k grant for books and they have been delivered to the school. £500 was also awarded for library furniture. Next step is to create a library space within the school.	
	School Improvement Plan – all on track and making good progress.	
	Christmas Carol Service – MO asked the PC for feedback on the Carol Service as the format was slightly different this year. The group thanked staff for all their hard work and for making it a success.	



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Annie – Our Educational Psychologist working with the school particularly focussing on 'anxiety management.' Since covid lots of children are displaying signs of emotional struggles or anxiety. A Play Therapist is also in school once a week to target and support this area too.

The next PC Meetings for the current school year are as follows:

23rd April 23

4th June 23

Any parent of the school is welcome to attend any of the future PC meetings. All are most welcome.

Our channels are:

www.facebook.com/groups/stbrendanspcfc

Twitter.com/stbrendanspcfc

PC Mailbox – pcstbrendansprimaryschool@northlanarkshire.npfs.org.uk