



St. John Paul II

Parent Council



PARENT COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA & MINUTES

Venue:	St John Paul II Dining Room		
Date:	Tuesday 6 th September 2022, 6PM		
Participants:		Apologies	
Name:	Role:	Name:	Role:
Kris Thomas Anne Martin Anna Louise Coyle Andrew Johnston Cllr Helen Loughran Elaine Brown Jillian Tonner Angela Higgins Lisa Halliday Jennifer Travers Emma Halley	Head Teacher Depute Head Teacher Chairperson Secretary	Cllr Barry McCluskey Cllr Margaret Boyd Julie Gordon Siobhan Ferguson Arshid Karim Annmarie Bell Mandy Taylor	Treasurer Vice Chair

AGENDA

1. Welcome/Chair Report
2. Head Teacher Report
3. Councillor Report
4. Finance Update
5. Cost of Living Impact
6. Family Quiz Night
7. Halloween Disco
8. AOB

Minutes:	Action:
<p>1. Welcome/Chair Report ALC welcomed all to the meeting and informed that it wouldn't be a long chair report as planning is ongoing for the rest of the year. As first meeting of the School year, informed that as per the last meeting, Siobhan Ferguson is now the new Vice after the departure of A. Bronsky at the end of the Summer term. Julie Gordon remains Treasurer and Andrew Johnston as Secretary.</p> <p>KT brought up displaying the agendas for upcoming minutes on a board, to save on printing costs. Minutes from meetings going forward to have a quicker turnaround and published online.</p> <p>2. Head Teacher Report <u>Projected Roll 2022/2023</u> The school roll is sitting at 361 (385 including 24 children in the Nursery Class). When making classes for the school year, they try to keep spaces for any new comers. Since the return in</p>	<p>AJ to complete and pass for online publication</p>

August, the school has had 2 places taken up and Primary 1 is fast approaching full now. We potentially have a new start after a family made an enquiry this week. The limit for a P1 class is 25, if go over this number, may have to look at reclassifying the P1 classes.

Staffing Update

Been able to keep all staff this year with no new staff to the school. Projected roll equals 18.02FTE which includes HT & DHT. Education and Families offering a 0.5FTE Match Fund, school pays 0.5 and the council pays 0.5FTE, this is linked to 4 teachers though also uses up a lot of the spare funding.

KT informed of a new initiative in the Cluster Schools, where there is a cluster allocation of a teacher and an appointed digital teacher. The cluster will decide the use of the Digital Teacher. The cluster teacher is Miss Gallagher who is in the school a few afternoons a week working with specific children to help raise attainment levels.

Also have Mrs Hornell who works within the Cluster support, works with children with additional support needs and those transitioning to High School.

Pupil Equity Fund 2022/23

No change to the PEF since the previous meeting.

The school met with a representative from Harper Collins for updating reading materials in the school. All the materials in the school are benchmarked. There are lots of books in the school, in particular we would be looking to update the infant selection. The representative also showed a selection of Graphic Novels which could be of interest to those students not interested in reading novels. KT informed at an estimate, this could cost a minimum of £10,000.

KT informed that still looking to top up and invest on the Digital learning methods in the school.

Spoke of Talk for Writing (improve attainment in Writing) and informed that Mrs Martin and Mrs Byers had been on a training and information session for this before the school holidays, and that on the In-service Day after the Summer, the teaching staff had been introduced to it also. There will be more of this shared to the parents on the upcoming Curriculum Evening.

KT and AM spoke highly of Talk for Writing, how it is about building confidence and developing writing skills for the children through exciting tasks.

Since we returned in August

Been back for 3 weeks at this point and that school life feels more normal with being able to get parents into the building this year so far, was able to have a 'Meet the Teacher' this year for our Primary 1 classes. Also informed that the school is trying

to include more events in the evening for parents.

Annual calendar has been being updated. In previous years this hasn't been as busy due to the Pandemic, though now looks more back to normal.

Spoke of the launch of the Empowering Clusters Model, who will be working closely with the school to support learning. Also spoke of the Industrial Action that was planned though cancelled at the last minute. Regarding the upcoming Curriculum Evening, KT informed that over 20 people so far had signed up for this, these will be sessions of about 20 minutes to show parents what happens in the school.

Told of work that had been done in the school over the holidays. The external walls have been painted, rewiring done, drains and gutters sorted and an issue regarding the front playground becoming water logged that has been attended to.

Annual Improvement Priorities

Spoke of both Cluster and School Priorities. Among the cluster priorities is to improve attendance, the target is 95% attendance, while we are sitting at between 91%-93%. This would have seen a dip in recent years due to the effects of the pandemic and issues after, for example holidays throughout the school year which have had to be rescheduled.

Informed of the delivering 'The Promise' which is a new Scottish Government initiative, focusing on care experienced children getting as many opportunities as they can – more info to come on this and staff will be trained.

Continuing to work with the Educational Officer to continue to develop approaches to STEM, school is well resourced for this.

KT spoke of Improving Attainment in Writing, which will be done through the introduction of Talk for Writing. There will be more info on this.

Moving Forward

Spoke of increasing Parental Engagement within the school, looking to do this through the Curriculum Evening and also reintroducing 'Parents as Partners' and noted that this doesn't need to be mum and dad, it can be siblings or grandparents. This sees these family members invited into the school in the morning and they will be given a presentation by children from 2/3 classes maximum, they can also have a look at class work and be able to give feedback. KT said this has worked well in the past.

Told of reintroducing SEAL maths, which had to be stopped during the Pandemic. Mr McCann involved in this and will also be looking for volunteers, this also worked well in the past – Pre Inspection and Pre Pandemic.

Cost of Living Crisis & School Fundraising

KT went through a list of typical events that occur during the school year, both School and Parent Council related. Spoke of the schools policy where no child is left out, even if not able to contribute costs, are still more than welcome to join in.

Spoke of the costs involved for parents in relation to school events, but noted that if there is no Fund Raising at all, it would be hard to have events in the school for the children. Funds are low at the moment.

Discussed Christmas activities, questioned if the Fayre would be appropriate this year. In relation to the Infant Christmas Nativity, raised the idea of a minimal entry charge of £1.00 or simply make entry a donation. There is no trip to a Pantomime this year, but are bringing a Company in to perform. The last two years have been digital performances. Cost of this could be subsidised by a donation from parents who feel able to contribute.

Brought up school trips throughout the year and if they are booked in advance now for May/June, this gives the opportunity for them to be paid up throughout the school year. A limit would be agreed on costs for this.

The Foodbank collection was also discussed and if it would be appropriate to keep asking for donations at this time.

As discussed at the last meeting, the idea of a General Funds for donations was brought up again. This could be set up on iPay Impact and it has been noted that people would be in support of this. Would be happy to pay for own and help towards paying for others.

At this point KT asked if anyone had any questions, ALC proposed that instead of an entry fee to some events, if a raffle could be done to raise funds, where the Parent Council members could help.

3. Councillor Report

Cllr Loughran discussed transport issues that have been affecting the families in the area and spoke of ongoing negotiations regarding mainstream transportation. Cllr HL is keen for a contract provision to be created for the children from Viewpark and local area who are leaving to attend CNHS. Transport is fine for St JP II, though still waiting on Privileged Places to be allocated.

Cllr HL also brought up looking to expand where we would see ourselves in an "Eco School Evaluation" KT informed that we longer do the accreditation for this, though the same ideals are led through the Rights Respecting Schools Initiative.

AJ to add fund to system if approved

Cllr HL also brought up re-evaluating Children and Teenagers relationships with certain aspects of life. Mainly regarding these age groups becoming anxious regarding the state of the world in regards to overconsumption, litter etc. KT informed that the topic of litter has been addressed also through the Smart School Council. In the 21/22 school year the children choose litter as their subject and KT the SSC could look at again this year. KT also noted that the topic of food waste is something that is on the staffs mind while in the lunch hall during lunch time.

Cllr HL looking at how to motivate and reignite the litter debate for the kids, brought up the idea of doing so through some kind of competition, but is aware that funding is limited.

On the subject matter of waste and litter, J. Tonner brought up the matter of clothes/shoes that have become outsized and how she had donated these to local community centres and if there's any way to make this more prevalent in the school community. Also the idea of donating unwanted books towards the school library/unwanted gifts that can be used for raffle prizes.

J. Travers asked if there was a way in which we could get these items to those who need them in the school community, J. Tonner brought up that as a community we need to try and drop the stigma and pride around the idea of accepting things like this, Cllr HL reiterated this with trying to find a way to reword this and drop the stigma.

Discussed Communion dresses and shoes that have been donated to the school in the previous year and are here if needed, so far one family has made use of them.

4. Finance Update

ALC updating in the absence of J. Gordon. Account sitting at £419.20. Discos usually bring good money in.

J. Gordon still not a signatory and still having problems with TSB bank. Still wanting to move account to Bank of Scotland, just have to wait until all matters at TSB have been resolved.

5. Cost of Living Impact

ALC noted on the same points that KT raised regarding the cost of living crisis. Discussed that the price for Disco tickets has always been £2.50 and debated whether or not to change the price to be cheaper for a family ticket, or to have a cheaper singular ticket and charge for tuck shop. Also discussed movie nights and the prices for entry and for the hot dog snacks.

On the note of prices, Cllr HL noted that they should always try and avoid causing any child trauma with regards to these prices, always make sure the children know they can always participate in all aspects of the events.

Discussed best way to provide tuck shops at events, different ways for the lower and upper school. Also discussed the need of DJ's, majority agreed DJ's make the Discos more fun for the children.

Discussed local companies contributing donations towards the PC events, supermarkets to donate snacks for tuck etc. ALC informed that Arnold Clarke do charity grants.

Discussed ways of making the Parent Council more active on Social Media, though was noted there are certain protocols surrounding this.

Discussed the P7 trip to Strathclyde Park. KT informed that this was due to be in November but has been changed to a later date. Will be £100.00 per child and consists of 5 days of coach led activities. Cllr HL noted she could see if there is anything she can do to help subsidise this.

6. Family Quiz Night

Was meant to be 15/09/2022, though date is now being changed to 04/05/2023 after a discussion and will now a Quiz/Fun night. ALC noted that more help is needed with getting this arranged. ALC also informed that she is happy and if others are able to, they can buy things for these events and be reimbursed through the Parent Council fund with a cheque, or on the night of the event.

Also decided that along with School fun day in October, the parent council will sell raffles for a Halloween Hamper to help with fundraising. Discussed donations that will be needed for this.

7. Halloween Disco

Agreed that the price for tickets will be £2.00. Lower school will have diluent juice, upper school should be able to bring their own bottles. Date for this is 27/10/22.

Also noted that the date for the Summer Beach Party is 15/06/2022

8. AOB

No discussion.

Councillor Loughran to check out funding options especially for children in receipt of FSM and CG.

AJ to request new LET for May event