



# ST. JOHN PAUL II

## Primary School & Nursery Class



### Parent Council Meeting

<b>Venue:</b>	Online Meeting		
<b>Date:</b>	18 <sup>TH</sup> January 22		
<b>Participants:</b>		<b>Apologies</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Role:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Role:</b>
Kris Thomas Andrew Johnston Anna Louise Coyle Julie Gordon Cllr Norah Mooney Brian Flynn Siobhan Ryan Mandy Taylor Anne Bronsky Elaine Brown Arshid Karim	Head Teacher Secretary Chairperson Treasurer	Angela Higgins Cllr Loughran	

<b>Minutes:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
<p><b>Agenda</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Welcome</li><li>2. Chair Report</li><li>3. Head Teacher Report</li><li>4. Finance Report</li><li>5. AOCB</li></ol> <p><b>1. Welcome</b> Mr Thomas to apologise regarding issues with the meeting link that was sent out on GroupCall. Andrew to pass on the bank statement for the Parent Council Fund to Anna Louise.</p> <p><b>2. Chair Report</b> Anna Louise welcomed everyone and hoped all had had a good break over the Christmas holidays. No further updates to report on from previous meeting.</p> <p><b>3. Head Teacher Report</b> Mr Thomas wishes everyone a Happy New Year and will try to keep report brief.</p> <p>Christmas in the school was more traditional this year, compared to 2020. The children were able to have their parties with their year group and the Infant School performed a</p>	

Nativity which was recorded and put on their Class Teams and the school's YouTube page. There was still some rules and guidance in place during this period, due to the rise in cases in the area and new Variants popping up. NLC was taking a fairly cautious approach to the guidelines, which Kris thinks was sensible. At this time, schools are still deemed as a low risk environment by Public Health.

Focus is on attendance at the moment, looking at pupils and families with a lower attendance rate out with illness and COVID related reasons.

The staff in school are still testing twice a week and cases are being monitored. On the return from the holidays, there was a few staff and pupils just finishing off their isolation and a few new cases. Kris notes that in the event of a positive case, there are lots of people within the school to call upon for any help needed.

Updated information on the school, CO2 monitoring continued in the school recently. Kris notes that the First Minister has announced an end of restrictions on 24/01/22, will have to wait and see how this affects the school. At this time, we are still not having parents inside the building, Kris hopes that this will end towards the beginning of Easter Term/Summer. Kris feels that some of our parents this year, especially those of our newer children may feel as if they are not familiar with the school and the staff due to all the Pandemic restrictions that have been in place.

Updating on the **school roll** Kris notes that the uptake of the 2022/2023 P1 enrolment has been slow so far compared to other years. This is all done online at the moment and may continue to do so in the future. May be causing issues with parents as it takes a lot of effort and some may need support with the process. To discuss intake for P1 at next meeting.

Update on the **school staffing**. Mrs Kemi has moved on from St John Paul II. In her place we have Mrs Byers covering class one of her days, and Mrs Mulgrew the other. The school welcomed Miss Ahmad to the school as an ASNA and Kris spoke of Mrs Bradley (Classroom Assistant) reducing her days and Mrs Shevlin (ASNA) also reducing her days in the next few weeks.

Update on **Free School Travel and FSM**. At this point, free bus travel has been offered and encouraged by the Scottish Government, though there has been a pause put on this due to COVID. Regarding free school meals (FSM), these have been extended to Primary 5 and the Breakfast Club. Mrs Cummings in the office has been appointed to the role of Breakfast Club Supervisor. Kris notes that the FSM scheme will be extended to the pupils in P6 & P7 in August '22 and notes that although this is a great help to all families and will reduce any stigma, it will also present a deficit in information to the school, as we will no

longer know who may have been entitled to this. It may also affect PEF funding.

On to the **Budget/Finance**, Kris noted that the school has made some savings due to staffing and budgeting. Kris spoke of the changes that have happened and are still ongoing with regards to the Budget systems, which the office staff will receive training on when finalised. There is still £19,000 in the PEF budget which Kris hopes to keep for additional support and resources. With regards to staffing within the budget, Kris hopes to be able to keep staffing the same until June.

The school has a partnership at the moment with Motherwell Football Club, which has been ongoing since last term. Also speaking to Active School about any future planning that can be arranged. The senior pupils from CNHS will be coming back for Science activities with the P7 pupils and for P.E. until the S1 transition.

Kris went on to give an update on the **Housing Development** that is going on across from the school. A letter was received to let us know that the ground work would be commencing. Kris got in touch to clarify on the impact that this would have on the school car park, as they may need to use some of it (overspill) for a building area.

Kris went onto discuss an **appeal for a new bike/scooter shelter** for the infant playground. The current one is cracked and broken and has received some vandalism to it. This one was a donation to the school and will cost a lot to get fixed. Kris is going to try if Active Schools can assist with this, and also put feelers out to any businesses in the community to see if it would be a project they would be interested in as it could be a good advertising opportunity for them.

Looking at the wider areas of the school regarding school improvements, Kris would like to get the Parent Council involved in this, maybe not this year, but next.

**At this point, Anna Louise asked Cllr Mooney if there was anything she would like to input:**

Cllr Mooney spoke about the enquiries she had received in regards to the speed of cars going down Laburnum Road, informed that 80% of the cars going up and down the road are speeding. Going to be working with Police Scotland over the next 12-18 months to try and prevent this.

Cllr Mooney asked Kris if any time frame had been given on about the housing development work, neither have been given an update since the ground work began. Anna Louise mentioned that Cllr Burrows said that work was due to start once the houses at the former Police Station had been completed. Cllr Mooney has been given many dates on this in

the past. Cllr Mooney to discuss this with Cllr Burrows.

Cllr Mooney discussed the issue with the Bike shed and wondered if there could be a **green solution** to this? If possible using recyclable materials. Cllr Mooney says she is very keen for the pupils to keep using their bikes as she is a keen sports advocate. Will check with her links if they can assist with a solution for this. Cllr Mooney has no further updates due to COVID but is delighted to be a part of the Parent Council meeting again.

#### **4. Financial Report**

Julie told the meeting that after the last meeting, the Halloween Raffle raised £481.00 and wished a big thanks to everyone who helped organise. This brings the Parent Council fund total to £713.67.

As we are fast approaching the end of the school year, there will be lots of outgoings from the fund, S1 ties for the current P7 pupils etc.

All agreed that a good amount was raised asked Kris about future fundraising that could be done.

#### **5. A.O.B**

**Fundraising** ideas were discussed with several ideas mentioned from members of the council.

Angela suggested a Tombola, where everyone could win a prize. Also selling Seeds for Earth Day, where the pupils could sell seeds to family. If the school would want to do it. Anna Louise likes the idea of plant day, could check with Viewpark Allotments if they could help.

Anna Louise also suggested that prizes could be collected and raffled off.

The idea of a 'Daytime Disco' was vetoed, though the possibility of a Movie day, rather than a movie night was brought up. Anna Louise asked if this would be okay with the school, Kris noted that if something like this was to go ahead, we would need to make sure that all the children are included.

Elaine Brown asked if something simple such as asking the parents for a donation could be a possibility. Could appeal to the parents and any donations could be paid into the School Fund and paid by cheque to the Parent Council.

Elaine also suggested the idea of competitions for fundraising, drawing competition for example.

Kris noted the possibility of the school having a 'Beach Party'

towards the end of June, Anne Bronsky suggested a raffle to go along with this.

Anne Bronsky also suggested a 'Non-Uniform Day' and for the funds to go to the Parent Council.

Kris noted that Sponsored Events usually bring in a lot of money. Anna Louise suggested that the school staff could dress up for a Sponsored Event.

Anna Louise also suggested that unwanted gifts could be something to ask for, for prize donations.

Kris mention points of action were made regarding the Crossing Patrol discussed at the last meeting – no longer there as there is a Pelican Crossing there now. This area is still a worry to Anna Louise. Will be speaking to kids regarding road safety.

Anne Bronsky noted that she is to resign at the next AGM meeting and that this is her second last meeting.

Also discussed First Scot Cards and bus passes for the High School and how Viewpark is deemed too dangerous now for the children to walk to High School. For the children going to High School, they have to apply for these. Cllr Mooney noted a few problems regarding the bus passes for HS and how there was no rhyme or reason how the bus stops have been allocated to children. There is also a limited amount of stops this year, starting from August – hopefully this will become more structured.

Cllr Mooney also spoke of the Roundabout at the High School (CNHS) that is near the McDonalds area, proposing with Transport Scotland that lights are put at the cross roads here to make it safer.

Anna Louise thanks all attendees for joining the meeting and spoke of looking at further fundraising. Will also look more into the bike shed.

### **End of Meeting**

#### **Further info: Also written in the Meeting chat box:**

Arshid Karim notes it may be worth exploring with sustainable urban drainage organizations as possible options for the cycle shelter.

Mr Karim also noted that it may be worth seeing Traffic Management proposals/impact assessments with regards to safety – especially during school start and finish times. Cllr Mooney thanked Mr Karim for this input and will pass on a report once it has been firmed up what actions are taking place.