



ST. JOHN PAUL II

Primary School & Nursery Class



Parent Council Meeting

Venue:	Online Meeting		
Date:	19 th October 21		
Participants:		Apologies	
Name:	Role:	Name:	Role:
Kris Thomas Andrew Johnston Anna Louise Coyle Julie Gordon Angela Higgins Anne Bronsky Annmarie Bell Arshid Karim Brian Flynn Elaine Brown Jennifer Keatings Julien Couillet Mandy Taylor Siobhan Ferguson	Head Teacher Secretary Chairperson Treasurer	Lisa Halliday	

Minutes:	Action:
<p>Agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome2. Chair Report3. Head Teacher Report4. Finance Report5. AOCB <p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Anna Louise welcomed all attendees to the first Parent Council Meeting of the school year, noted that it should have been in September, but technical issues prevented this. Welcomed Andrew Johnston as the new Secretary and Julie Gordon as the new Treasurer.</p> <p>2. Chair Report</p> <p>Anna Louise thanked parents and staff for all the help last year with fund raising, hoping for more face to face in the coming months and notes that NLC are now allowing some Lets. Spoke of emails from William Collum/Maureen Moore regarding the Parents Consultancy Group, this should be 2 members of the Parent Council, though is not compulsory, last meeting of this</p>	

was 6th October '21, will let us know when next meeting is arranged.

Anna Louise asked to make sure that we have the correct email addresses for those attending the Parent Council meeting. Andrew took notes of those in attendance.

3. Head Teacher Report

Kris noted that one of the best ways to get in touch with the school is through email and noted the change of the school email address for enquiries. Hopefully will be more face to face in time.

Despite the challenges faced due to the pandemic, work still continues within the school. NLC also continue to drive forward The Plan for North Lanarkshire, with changes in education and the wider organisation.

Kris spoke of the ongoing idea of Community hubs, where the council is looking at multiple schools and provisions being centralised in the one location, there's no mention of St John Paul II being involved in this.

Kris spoke of the school roll. 16 classes this year, with 383 in the roll and 24 in the nursery. The staffing is based on the children in the school, there could have been less classes this year, though trying to avoid Composite classes. Allocated 19 teachers in school, this includes Mr Thomas as Head Teacher, Mrs Martin as Depute and Mrs Bell as Nurture Teacher.

Spoke of the PEF fund from the government, which this year was £119,000 plus an additional top up due to Co-VID recovery which took the total to £136,000. Kris spoke of the costs of covering a full teacher and an arrangement with the council this year where they pay for 0.5 of a teacher and the school covers the rest. This only applies up to 31st March, which is the end of the Financial Year and not the end of the School Year. Ideally the school wants to be able to cover these costs for the duration of March to August. For the current PEF fund there will be approximately £19,000 left from the end of the Financial Year through to August. This will contribute to the retention of staff along with any other savings and funding which can be utilised.

Kris spoke about additional staff; Miss Thompson who is on Maternity Leave at the moment, Mr Cooney who is permanent to the school (only 0.4, school covers the rest) and Miss Williamson. Miss Brady was funded as the schools digital pathfinder, though she has now been transferred to another school where staff cover was needed.

There is a new member of staff in the nursery, Miss Daly. Kris also spoke of the Support Staff changes and vacancies. Kris has been in regular contact with the council and efforts are being made to fill these. Kris spoke about new cluster approach which

Andrew to provide correct email addresses for mailing list.

New school enquiries email address.

is currently being developed and implemented.

Jennifer Keatings asked a question in the chat about how the cluster works. Kris explained that the cluster is all the schools that feed into Cardinal Newman High School. These are now known as “Empowered Clusters” with a rotational chair person, at the moment this is Ian Conaghan, Head Teacher at St Gerard’s Primary.

Kris spoke of the **School Improvement Plan** in which, there are 2 Cluster Priorities.

1. Looking at the cluster approach closer. St John Paul II will be hosting a Well Being Hub, cluster support teachers and others will work from here. Our school is hosting this due to having a Community Wing, this will also include the opportunity for children from other schools to access various supports.

North Lanarkshire is having a real focus on their support needs and specialist provisions. The current situation required review and changes to be made.

2. Improve attainment in Literacy & Numeracy. A great deal of effort is going into identifying any gaps in learning and applying some support to this. Also Assessment & Moderation Model where reading, writing and numeracy will be looked at by groups of teachers who will compare work between schools.
3. Kris spoke of the development of STEM this year. The school has engaged with an NLC Development Officer and a meeting was held online with him and he will come into look at the schools plans. The nursery will also be linking in with the STEM approach. STEM is Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Kris went onto give an update on the **Coronavirus Impact** in school.

- Since the return to school things have yet to return to a greater sense of normal, although we are getting there slowly. The obvious
- No massive spike in isolation cases this year, support offered when this is needed.
- Notification of positive cases within the school have now changed, with the school no longer required to notify if a positive case in a classroom. This is now left to Track & Trace.
- Now back to a single break and lunch time for the children.
- Can access assemblies and religious ceremonies when risk assessed – though the no parent rule still applies here.
- Meetings for now remain virtual

More information to be provided once available. (KT)

Further updates to be provided at meetings in through Newsletter. (KT)

- School day is still staggered start/finish times. Parents have said that they would like this arrangement to continue, though Kris doesn't know if this is sustainable, will send any info on this before a decision is made
- School Lets are still outdoor only
- Parents night will be arranged through telephone again this year
- Looking into arranging a photographer for school photos, potentially in February. This may be passed onto the Parent Council in future as maybe better suited with making package decisions.
- Discussed the changes on rules regarding COVID between areas

Now using a new programme called Smart School Council for the Pupil Council, Kris would prefer to let the children organise some information about this to pass on to the parents.

The House System is starting up again, now using plastic (washable) tokens as house points.

Rights Respecting Schools and Road Safety started again.

Catholic schools being asked to sign up for Laudato Si' Schools Scotland, which has been encouraged by Pope Francis.

Parents Portal still being promoted by NLC as they want this to take over and eliminate paper forms etc. Better for parents as can update details themselves, permissions slips etc online. Currently just over a third of the school roll have signed up for this, though there was a significant increase happened at the beginning of term when a reminder was sent out. Arshid Karim noted in chat in may be worthwhile to send the link out again.

Regarding upcoming festivities

- For Halloween Kris says that the children will be able to come in dressed up in costume, dressed Halloween themed or just dressed down. Children will not be able to go home at lunch to get changed though and if wearing a costume nothing should be loose/breakable or overly scary.
- For Christmas, might be able to do Class parties this year, will be a Christmas lunch but no Fayre. Hopefully able to perform a Digital Nativity, with the nursery and classes taking part and then distributing a link.

4. Financial Report

Julie told about working with the outgoing treasurer to bring information up to date, over the last 18 months there hasn't been as many events as usual, as a result of this the Parent Council Fund has diminished, current total sitting at £232.67. Although there has been no Income, there is still Expenditure. Still unsure at this point what fund raising can be done, but will

Some lets being started back up indoors.

A Johnston to contact Photographer.

School to send out link again.

have a discussion with other parents about possible activities that can be done for fund raising.

The school usually does a sponsored event in February, Kris suggested that this could be passed to the Parent Council for this year.

Kris, Annemarie and Anna Louise all discussed possible examples of fundraising, from classroom themed events to framing and selling the children's art work. Anna Louise spoke of how successful last year's festive raffles were. Will look at having a Halloween raffle on the dress up/down day.

Anna Louise suggested that Tannochside Miners club are hiring out their hall, which other Parent Councils have used for fund raising. There is a worry of this taking place in the schools name and with current concerns around COVID numbers.

5. A.O.B

Julie asked if the School Crossing Patrol next to the church was gone, as there always seems to be no one there. Kris has contacted the council about this but they don't notify the school of any absences. Angela Higgins noted that the man is usually there when she drops her children at the breakfast club. Patrollers might be starting early and finishing early.

Kris mentioned that the next meeting, scheduled for 18th January 2022.

Andrew to write to the councillors r.e. this meeting and the next meeting.

Anna Louise to confirm future plans.