

## ST JAMES' PARENT GROUP

### MINUTES OF MEETING

14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

#### In attendance:

**School Representatives** – Natalie Fitzsimmons, Mrs Bradford, Mrs Brown, Mr Horn, Mr Healy

**Parent Group Committee members** – Alison Allan, Caroline O'Neill, Marie Gordon, Claire McLaughlin, Claire Ferguson, Siobhan Lamond and Father John Eagers.

**Parent Forum** – Jackie Blake, Pauline Connery, Arvinder Kaur, Leigh Cassidy, Tracy Navarra, Richard and Gillian Prior

#### **Apologies:**

Stephanie Nugent, Shauna Luse, Christina Walton, Laura Morrison, Gill Thomas, Mrs Pacitti and Kelly Nugent.

#### Review of Previous Minutes:

Minutes agreed.

#### 4. Treasurer / Finance Update – Jackie Blake

Jackie updated the committee on prom and P7 hoodies. Please see point 8 and 9. These two commitments will be the biggest outgoings this year. The committee hope that they can begin organising fundraising events in the near future in order to replenish funds.

#### 5. PVG

A. Allan has contacted Volunteer Scotland about obtaining 4 PVG checks for free and is waiting for a response about this. C. McLaughlin, Leah Cassidy and Marie Gordon will check and fill in forms to transfer their existing PVGs to St. James'. The committee are keen to have 6+ members with PVG certificates for school discos. The link for existing members of the PVG scheme is attached here if anyone would like further information:  
<https://www.mygov.scot/apply-for-pvg/existing-members-of-the-pvg-scheme>

#### 6. P1 / P7 Transition

Mrs Brown updated the committee on P1 transition dates. The **25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of May** have been pencilled in. With restrictions easing, the school hope to arrange in person meetings for the new P1 cohort.

Mrs Bradford updated the committee on P7 transition dates: **9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June**. Again, both schools hope these will involve an in person / in building visit for P7 pupils.

## 7. Parent Survey / Working Group

A number of committee members attended online connect training around the cost of the school day. As a result of this, the committee are hoping to survey parents on what events they would like to see run in the school during the 2022/23 school year. A. Alison & E. Bradford will create a working group and a word document to go out to parents on forms.

The group discussed the most effective forms of communications with parents and parental engagement in general. The committee will work together with the school to explore ways in which to improve parental engagement. Committee members suggested forms, Seesaw and Facebook but further discussion is needed. S. Lamond discussed the positives of Trinity High School Official PTA Facebook page. A. Allan will look at Connect's Social Media training and will update.

## 8. Events – Prom / End of term disco

Prom is scheduled for **24<sup>th</sup> June** and the date has been given out to parents. Buses / Limos have been booked and parents have been asked for a £20 donation. The committee are very keen to ensure all pupils can participate in this event.

The prom includes a mocktail on the bus and a disco. The disco will start at 7PM at St. Columba's. Parents will be allowed in at the end for photographs.

Father John has kindly agreed to waive the hall fee this year and stressed that no donation would be needed due to fundraising constraints over the past two years.

The committee again discussed an End of Term disco for all pupils in May. However, this is dependent on COVID regulations and PVG checks.

## 9. P7 Hoodies

All hoodies have been ordered and a date for these to go out to pupils will be confirmed once they have arrived. There will be no cost to parents for the leavers hoodies as the parent committee and the school have agreed to fund these.

## 10. School Uniform Exchange

C. Ferguson suggested a school uniform exchange for the end of the year. The benefits of this include: re-using a huge volume of good quality lost property items; becoming a more sustainable school and easing the cost of the school day for parents. A. Allan suggested creating links with YMCA in Renfrew or using the church hall to allow parents to exchange school uniform. S. Lamond is part of a similar initiative at Trinity High School. C. Ferguson will liaise with A. Allan and S. Lamond about running this event.

## 11. Placing Request Appeal Hearing – Lay Panel Member Request

A. Allan explained the request from the council for volunteers from parent groups for this role, if anyone was interested to contact Paul Shiach.

## 12. Head Teacher Report – Mrs Fitzsimmons

World Book Day a success, lots of lovely comments on Seesaw from Parents, Pupil feedback has been positive. Reading Award evidence will be submitted at the end of the month and we are well on our way with ensuring every child in our school has a current library card.

Primary 7 have been participating in Royal Navy/Glasgow Caledonian University Luge and partnership working with Dyson.

Father John celebrated Primary 4 Reconciliation, this took place over 2 evenings and both were lovely. First Communion dates are out to families, restrictions in Church continue for this to 8 adults for each child.

Every stage in the school has attended a Laudato Si prayer service of commitment so we are now a Laudato Si school. Father John was very impressed by all stages manner and involvement at these services.

We have various after school sports clubs taking place weekly for a block of time - P7 football, P6 basketball, P5 Hockey, P4 Hockey, we also have a variety of lunchtime clubs run by members of our team for pupils across the school e.g., highland dancing and reading clubs, these have been very well received.

P7 had a lovely Mass of Enrolment as they continue to prepare for Confirmation, dates for this have been sent out.

Families are invited to our Cluster Lenten Stations Mass in St James' Parish on **Tuesday 29th March**, a flyer will be sent out to families soon.

We are delighted that our postponed whole school trip to Finlaystone is looking positive for going ahead (our Active Schools Team and on-site Ranger activities will be a part of the day).

P7 Transition visit dates to Trinity High School have been agreed and sent out to all

Primary 6 are thoroughly enjoying their Disney experience, performance dates have been agreed now and sent out, other year groups in school will watch some rehearsals in the lead up.

The lower school will benefit greatly from our new 'Marty the Robot' resource. The school and Parent Council have shown huge commitment recently to improving Digital Literacy throughout the school. This computer science resource is another example of how we are preparing our learners for skills for work and achieving equity for all. Computer science helps build upon, knowledge of coding, understanding and analysing technology and creating new ideas and solving problems.

Marty the Robot - Coding & STEM Robot for Kids - Robotical Marty the Robot is a fun, accessible tool for teaching STEM in the classroom. <https://robotical.io/>

### 13. Correspondence

The council requested a response on the preferred school holiday options for 2023/24. The committee were in agreement that option B was the preferred choice.

### 14. AOCB

C. Ferguson asked for confirmation on the Easter table at Broadloan Community gardens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The committee will need two volunteers for this, and sweetie cones were the preferred option for fundraising. A. Allan and C. Ferguson will liaise further on this.

S. Lamond has agreed to apply for flight path funding and the committee requested that any funding made available includes improving the outdoor area for young people.

C. McLaughlin and C. Ferguson will look at any corporate social responsibility funding available and J. Blake suggested approaching the council for further funding. J. Blake will forward information to A. Allan.

The school have now spoken to all the main uniform providers in the area in order to achieve a consistent approach to uniform across the school, including a tartan blue pinafore. The uniform policy is attached and can be found in the school handbook.

### 15. Date of next meeting

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 at 6:45pm