



ST JOHN BOSCO PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT ST JOHN BOSCO PRIMARY SCHOOL, ERSKINE

ON THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 18:00

Present: Mrs Gardyne (LG)
Mrs Kennedy (CK)
Christine Combe (CC) - Chair
Gordon Brown (GB) - Treasurer
Beth Mackay (BM) – Minutes
Donna Thorburn (DT)
Laura Mullen (LM)
Claire Booth (CB)
Claire Harkins (CH)

Apologies: Sharon MacDonald (SM)
Suzanne Banks (SB)
Alison Deakin (AD)

Head Teachers Report

LG updated the PC that attendance has become a concern across the school, consistent across all schools in the area, it has been discussed at recent head teachers meetings. The main driver of this is holidays during term time. 95%+ (equivalent of 2 weeks) is target below 95% attendance this there is a concern.

Currently 92 pupils (36%) have attendance below 95% which is a concern.

This is where the attendance certificates came from.

School attendance has fallen over the last 3 years. BM asked whether there was a sickness increase over the period which she has seen in her own work as a trend post covid. LK confirmed that they identify the reason for the absence and there is an increase in sickness, but the main driver is holidays.

The school have issued letters to parents with <80% attendance in October 2023.

GB asked whether it would be worth sending a comms regarding this to all parents to raise awareness and explain the reason behind the attendance certificate.

CC raised some concerns from parents regarding the attendance certificates as some parents felt bad having kept kids off in line with sickness rules but this has resulted in no certificate. LG and CK agreed and suggested the attendance certificate could be based on 95% and above.

LG confirmed that this is affecting all schools in the local authority.

The attendance table in the Head teachers report was well received by the Parent Council, it was suggested that this table is shared with parents for awareness.

Action - LG to share the attendance table on the app and attach to attendance letters.



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Late coming

GB asked whether the bus was a factor in these figures, LG advised that this was not a driver. DT asked whether it was consistent late comers, LG confirmed that this was the case and she picks this up with the relevant families, however she wants to ensure that they come in even if late. However this highlighted how this late coming can add up.

Relationship, Sexual Health and Parenthood

Previous guidance was from 2014 and needed update. Concern regarding what the guidance means for us in denominational schools, they are looking for responses from parents in particular questions 1 & 6 where the school and the diocese have the most concern.

Staff are trained and deliver gods loving plan currently.

Diocesan team provide guidance in this - the need is for the church to be able to shape how this is delivered in catholic schools.

It also dilutes the role of the parents to being informed rather than involved.

There is a link to letters templates for parents to use which will be shared. The deadline is in 1 week.

4 paragraphs have been reduced to a line for catholic schools, the feeling is there is a dilution and concern for what will happen in future.

Action – LG to share consultation and template letters on the app and CC will share on the parent council forums

Catholic education week (fortnight)

Runs for 2 weeks, the cluster schools have all contributed to a booklet. St John Bosco mass will be on 25th November at 16:30, LG encouraging all to attend.

Football kits

15 kits plus tracksuit top plus 2 goal keeper kits - £900 less £500 funding = £400 required from PC funds.

P1 registrations

Initial numbers are 34 children registered including children who could defer, placing requests tend to balance each other out. CH asked what the prior year intake was, LG advised 28.

SJB will be staffed for 10 classes next year. CH asked how this works space wise, LG advised we can do it but there is no spare space. The P1 & 2 zone is fine but the older school zones are tight.



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LG doesn't believe we would be given extra space if they ask for it, it will have to be 11 classes for this to be triggered. This would be >292 children to required more than 10 classes.

CH asked whether Bargarran have an ICT room, now that we are having to use our ICT room as a classroom. CK advised that ICT rooms aren't really required now as ICT is so integrated with all learning,

Quarriers

£2,783 – the cost for quarriers between Jan-Mar24

GB advised we have £3,600 sitting in the account at the moment. We would not be able to confirm until we know expected outflows/fundraising.

Action – with GB to look at this and what we could fund.

Actions from previous meeting

Updates noted in actions tracker.

Mattera Arising

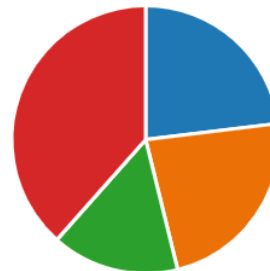
Parent survey

10 parents replied. The main comments are per table shared at the meeting.

4. If you answered no. Is there specific reasons for not attending?

[More Details](#)

● Time	3
● Family commitments/someone t...	3
● Work commitments	2
● Other	5





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6. To run events throughout the year, we are always looking for parent volunteers. Is this something that you think you could help us with?

[More Details](#)



8. As part of our evaluation we would like to gather thoughts on events carried out over previous school years. Please feel free to comment on events you may have attended....

10 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	New to the school in August so can't comment.
2	anonymous	Halloween Disco, Coffee Mornings
3	anonymous	Child always enjoys events. I do feel that compared to other schools in other council areas we don't have as many discos etc.
4	anonymous	Na
5	anonymous	Christmas after, spring fling
6	anonymous	Everything the Parent Council have arranged has been super organised and much appreciated.



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7	anonymous	Really enjoy all the events.
8	anonymous	We attended the Spring Fling and Halloween disco last year. Both very well organised.
9	anonymous	. no longer interested in Halloween disco. All the other events were great but as we know, take a lot of effort to organise. I know that over the last couple of years we've favoured straight from school events but I think it is still nice to try to have one community event (even every second year) on a Saturday or Sunday. Many of us work full time and are limited to the number of afternoon events we can get to and help at (especially the p7 year where final mass and p7 show all afternoon events too).
10	anonymous	Not attended any as child not interested

9. Any other suggestions?

10 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	I would be willing to attend online or in person parent council meetings
2	anonymous	0
3	anonymous	Continue to provide fun things to keep children engaged and socialising.
4	anonymous	Na
5	anonymous	Plenty on notice for events so parents can try attend, plan childcare etc
6	anonymous	N/a



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9. Any other suggestions?

10 Responses

5	anonymous	Plenty on notice for events so parents can try attend, plan childcare etc
6	anonymous	N/a
7	anonymous	I wonder if newsletters/updates on what is discussed during meetings would be helpful to share with other parents. I feel something to bridge between those parents who can attend meetings and those who can't would be beneficial particularly in keeping parents interested and trying to gather more support as the months go on.
8	anonymous	No
9	anonymous	See above
10	anonymous	Book swap

Feedback overall, one parent said we need to do things on a Saturday and a Sunday even every second year. However, CC highlighted we cannot get enough volunteers for weekend events. Crossover between PC and school events.

All other feedback was positive

One parent, requested that minutes from parent council meetings are shared.

Action – agreed that we would publish minutes, however these would be approved at the next PC meeting and signed prior to publishing.

One parent stated there is not enough notice for events

Another said that there were not enough discos compared to other school. Agreed we would be happy to run another event such as a valentines or summer disco.

CC spoke to other local parent councils who advised they set deadlines for volunteers or they cancel the events



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New whatsapp group

CC has created a new group however doesn't have admin rights on old group, this was resolved during the meeting.

Parking

LG offered to ask for the community police to come out. CH advised that Julie Calder had said she may be able to help.

Action – CC to contact Julie Calder and LG to arrange for community police to visit

Halloween disco

Feedback was all positive.

GB confirmed that we made a profit of £259.78.

CH asked whether we needed to do both the disco and snack the next day?

Action – LG and CC to discuss a date for a further disco later in the year.

Online meetings

Parents fed back that they would attend if meetings were online.

It was agreed that face to face worked best.

100 Club

We have 28 numbers available.

Agreed to have a table at the Spring fling.

CH asked that we make sure we are chasing up those who have said they would take one.

CH suggested a £36 up front annual payment may be helpful for some too especially grandparents etc.

Action - 100 club stand at next parents night and at spring fling and P1 induction.

Raffle

We didn't do a raffle last year, agreed we would do this year. Adult hamper and kids hamper.

Halloween hamper raised £155 and did well.



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Action – hamper donations from PC for the hamper by 30 November, hand into school

CC to arrange with Father Peter and Father David regarding raffle at church.

agreed to draw the raffle on last week of term.

Action – 50:50 at the Christmas show.

Santa gifts

Santa gifts are bought, wrapped and back to the school.

PC chairs meeting

CC updated on discussions at PC chairs meeting - Christmas fayres trading standards, if we are re-selling used toys, they may not comply with trading standards if they do not have instructions or contain batteries. It may have a fault. Need to look through everything before they were put out. Selling home baking it must be the right weight. We need to keep a record of all stall holders as they are third party sellers.

School lunches

Complaints as lunches are poor.

Treasurer's Report

Covered above

AOB

P7 School trip

CH suggested raising P7 school trips at P6 level to ask what they would like for their P7 school trip

- Parents may be willing to contribute more.
- LG will consider, she advised we would need to tie in with St Annes on this.

Football

CH raised concern about football tournaments being labelled as a boys tournament

LG advised it is open to girls however this year it happens to be all boys. However, she acknowledged it may be perceived this way as there is a separate girl's tournament.

CH raised that it may be the boys messaging this and girls picking up on this.



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Feedback received and LG will speak with TM on this.

Dates of Next Meetings

- Thursday 18th January 2024
- Thursday 14th March 2024
- Thursday 16th May 2024

Accepted as a true record of the meeting:

Signed:

Date: