

St Paul's Parent Council Meeting - Minutes January 2017

Present:- Mrs Maher, Mrs Smith, Yvonne Moohan, Marion Morrison, Louise Allan, Elaine McHugh, Karen Copland

Apologies:- Angela Elliot, Lindsay Ford

- Notes from previous meeting - nothing put forward
- Update on recent/upcoming events – Santa's Supper brought in £242, Children's cards raised £280. All good feedback from parents/carers with regards to events and a few areas that could be improved on and carried forward with regards to the running. It was suggested that the Parent Council rearrange the Race night that was provisionally agreed for February - this is to accommodate Miss Osbornes fundraising Ceilidh. It was suggested that the Race Night now be held on 28th/29th April. Due to the changes in the church, an alternative venue has to be found. Louise has suggested the Bield for a venue and has agreed to find out the costings/availability etc. (During the remainder of the meeting Louise managed to come back with the following info - choice of two halls available, £12/£15 per hour which includes use of the kitchen and both halls would be available for set up from 3pm. Though there would only be availability for Sat 29th).
- Accounts Update - Current balance is £2958.56. Receipts for £104.23 received for craft supplies from teaching staff, £759.05 paid for children's card designs, £55.40 paid for the let. It was agreed that the Parent Council will donate £1000 to the school for more IT equipment.
- P7 Prom - It was suggested that a meeting be held for the parents of P7's to discuss possible venues/costings etc. It was also suggested that the children be asked about their ideas with regards to venue etc.
- Parents Questions - Several parents have asked if the Homework Club be restarted? Response - Unfortunately due to teacher working time agreement there are not enough hours to cover the extra hours required to cover the homework club too. This session teacher additional hours have been used to prioritise the Maths club/project. However the Maths Club will be starting shortly and will run very similar to the homework club so should anyone wish to participate then please fill in the form sent home with the children or contact the school office. Some parents have asked if the timings of the club be altered as they don't fit in around work/other commitments? Response - Again unfortunately due to teacher working time agreement it's not possible to alter the timings. Most staff start approx. 8am and expecting them to go home and return at 7 for 8-10 weeks to accommodate clubs wouldn't be possible. It was also stated that it doesn't have to be just Mum or Dad that could attend the clubs with children, Gran/Grandad/Auntie/Uncle etc can attend with the child. It was raised that there are free Microsoft programmes available to schools. Response - These programmes are already available to children and are taught as part of their I.T. There are certain restrictions too when it comes to

technology available in school i.e. only certain equipment, programmes etc. have the go ahead by Renfrewshire Council. Should anyone feel that they have knowledge/expertise that can be offered to the school or that children may benefit from then please speak to Mrs Nicholson who is responsible for emerging technologies. Some parents have asked if it would be possible to have laminated check lists for children to follow with regards to remembering belongings etc? Response - Laminates are already in place for some children that may need a little more support but it's not something that will be rolled out across the whole school as many children do not require it. The children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own belongings where possible. If there's any parent that feels their child may need more support with this matter then they are asked to contact their child's teacher. Parents have asked if there are any support groups/homework clubs/question & answer sessions etc for families with children who have learning difficulties? Response - As it stands currently there is nothing running, however Marion Morrison has begun a volunteer placement with Families First and hopes that this may lead to a wider network of groups/parents/professionals etc that will enable more access to these. It is hoped that a broader range of professionals may be accessed in this way, and Marion has already had word of a Sleep Programme Worker who is available for workshops (this could be open to families who do not have children with learning difficulties too). It is hoped that there may also be the opportunity to open some form of parent to parent support. Marion has said that there may be space available at either Herriot primary (Families First Hub) or Brediland primary (Anex area). All of the information/resources will be outsourced therefore will not be an extra pressure on the school or affect teaching time. Some parents have asked if the Strawberry Tea Party will be returning? Response - The event is now the Celebration of Learning and is a whole school event. It was asked if the Parent Council could collect some more information from parents with regards to what they expect from this event in order to go forward. Some parents have asked if future own clothes days be spread out a little better to try and reduce some of the financial implications? Response - This will definitely be taken into account in future. Apologies for the short concentration of this before Christmas. This was due to time restrictions and events already planned. School and Parent Council will work together for future dates.

- Valentines Disco - Disco on 7th Feb, and was suggested that prices for new DJ be sought. Anyone with any information on new DJ please share with Parent Council.
- HT Business - Ceilidh for school funds, could the date of the Parent Council race night be altered to accommodate? (Previously covered). Maths Club - encourage as many families to enrol for the programme in order to make it as successful as possible. Coffee Afternoon for the old to new school - St Paul's Memory Day Friday 27th January 1.30pm Family and Friends welcome. Anyone with old school photos/stories then please share.
- Any other business - Elaine provides some information with regards to Aviva Community Fund - there's a possibility that we may be able to apply for grants for various causes. Elaine will find out more information for next meeting. Greggs also do some kind of funding for school breakfast clubs - more information on this is to be collected. School uniforms - Tesco provide embroidered uniforms at a fraction of the cost of school wear shops and they also donate a

percentage to school funds in the process. Costings and samples of the quality have to be found for next meeting.

- No other business.
- Next meeting Thursday 2nd February 2017.