

St Paul's Parent Council Minutes – Wed 4th May 2016

Present:- Susan Bell (Link Education Manager), Families First, Mrs Maher, Mrs Nesbit, Yvonne Moohan, Lesley Ramage, Angela Elliott, Marion Morrison, Louise Allan, Karen Copland, Lindsay Ford, Kirsty McLean

- Susan Bell has explained her presence at this evenings meeting was in response to a letter issued for and on behalf of the parents and carers of pupils within the school regarding the staffing issues. Susan explained that Renfrewshire Council and the wider governing bodies are aware of the issues (and that on a wider, national scale) and that they are working with the school in order to address the matter.
- Families First – They now have a local drop in area in the grounds of Herriot Primary school and are there to assist families in the local community with a wide range of things e.g. budgeting for a family, meal planning for healthy eating etc. They have also stated that they may be able to assist the Parent Council with things like First Aid training etc. Should anyone require any more information then they are free to contact them direct at Herriot or via the Parent Council/school.
- Mrs Maher's school updates – Interviews for the teaching posts within the school took place on 18th April, there are 3 permanent posts to fill. Miss Robertson will remain with us next year as will Miss Osborne and Miss Abbott will remain with us next year to cover maternity leave. Mrs Campbell is currently covering for Mrs Usher whilst she is on sick leave and Miss McCracken will remain in P6 until the end of term. Mrs Curran is on non-class contact, Miss Dundas will remain in P3 until the end of term and Mrs Wallace until Mrs Murdoch returns in mid June. In August Mrs Smith and Mrs McCaig will be returning from maternity leave on a part time basis. Mrs McLaughlin will be off until Dec/Jan, Mrs Gavin will be covering non class contact if she returns before the end of June. Mrs Ferguson starts her maternity leave at the end of term. Mrs Galloway will be retiring at the end of term, with interviews for her post to take place on 23rd May. The feedback from interim reports has been good and there had been a couple of suggestions for next year. Although the homework club has been successful, it is still missing some pupils that would really benefit. It has been suggested that next term there should be a two prong attack to try and target those requiring the extra support – possibly more direct invites to those pupils. Space for breaks next year may be an issue as building works get underway. More updates on this will be available as and when works are carried out. Foxlea's former building to be demolished from 16th May onwards but shouldn't cause any disruption as the nursery have already settled in to the former infant area of the school and full playground should be available until the end of term. Celebration of learning will be on 19th May 1.45pm – 2.45pm. Sports day will be on 2nd June – races will take place in the morning (parents welcome to these subject to weather conditions) and then team games will take place in the afternoon.
- Account Update – Book sale took in £51.85, Race night took in £2010.16. The Unit funds currently stand at £122 and £3147 for the school. Marion has asked the

Bank to change the statements from annually to quarterly and also asked for a Direct Debit to be set up for any future lets. The Parent Council have been asked If they could possibly donate to the cost of the whole school trip? The buses will Cost £880 and entry to heads of Ayr will be £8.00 per child. The school has asked parents to pay £5.00 towards the cost of this and the school will be left with the remainder. Marion will check to see what last year's donation was.

- Questionnaire Results – Of those that responded (68 replies) timing of the parents evening/work commitments/childcare were the main replies as to why parents are unable to attend. It was also pointed out that future fundraising events should have more class specific projects for people to purchase i.e. parents want to buy there own child/children's work. Suggestions for future events were Summer Fayre, Car Boot Sale, Coffee Morning, Old Skool Rave. And it was also noted that parents feel that the children should be involved in more school trips and have more outdoor play equipment.
- School Disco – Helpers will be required for both discos. There are currently 7 helpers for the 1st disco and 5 who can help at both. Lesley has agreed to check stock for the tuck and purchase anything required. Marion will settle any spending with Lesley.
- Communion Photos – There has been a good response from P4 parents wanting to purchase Communion photos. They will be sold for £3.00 each.
- Prom – P7 Prom is booked at the Lyndhurst for Thursday 23rd June 7pm until 9pm. The D.J. has been booked also. The decorations should be similar to last year – balloons at a cost of approx. £50. There should be 21 children in attendance and helpers will be required though not the parents of the P7children who attend. The Parent Council will buy the High School ties for a leaving gift, a list of which can be found from office, and the school will give a photo gift. Marion to price/purchase ties.
- New P1 Welcome – P1 induction will be on 1st and 8th June from 1.45pm. If there is anyone who can attend then can you please inform Mrs Maher. P1's will attend full days from the first day of new term and it was suggested that we hold a coffee afternoon for P1 parents as a welcome. The lunch and home visits will also take place before the end of term.
- Future Fundraising – As the play equipment from last year is damaged then it was suggested that this be the next fundraising cause. It was approx. £300 spent on last years equipment, so it was suggested that we look into buying more expensive, robust equipment that may withstand more.
A Family fun day was suggested for Sat 27th Aug in order to boost funds and also to welcome new families to the school. And plans for a Christmas fundraiser should be made as early as possible in next term.
- Other business - It has been suggested that Marion be a point of contact between the unit parents and the school parent council as they are often not in/around the school along side fellow parents. A letter is to be issued to those parents requesting a contact email/number in order to open up the communication.

Next meeting 1st June 2016.