



St. John the Baptist Primary School

Parent Council Minutes

13 September 2021

Present	Parents	Elected Members	Staff
	Martin Kane John Devitt Mhairi Devitt Kelly Weir Caroline Kane Jane Hassan Craig Wilson Jennifer McKerral Fiona Vornic Stephanie McDornagh Kevin Smith	Councillor McGuigan Councillor McCreary Councillor Devlin	Marie Beacom Carol Anne McNulty Catherine Houston
Apologies	Carrie Queen, Emma Connolly. Margaret Clarke, Laura Layden, Chantelle Mitchell		
Minutes			Actions
1.	Welcome and Introductions		
	Martin welcomes everyone in attendance and introduces new members to the group.		
2.	AGM & Nomination of Office Bearers		
	<p>Marie welcomed everyone to the AGM, and thanked everyone for taking the time to come along. Marie explained why the Parent Council is not in the school ie waiting on First Minister's announcement at the end of September to hopefully allow face to face meetings within school grounds.</p> <p>Marie explains the basics of the Parent Council meetings and what they represent and how members work hard to promote the school and the Catholic ethos and create a welcome community etc - it should be noted that it is not for individual matters regarding members of staff or individual issues.</p> <p>For the functioning of a Parent Council a minimum of 5 people must be present and a maximum of 15/20 are allowed to join.</p> <p>Ideally it would be great if one or two parents from each year group were represented but unfortunately we don't have the number of volunteers for this. It should be noted that Caroline Kane has a child starting nursery so we benefit from a parent having children in both the school and the nursery.</p> <p>The vote for a specific selection of chair and post holders was agreed as follows:-</p>		

	<p>Chairman – Martin Kane Vice Chairman – John Devitt Secretary – Mhairi Devitt Treasurer – Kelly Weir Church Rep – Catherine Houston</p> <p>Post holders remain the same as previous session.</p> <p>Martin agreed that he would do the required report detailing the previous session’s Parent Council work and funding etc.</p>	
3.	Head Teacher’s Report/Update	
	<p>Standards Quality Recovery Report and Recovery School Improvement Plan</p> <p>The Standards Quality Report for Session 2020/21 and the School Recovery Improvement Plan for Session 2021/22 were distributed to parents last week. Apologies were made to the Parent Council for this report not being discussed at Parent Council first but the deadline for the reports to be uploaded to the school website, and therefore available for all parents and the school community to view, was 31st August. Apologies were also made for the quality of the print as both reports were printed back to back, the end result was very dark.</p> <p>This reports can be found at: http://www.st-johnthebaptist-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/sjtbps_aboutus_176_936489608.pdf</p> <p>A Summary of the Standards and Quality Recovery Report for Session 2020/21</p> <p>Priority 1: Promoting the positive health and wellbeing of children and young people, parents/carers and staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Health and Wellbeing Passports were successful in identifying pupil next steps • Emotions Works Programme was successful in providing a structure for pupils to identify and discuss emotions using a progressive approach <p>Priority 2: Planning for Equity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockdown and Learning data obtained in June 2020 was analysed to engage low engaging pupils and later to closely monitor their learning progress • Formal Nurture Groups were introduced and were successful in supporting the children who participated <p>Priority 3: Continuity of Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of PM Benchmarking in P1-4 ensured that pupil’s progress in reading was regularly monitored which ensured that each pupil was allocated to the appropriate reading level to match their pace of learning • The school environment was regularly adapted to ensure all pupils were able to access our Recovery Curriculum <p>Nursery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of 600 hours over 2.5 days had a positive impact on pupils and led to secure attachments between staff and pupils forming very quickly 	

- The launch of the Nursery Twitter account enhanced communication between the nursery and wider community

Remote Learning

- All families, especially any vulnerable and low engaging families, were supported during Lockdown using an individualised approach
- The Emergency Childcare Hub provided a high level of care and education to vulnerable pupils and pupils of emergency care workers

Pupil Equity Fund: Interventions and progress towards closing the poverty related gap

- Communication was personalised during Lockdown to ensure that all vulnerable families remained safe
- Individualised packs of resources and food parcels were provided to support vulnerable pupils and their families

A Summary of the Recovery School Improvement Plan for Session 2021/22

Priority 1: Continuity of Learning

- Pupils' ICT skills which were developed during Lockdown will be maintained and developed
- Additional opportunities will be provided for the more able pupils

Priority 2: Promoting the positive health and wellbeing of children and young people, parents/carers and staff

- Continue to develop the Health and Wellbeing Pasports
- Provide a more targeted approach to meet the Health and Wellbeing needs of vulnerable pupils

Priority 3: Continuity of Learning

- Continue to use of Tracking and Monitoring system to identify any pupils who experience a barrier to their learning
- Use attendance data to closely monitor late coming and attendance of vulnerable pupils

Nursery

- Introduce full time education to Nursery pupils
- Build a strong extended staff team to accommodate the increase of pupils

Recovery Priorities:

- Maintain and update mitigations as necessary
- Continue to provide effective communication to pupils and parents

Pupil Equity Fund: Interventions and progress towards closing the poverty related gap

- Continue to use all data to ensure that appropriate pupils are included in interventions
- Continue to support parents and carers to ensure that attendance is maximised and late coming minimised

COVID report – we have a high number of staff absences due to COVID.

- Week beginning 30 August 4 class teachers tested positive – Marie Beacom and Laura Layden both displayed strong symptoms but produced negative PCR tests and so worked from home.
- Week beginning 6 September – 3 class teachers tested positive at this point other staff began to return to had been off self isolating. Mrs Clark tested positive she is off she should have been back tomorrow (14 September) but is very unwell. Two support staff are also off absent as they tested positive as well.
- Week beginning 13 September two class teachers are absent, one sent home for a PCR test and wont be back until they have received their results the other one is off but not with Covid. Two early years staff are absent waiting on PCR tests. Also we have one additional Early years member of staff off for jury duty.

It's been difficult making sure there was sufficient support for the classes to be covered but the Senior Leadership Team have ensured the continuity and progression of teaching in each class affected.

There are a number of pupils off in different classes because they have been positive or a member of family is positive. We are very grateful to parents for the common sense approach. P7 has been hit the hardest with attendance levels usually sitting at 97/98% on the whole this has dropped to 93% and then further dropped to 83% - only a handful of kids but not in majority of them are back. The kids were well enough when off but their taste and smell was gone.

The First Minister has asked for every school to monitor CO2 levels therefore two monitors are currently in place, one from the nursery and the school. This checks the temperature as well as the CO2 omissions in the room. Staff are also asked to note the number of people in a room and whether or not the windows are open. Staff note this information on an hourly basis for one day. The older kids are using this as a learning opportunity and making a data handling chart. When each learning area has been measured the information will be collated and sent in a spreadsheet to Housing and Tech at SLC headquarters. They will contact us if they have any concerns. We were chosen as part of a pilot scheme last year and we were well within safe levels.

The biggest teaching union, the EIS, have requested that mitigations remain the same. We did expect the spike to happen when the schools went back

Parents' Night will hopefully go ahead but be spread over one week. In the event that we cannot have parents in the school we will contact parents by telephone. A decision will be made after the First Minister makes her announcement at the end of September.

Caroline asked if it was likely additional measures may be brought in if there was a continued spike in schools in also if the CO2 monitors are showing unsafe levels? She also mentioned the possible use of HEPA air filters. Marie followed these questions up by explaining that each school has a general risk assessment that must be followed and we also have our own internal mitigations in place in the school ie split breaks and lunchtimes etc and that kids are still in their bubbles. The Nursery is risk assessed in the same way.

There are no concerns about any of the classrooms regarding Co2, Marie explained that when the motorway was extended there was a concern

regarding air pollution with the additional lane coming near the school so SLC installed a top of the range air conditioning system over that side of the building that brings in air from class and replaces this with fresh air. AMEY also attended a Parent Council meeting and stated that they had no concerns with regard to air pollution. Richard Lyle MSP and Humza Yousaf, the Transport Minister, also visited the school to listen to our concerns.

Classes at the other side of the school have wide windows and doors open. The Council would not see the necessity for extra air filtration systems, however, that is not to say if anything comes back then additional measures would be look at by the council.

Martin explained that HEPA air filter are usually used for buildings that don't have windows that open

Head Teacher's General Report

- Jennifer pointed out that her son is in P1 and that all this information is helpful and thanked Marie. Regarding the COVID updated she wondered whether any scope for Parents' Night could be done through Microsoft Teams to enable new parents to meet the teacher as she hasn't been able to yet. She also asked if the nursery use of classrooms in the school was a long term proposal or would this revert back eventually.

Marie explained that they had planned to have virtual meetings using Google Classroom but this would only work through a google email address - not all parents had that and then one other option was to use GLOW but this involves GDPR so you couldn't access a child's GLOW password without him being there – we were advised not to do that by headquarters. It was explained that pre-COVID there would have been a "Tea with the Teacher" meeting for all P1 parents to meet with school staff and ask any questions they may have had regarding school routines and procedures. To support parents the P1 teachers were in the process of making a video for parents which would pass the same information on. Parents have already been asked if they have any questions and the answers would be incorporated into the video. Unfortunately, this has not been completed yet due to the high number of staff absences.

- There are plans to purchase the portacabin. September/October is when this goes to committee.
- Caroline thanked the P2 teacher for all the information she has been given for her child. She asked about a visual system of categories on the wall as regards behaviour etc. Is this something that is used in the school? Caroline said there were parents whom she had spoken to who weren't happy about a behaviour chart system being used. Marie explained that this is effective in promoting positive behaviour. If any parents aren't happy about this they can contact Marie and Carol Anne directly and they would be happy to speak with them. Every class has different dynamics.

4.	Finance Report	
	£716.71 is the balance held. We recently got cheque for £36.61 from Easy Fundraising. The total fundraising which came from the sponsored walk was	

	<p>£4,299 the school added an additional £1000 and purchased two C-touches. These have been ordered and will be installed soon.</p> <p>Next meeting we will discuss fundraising ideas.</p>	
5.	Funding Sub-Group	
	<p>Martin is looking for volunteers for fundraising members</p> <p>Pushing more re easy fundraising through facebook page.</p>	
6.	AOCB	
	N/A	

7.	Date of Next Meeting	
	October 25 and December 6	