



St. John the Baptist Primary School

Parent Council Minutes

9 May 2022

Present	<p>Carol Anne McNulty Mhairi Devitt John Devitt Marie Beacom Martin Kane Carrie Queen Councillor McCreary Kelly Weir Kevin Smith Jennifer McKerral Councillor Devlin Caroline Kane Stephanie Scarafile</p>	
Apologies	Fiona Vornik, Craig Wilson, Laura Layden, Margaret Clark, Catherine Houston	
Minutes		
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
2.	Head Teacher's Report/Update	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Covid Update – there have been no Covid related staff absences and very few children absent since the beginning of term. The updated mitigations reflect a common sense attitude and to stay at home if unwell. A letter from Jason Leitch has been sent out to parents. The idea of moving the PC back to the staff room was welcomed by all. 2. Nursery Update – the nursery admissions have been allocated and our numbers are now capped and we are now full. The school requires one classroom back for the reconfiguration of classes. All parents who have been successful have been lettered, a few unsuccessful parents have been allocated other nursery places in the area and have been advised to complete a Transfer Request Form so that if a place in our nursery becomes available they would be included in this. 3. Sacramental Update – We are in the middle of the First Holy Communion preparations which take place on Saturday 14 May at 11.00 am and 1.00 pm. There are 41 children in total making their communion. We have arranged for Maureen Bell to take family photographs in the hall. 	

4. **Primary 7 Transition** - John Reilly, Head Teacher, from Holy Cross High School has arranged for all P7 children in the Learning Community to visit Holy Cross on 9 and 10 June for a 2 day transition visit. All placing requests have been accepted for Holy Cross so the children's friendships groups will be easier to allocate to classes. A few other children are going to other schools. For the first time since Mrs Beacom has been headteacher no child is going to Cardinal Newman.

Katy Reilly, the Active Schools Co-ordinator, organised a Dance Festival at Holy Cross for the P7s to participate in. This was met with some apprehension but Mrs Beacom spoke to the children and asked them just to try it. The children really enjoyed the practice sessions and all of the 15 children who attended represented the school.

5. **Nursery/Primary 1 Transition** – The past few years have had to consist of doorstep visits from Mrs McNulty to enable her to have an initial face to face meeting and chat with new parents and children to give as much information for children starting school as possible. Due to the restrictions having been relaxed it is possible to get parents in to the school for a little tour. This is welcome news as it is hard to build relationships with the children and their parents when not able to meet in person. Mrs McNulty has organised a tour for the week beginning 23 May where the children can come into to school with one of their parents and the House Captains will guide them round the school and take them to the Primary 1 classrooms. The second visit on the 10th June will allow the children to gain a sense of life in Primary 1 by visiting the classes and completing a range of activities with class teachers. Mrs Beacom will present the parents with a powerpoint providing more information about the school for parents. This pre-entrant programme means that the P7s are able to help with the tours and also allows the new starts to meet their P7 buddies. Our current nursery children are very excited about the tour. Mrs McNulty will also visit individual nurseries to speak to the children and their allocated key workers. There is also an enhanced transition programme for any children who have additional support needs.

6. **Virtual Parents' Night/School Cloud** – the last Parents' Night was hosted using the School Cloud platform which was paid for by SLC. Although Mrs McNulty had worked hard to correctly set up the system, staff were apprehensive about how this was going to work but generally speaking the system worked well. Any parents who could not get logged on received a phone call from staff on the night.

Viability for this going forward was met with varied reviews i.e. staff were quite positive as the technology worked better than they thought, it suited some parents better and really helped focus on main points. Negatives were that parents did prefer an actual meeting as it was felt that there was no opportunity to build relationships with the teacher, also it was felt parents missed out not seeing the children's work which was always laid out in the waiting area.

It could be an option to do a hybrid parents night if a parent wanted to do this digitally this could may be be looked at. This will come down to cost as SLC paid for this this year but going forward this will be £580 plus VAT. This cost may be a factoring issue as this will be from the school budget.

Caroline Kane gave feedback and found it easy to use and thought the limit of 7 minutes was good.

John and Mhairi Devitt said the system was great but slightly rushed and you never got to see the children's work.

A few other parents commented that they preferred to actually be in the school and meet the teacher.

The turn out on the cloud was a similar percentage (97%) as to the actual attendance at face to face parents nights. Jennifer commented that it was much better than a phone call. Kelly prefers to come into the school again to see the kids work she prefers face to face. She feels it is important to have parents in the school for face to face. Councillor Devlin commented to be mindful that come October where the cost of living has risen so much that some families may not have access to internet and WIFI facilities.

7. **Outdoor Visits** - all staff have been asked to organise an outdoor visit so each class is in the process of doing this. P1 and P2 have arranged to go to Almond Valley on Wednesday and Room 11 are also visiting the Scottish Parliament.
8. **Participatory Budgeting – Lunchtime and After School Clubs** - £1,500 was allocated to clubs after a consultation exercise with the staff, pupils and parents. After consulting with children living in SMD 1 or 2 or receiving free school meals, Mrs Clarke organised a range of lunchtime and after school clubs and these children will be given priority to attend.
9. **Class Configurations** – there is a high number of catchment P1s. Some placing requests have been refused. We will require 12 classes due to numbers therefore taking back one of the classrooms which the nursery is currently using.

Clyde Terrace Nursery has been held up as extra works are needing done. Councillor Devlin spoke with Vance Sinclair and he seems quite confidence that this will be up and running next August.
10. **Primary 4 Music Programme** – P4 have been involved in a Spring into Summer Music Programme organised by SLC. An instrumental music teacher gives weekly lessons using a blend of in person and online delivery of the session. This will last for 10 weeks.
11. **Lunchtime Science Club** – Mrs Summers has been running a lunchtime science club for P5. Gillian Reilly the Primary Science and Sustainability Development Officer visited the club and was really impressed with the children's activities and science knowledge. As this has proved popular we have to rota the club so Mrs Summers will be running another session this term with the

	<p>theme of Science and your DNA. Entries for this have to be in for Monday 9 May.</p> <p>12. Combined Use of Sand Trays Talk And Draw (CUSTTAD) - Mrs Clark has been attending training which explores children's concerns using a talk and draw and sand tray method. Margaret completed the first half of the course so we will be able offer CUSTTAD next session. Children in the school have previously been referred to CUSTTAD but have attended schools in Cambuslang to do so. The school also accesses the Counselling in Schools Service have Councillor that comes in for P6 and P7 kids.</p>	
3.	Finance Report	
	<p>£965.00 inclusive of £248.53 received from Easy Fundraising. The PTA will pay for the soil for the trees and the school ties. We are awaiting receipts for the soil. The school will buy the ties and then the parent council will reimburse the school.</p>	
4.	Fundraising – Sponsored Walk	
	<p>This has been reorganised and the dates changed. A flyer has been drafted with the same two routes as last year. There are 14 letters to find and the kids have to find same letters across the two routes but then solve a statement about the school. There will be prizes. The kids will hand completed answer in on their sponsor form then the PTA will draw five entries out a hat. Various vouchers will be purchased as prizes. The flyers can be handed out immediately. Next week the kids will be given sponsor forms out. The new date is 4 and 5 June.</p>	
6.	AOCB	
	<p>Caroline asked about PEF money how this is spent and also what musical education is provided for under P4. – Marie said the music is usually the class teacher for this age group but the kids will be getting more music. PEF money is spent on staffing. We were awarded £24,000 and a teacher for one day for the school term is £12,000 which enabled a member of staff to run new maths resources and also alternative pathways for kids who may be struggling with work. It has also helped fund an additional literacy pathway for new reading material for both the lower and upper level in school.</p> <p>The PEF money this year only amounts to £17,000. It was felt by the staff that this may perhaps be the wrong amount and after contact this cannot be clarified as to how this amount is calculated. Councillor McCreary and Councillor Devlin both said they would help try and get answers regarding this.</p> <p>Kelly wondered if it could be an option for the previous P7s now in S1 to come back and talk to the P7 who are ready to go to secondary to reassure them and let them know what it is like. Marie said this is more of a high school role that the S1s will talk to them at the P7 transition days. This is something that could be considered.</p>	

7.	Date of Next Meeting	
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	12 th September – 7.00 pm AGM - Staff Room	
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