



St. John the Baptist Primary School

Parent Council Minutes

13 March 2023

Present	Laura Layden Mhairi Devitt Marie Beacom Martin Kane Kelly Weir Kevin Smith Craig Wilson Councillor Maureen Devlin Margaret Clark Helen Darroch Angela Hoey Jane Hassen Jennifer Small Ruth Mellor John Devitt Stephanie Scarafile Gemma Smith Catrina Boyle
Apologies	Catherine Houston, Carolanne McNulty, Caroline Kane & Fiona Vornic
Minutes	
1.	Welcome and Introductions
	Kevin welcomed everyone and ran over previous minutes. No-one had any comments to make on these and everyone seemed happy enough to proceed. He said he had not managed to do a letter to SLC regarding the pitches but will get this done and run it by Marie before next meeting.
2.	Head Teacher's Report/Update
	1. Nursery Update - admissions are now closed as of the last day in February. The panel will sit towards the end of March/beginning of April and decision letters will be out before the end of June regarding places. The external adaptation, ie external cladding to match the external décor of the school and a new adapted area for the kids to change and have shade was supposed to have been carried out and completed in the summer holidays. This work will now begin when the new Clyde Terrace Nursery opens and this will down to SLC who will decide on timing. We had hoped the extension on the school would have been done at the same time as the nursery work but this is not the case. It is not yet known whether kids will need to be moved into the school or

not while the work is getting done. Marie is waiting to hear further regarding both of these.

2. **Building Adaptations Update** – the school kitchen was supposed to have been refurbished and during the Easter holidays but it has now been decided to do that over the summer and will be completed before kids return in August. The dining hall extension will begin in July and be completed for January 2024. There is ongoing discussions regarding the compound area which will be from the building out to the edge of the gate and will take over part of the playground. The rezoning of the pitches will need to be considered and specific times for deliveries etc which is still being discussed.
3. **Book Fair** – this was a great success and the school received £1600 in commission which Laura Layden is purchasing additional reading resources and the like.
4. **Sacramental Update** - the Confirmations took place on 8 March and this was a really beautiful service. Bishop Toal sent an email thanking us and for the kids contribution on the day. The First Reconciliation service on Thursday of the same week was slightly different and a lovely family celebration Father Ivan wanted this done at night instead of during the day and we were very surprised with the volume of families the came along. It's been decided that this will be the way forward for future years.
5. **Participatory Budgeting** - this is when you consult parents, staff and kids within the school on how to spend the allocated £1000 which we received. This is approximately 5% of our total Pupil Equity Fund budget. New playground equipment was the most popular choice and this is being delivered in varied deliveries so once this all comes and everything has been received it will be given out into the playground. We bought an imaginative shop area, writing boards, hula hoops, balls etc and the kids were looking for music equipment as well but this will come from the school.
6. **Primary 7 Transition** - all P7 kids can attend the transition day at Holy Cross on Friday 24 March even if their placing request decision has not come through yet. The 8 and 9 June is when the two day visit to Holy Cross takes place where they will be allocated their classes etc but if the placement requests are to be received by then then those kids who have submitted one will not be able to attend.
7. **Nursery/Primary 1 Transition** – Marie is hoping to re-establish the BUGS group which is when all the children from our school and the other schools all join together and have a fun day. This is a lovely day and previously P6 buddies used to go but this may be too many people now. Marie is speaking with the other head teachers of other three schools to get this arranged so this is in hand. Marie is also trying to set up an additional transition process so all preschool kids will come into the school for the day.
8. **Parent Council Charity Status** – There is a parent within the school, Helen Milligan, who can get a grant of £2000 from British Gas for the school for whatever is needed, however, the PTA

	<p>needs to be registered as a charitable status but there may be some disadvantages in doing this. Kevin stated that there is a lot of regulations surrounding becoming charitable status but if this works for other parent council and could grant us various grants then it may be worth thinking about. The level of work involved and responsibility to become a charity is quite involved. Martin contacted Steven Sweeny from SLC as they do work with community groups etc around the charity status. He is going to allocate an officer to have an informal chat to see what is involved just to see whether or not it is worth doing. Marie will see if she can get a contact at St Mary's whose PTA are registered as a charitable status.</p>	
3.	Finance Report	
	<p>The fundraising night raised £1630.50 in profit and it was a great night had by all the reviews were excellent so it is thought that perhaps another one could be arranged maybe twice per year. These funds are being spent on 6 chrome books and the school will add 2/4 to that dependent on budget. So hopefully this would be 8/10 new chrome books.</p> <p>The sum of £1331.09 is in the bank for the PTA funds which will need to be used to pay suppliers etc for the Summer Fete.</p>	
4.	Fundraising – Summer Fete	
	<p>Some of the PC have been attending additional meetings with some of the parents from Muiredge Primary - an appeal was made to other members of the PC as we need more volunteers to help with the organising of this day. The agreed date is 10 June and the let has been submitted for this and accepted for The Street at The Grammar. It was explained to Councillor Devlin the problems we are having booking the other rooms etc due to SLC giving up responsibility for them and Maureen says she will try and sort out this issue and to send her an email. Mhairi will try phoning the Let Department tomorrow to see if there is any more information. There is a meeting in Angels on 27 March at 7.00 pm – an appeal for more volunteers are needed. Kelly has put an appeal onto a business page for stall holders and has had good feedback. A non-uniform day will be planned for tombolla prizes. Mhairi is to speak to Let Department re booking stage as this has to be done separately. It was suggested that it might be an idea to get the nursery kids to perform on the stage on the day. This brings people in. Mhairi said she would speak with Chris regarding having the ice cream van down for a few hours.</p>	
5.	AOCB	
6.	Date of Next Meeting	
	15 May 2023	

