



St. John the Baptist Primary School

Parent Council Minutes

25 October 2021

Present	Councillor McGuigan, Councillor McCreary, Carolanne McNulty, Mhairi Devitt, Martin Kane, Kelly Weir, Marie Beacom, Laura Layden Councillor Devlin, Caroline Kane, Craig Wilson, Jennifer McKerral, Fiona Vornick, Anne McCluskey (Nursery) Karen Cushley (Nursery) Catherine Houston Margaret Clark
Apologies	John Devitt
Minutes	
1.	Welcome and Introductions
	Martin welcomed everyone into the first PTA meeting being held within the school since COVID restrictions were put in place.
2.	Chairperson's Annual Report
	Martin runs through his annual report regarding what was achieved last year. A brief summary on the position re the C-Touch's was discussed and we are now at the end of this campaign – two have been ordered and the cables are in then IT are coming to install before Christmas.
3.	Head Teacher's Report/Update
	1. Parental Feedback Phone Calls – since the last meeting almost all parents were contacted and messages were left for the few parents whom we were unable to get any contact with.

2. **Nursery Expansion and Adaptions** – the expansion programme converting classrooms 1 and 2 over the summer into nursery space was worked through the summer and although at some points slow for staff coming in most resources are in place now and the kids are loving it. 67 places are taken up and 8 are still to come in between now and February so we are nearly at full capacity. We might be in the school the whole of this year and perhaps into a second year – the big nursery at Clyde Terrace is running behind and is not expected to be open until at least January 2023. The door entry system is still to be upgraded but most renovation work has been done. Still waiting on signs coming in these have been ordered. Councillor McGuigan informed us that the substation needs moved this will be coming up at the next Council meeting this could be a stumbling block on the building of the nursery therefore 2023 is the realistic date. Thanks were given to Mrs Cushley, Mrs McCluskey and Mrs Layden for their hard work getting the nursery up and running.
3. **Education Reform** – there was a review of the Curriculum for Excellence to remove the function of school inspection from Education Scotland. There was a webinar that took place on 27 October.
4. **Participatory Budgeting** - Margaret Clark informed the parent council and this is a way for stakeholders to become more involved in the decisions making rather than just a vote. This comes from the Scottish Government who made a commitment for 1% of the allocated budget for this. SLC agreed that 5% of PEF funding would be located to this. £1,500 is the sum received by the school – the stakeholders were a mixture of parents and pupils who were asked to come up with ideas to help close the poverty gap within the school. The group met in the school in two groups parents and pupils and gave their ideas into a pyramid format there was really good discussion from both sides. All ideas have been put out to vote – today was the last day for voting. The final results were to provide transport for established after school clubs. The school will speak to the children that are part of this bracket and find out what clubs they would like. This will be done very discreetly. We are looking at relaunching the library. An idea was also a swap shop for stationary. Kelly gave some of the ideas that were run by the groups ie costume swap shop, fun 31 games donation etc. See Section 8 for updated information on after school clubs.
5. **Covid Update** – the Friday before the October break was the first day we had no staff absences due to Covid for the whole year. We are hoping we have peaked and that we have no more cases with staff. Current mitigation's must remain the same which was report from the First Minister.
6. **Free Meal Entitlement Capacity** – the Scottish Government has given free school meals to P1 to P4 in January this will be extended to P5 and then extended to full school eventually. This means that this would be an issue with seating children. This will

pose a problem with the staggered lunches until they are removed. The Scottish Government are providing budgeting for extending and amendments will have to be made to sections of the school to provide for all this. We were looking at giving a section of the ICT suite for staff to be able to work but this is unfortunately not going to be possible. We are using half of the GP room for staff which can also be used for meetings etc for both staff and kids – this is an ongoing matter and an update from the Council will be given once known.

7. **Give Us a Break Training** - Carolanne went on given us a break training, Laura and Marie have also completed the training and this means that they are qualified in therapy for children aged 10 to 14. For younger kids there will be another program in place which Anne McCluskey co-wrote. We now have qualified members of staff for children who require a little bit more support for issues which are going on in children's lives outwith school. The parents will have to be spoken to before this can happen. This is an 8 week block programme. This will be organised November/December and begin in January. This is a really valuable resource and is similar to a mini calms support group.
8. **After School Clubs** - Margaret Clark talked about this earlier. Specialists are allowed to be brought in to the school now so clubs will be – Tues - girls and boys football. Chess on a Monday and Judo on Thursday – they will give taster sessions. This will be PEF money that covers this for any child who needs this. Leaflets will be handed out for these clubs. We are re-launching the library with Eleanor being our librarian - good quality books are needed. The book club that used to run hasn't been on but that is the plan.
9. **Halloween** – the arrangements are as last year – unfortunately no parents are allowed within the school so the children will have a party within their own class. – If it's dry may be a parade will take place outside for all the school to show off their costumes.
10. An arrangement with Carol Fabian from Holy Cross to do the transition meeting for the P7 via google classroom and the two P7 classrooms will do this on Monday 1 November at 2.15.

Caroline Kane asked for an update on ventilation – Marie explained all forms were filled in and a spreadsheet emailed to Housing and Tech. They have not heard anything so the CO2 levels are within the safe limits – no contact has been made so no issues are within the school. Coming into winter the doors and windows are open and the kids are happy. Air Con is on all the time.

Reading materials are quite old from early 90s although in good condition. Reading programmes are refreshed often – Oxford Reading Tree was what was followed in past years. What we have done is book banding using all sorts of reading materials the kids very quickly memorised the

	characters hence the need for refreshed materials. Oxford Literacy Web has a wider choice of books for kids.	
4.	Finance Report	
	There has been nothing spent since the last time. Easy Fundraising is being used more now and this should be promoted more especially in the run up to Christmas. Mhairi Devitt is now in charge of the Easy Fundraising account.	
5.	Funding Sub-Group	
	<p>Christmas café will not be going ahead this year but Christmas Enterprise will – this will be similar to last Christmas and turned out very successful.</p> <p>Christmas calendars will go ahead this year – Tracey Jolly is happy to organise this. Martin will make contact with Tracey.</p> <p>Some fundraising event during February would be good and was discussed – Martin is going to talk to the PTA group at Muiredge and get some ideas. Some ideas put forward were a silent/skills auction – Craig explained it could be giving up something you like or if you can do music etc giving up an hour of time and offering this time for people to bid on - this was thought to be a good idea – Craig and Martin will look at this.</p> <p>It was discussed in the run up to the summer we will do the sponsored walk again.</p>	
6.	AOCB	

7.	Date of Next Meeting	
	29 November 2021	

