



St. John the Baptist Primary School

Parent Council Minutes

20 May 2024

Present	Kevin Smith Kelly Weir Caroline Kane Father Ivan Mhairi Devitt John Devitt Ruth Mellor Margaret Clark (DHT) Cath Currie (HT) Councillor Kenny McRae Louise Parker	
Apologies	Craig Wilson, Carolanne McNulty, Fiona Vornic, Jane Hasson, Helen Darroch, Angela Hoey	
Minutes		
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
	Introduction and welcome was made by Mrs Currie the Head Teacher of St John the Baptist	
2.	Head Teacher's Report	
	<p>Staffing – Mrs Devlin and Mrs King are both retiring at the end of this school term and Miss Rowatt is leaving as she has come to the end of her contract. Miss Murphy is also leaving as she too is at the end of her contract. Laura Layden, who was at Jackson for one year, is returning to St John's but Mrs Horne is also leaving. It is great for the school to have Mrs Layden back but a shame that her placement has been cut shorter than expected. We are hoping to have two newly qualified teachers but this has still to be confirmed. We are in a fortunate position this year with numbers and all placing requests were granted. The sorting of classes is an ongoing task at the minute but it was asked to be noted that these could be subject to change if any more children join the catchment area of the summer. We have 13 classes for next year instead of 12.</p> <p>Extension – this is now completed and looks great. The modernisation work to the kitchen has been postponed and is now not being done in the summer as the money has not been released yet but we are on track to get a new kitchen in the near future and we are more than able to manage with what we have just now. The benefits of the extension are excellent at the minute so the kitchen works postponement is just a little inconvenience.</p> <p>Nursery – the nursery will start the year back at the cabin and the school gets the classroom back which is needed. All children will be back in one</p>	

	<p>campus and the works carried out with be done during holiday time. The pitch work is imminent and at present is still on the cards so fingers crossed this is a regular point of discussion with SLC and looks as if these discussion are going well.</p> <p>Staffroom – this has again suffered bad leaks so this is not being used at the minute but the works will be carried out for this and the school modernisation team have been out and have been up on the roof to look at longer term fixes which might be available. All works that were ongoing remain ongoing except the extension which is finished. The staff room is safe to use as a temporary fix has been made.</p> <p>Playground Equipment – Louise Parker was showing how the money that was raised, through various events ie summer fete and Christmas calendars etc, was used for – financial wise £3,500 was spent on all new equipment for the school playground and this was payed out for the PTA to see. A power point presentation was played detailing the plans and all items purchased and then these were shown – an absolute huge amount of resources and items for the money spent it was excellent and so may different resources bought. Louise explained how this was spent and also explained how some of this funding was used supporting individual families with different costings etc. There will be an invite sent out to all parents to enable them to come in to see what has been bought one day after school and we will also have a uniform bank if anyone needs anything. Some funding has also been used to support school trips by bringing costs down. At the most recent Development Day Maureen Farr, who is in charge of the cost of the school day worked with our staff so the staff are now more in hand with grants etc.</p> <p>There are two portacabins which are in the playground for storage one for the nursery and one for the school. Kevin is going to speak to a few spray paint artists he works with on making these more desirable to look at and he will come back to us. Kelly has been in touch with the Men’s Shed but unfortunately they have had to withdraw a lot of offer of support for now due to vandalism but they will provide in the future some backless benches and also Perspex square which they could perhaps attach frames to for kids to paint on and also turn the pallets into water features – they seem confident to be able to do these things. Father Ivan has Perspex that he will donate to the school. John is going to see about pallets also guttering tubing is needed. Councillor Devlin and Councillor McCleary are arranging a meeting with the council for various fundings etc. they are going to try and get funding for the Men Shed to help them out.</p>	
3.	Finance Report	
	<p>There is currently £1,328.48 in the account. A cheque for £48.96 has come in from Easy Fundraising. Paid out £250 into summer fete fund start up costs – the float will be split between the two schools. Other spending was a gift for the retirement of one of the dinner ladies.</p> <p>Easy fundraising will be changed over to instant payments instead of cheques and Mhairi will contact them to arrange this and to change the name to Kelly.</p>	
4.	Fundraising – Summer Fete	

	<p>Update – Kelly and Kevin are supporting the Muiredge parents in organising this event and attending meetings every two weeks – its very busy and time consuming but very much a partnership between the two schools. Everything is on track for same scale event as last year with a few changes (1) Main Street area change (2) dance school SLC have halved the stage and explained that to have the added extension to the stage is would cost thousands of pounds which is pointless. Dealing with SLC and SPEI is really difficult. This year there is charges for everything so additional sponsorship has been sought to counter these costs and also this year we have taken the kitchen which is also an extra costs. All costs so far have been covered by sponsorship. We are still trying to source a grand prize and there is an appeal out for something. More volunteers are needed for set up and also Father Ivan will announce at mass for volunteers for the day and night before. He will put the QR code in the church bulletin.</p>	
5.	AOCB	
	<p>Ruth touched on the Smart Form Free Childhood Campaign, which is a campaign running down south which holds off having a phone for kids and is encouraging kids not to have smartphones given the dangers they could be faced with. Ruth is setting up a subgroup regarding this issue and will put out a survey to get people’s perception of this. Would the PTA be supportive of something like this going on? Mrs Currie said yes this would be supported by the school and also the PTA would support this too.</p> <p>The PTA will purchase the school ties for high school for the kids leaving to go to high school.</p> <p>Leavers disco there will be food, popcorn and candy floss.</p> <p>Kevin noted this being the last meeting of the School year and gave thanks to both John & Mhari Devitt for their long service in the parent council in excess of 10 years as they inform of their departure alongside their youngest child moving to High School after the Summer break.</p>	
6.	Date of Next Meeting	
	AGM Monday August 26 2024 7pm	

