



Parent Council Meeting Minutes

AGM – 23rd August 2024 – 7pm, Staff Room, ST John Primary School.

In Attendance

Mrs Currie, Miss Parker, Mrs McNulty, Kevin Smith, Kelly Weir, Craig Wilson, Caroline Kane, Jordan Phillips, Fr Ivan Boyle, Chris Gartshore, Chloe Clark, Cllr Cal Dempsey, Maureen Devlin, Helen Darroch, Claire McGraw, Jennifer McKerrell, Stephanie Scarafile, Ruth Mellor, Deborah Quinn, James Quinn, Paul Sheridan, Jane Hasson, Christine Denholm.

Apologies

Lauren Connor, Kirsty Anne Walker, Fiona Vorlic, Angela Hoey & Cllr Kenny McCreary

Introductions followed by chairperson report, key highlights of term 23/24 which were:

- Retirement of Mrs Beacom
- Recruitment of Mrs Currie
- School inspection complete – (HMIE visit)
- Cost of the school day policy
- Fundraising

Two Successful Fundraisers of 23/24:

- Family Night – January- held at Tannochside Miners
- Summer Fete – June – held at Uddingston Grammer and partnered with Muiredge Primary.

Funds, Spending and Updates from 23/24:

- Playground improvements
- Extension complete
- Roof Repairs not fixed long term; measures were taken but ongoing issues
- Nursery – all children moved to the Portacabin – now complete.

Financial Report and Updates from the Parent Councils funds 23/24:

- Banking now online after long-term effort, overcoming many barriers
- Money contributed to the playground equipment
- Parent Night – Easy fundraising app implemented
- EasyPay now online and accessible

Mrs Currie & Kevin reviewed the Parent Council constitution, highlighting functions for newer members and attendees.

Elected office bearers of the Parent Council 24/25 session:

As voted for and confirmed at the meeting:

Chair – Kevin Smith **Vice Chair** – Kelly Weir **Treasury** – Helen Darroch **Secretary** – Deborah Quinn

First Meeting of 2024 / 2025 session – New Agenda

Mrs Currie's updated are as follows.

Staff Updates:

- Welcome back to Mrs Layden as Principal Teacher – returning from secondment from Jackton Primary. Now sharing P4 room 8.
- Welcome back Mrs Mackenzie (returning from maternity leave)
- Welcome back Mrs Divers (returning from maternity leave)
- Mr Cassidy returning covering classes from Wed- Fri.
- Welcome Miss McAlroy sharing P4 room 8 with Mrs Layden.
- Welcome on a permanent basis to Mrs Amanda Kyle as a Head Cook.
- Goodbye to Mrs Rowett and Mrs Murphy

Nursery Staff Updates:

- Welcome Miss Logan
- Welcome Mrs Stewart

Other Updates and points of discussions:

- Mrs Fagan (HT Holy Cross) reports that the previous P7's are settling well into Holy Cross
- PEF Funding school has secured around £18500 (based on children entitled to free school meals).
- Barnardos support throughout whole year and during school holidays
- Money spent specifically for families and home learning resources

Developing Play, Classes, and Fundraising Needs:

- P1 sharing a C touch screen, one additional new one required.
- 13 classes in the school this year
- Screens cost £2700 and essential to each class
- Parent council agreed that funds raised should be used to purchase this C- touch ensuring one for use in each classroom

Targeted Intervention

- One to one support
- PB Consultation
- Individual family support
- Immediate support with vouchers offered to families.

Building Works

Schools' modernisation team are working with council builders on:

- Roof that is still leaking

- Leaking in new extension due to roof issues
- Mrs Currie working on the roof issues – keeping in regular contact with architects and property managers
- No update on the pitch discussions (pitch is not in a great state and hoping to improve again)
- No update, as yet, on nursery work needed.
- New kitchen to be fitted. Awaiting dates
- Parents are keen to support and the Parent council would like to write a letter outlining concerns.

Actions :

- Kevin (chair) is writing a letter on behalf of the parent council expressing concerns.

Supporting Inclusivity:

- Summer fete example- Discreet bands distributed to ensure economical inclusivity for families
- Summer fete example - Quieter hour for neurodiverse pupils, or anyone with sensory sensitivities that want to attend.
- Excursions and costs for families discussed.

Child Poverty Action Group – Guidelines for school trips

- Educational excursions should be no cost for families
- Non educational trips would ideally have no cost for the families (there is scope for a small amount to be charged for these if required).

School Priorities

- Inspection overall very positive – proved to be a nurturing environment
- This year focus; teacher training on improving skills eg; writing
- Last year focus play/ outdoor play
- Mrs Currie looking at ways to engage parents - ongoing
- Nursery priorities – pedagogy
- Racial diversity
- Compassion
- Equality
- Cost of the school day - School trips discussed & cost of trips for parents with multiple children.

Actions for this:

- Parent Council suggested getting definitions of Educational and non - educational.
- Mrs Currie to send out surveys / consultations as required.

HMIE feedback

- Found children to be warm polite and showing community spirit
- Found staff were focussed on children happiness and well being
- Focussing on suggested improvements: pacing children’s learning, tracking wider achievements and skills
- Report available online for 5 years

- Taken forward - Miss Parker focussing on Cost of the School Day
- Taken forward - Achieved Bronze Award for Rights Respecting School

Smartphone Free Childhood Group – Ruth updated alongside the core group

Summary of this group is that they are working on:

- Petition looking for 5k signatures
- Pact between parents to agree an age when children should be allowed devices to avoid peer pressure
- Looking for as much parental engagement as possible
- Whatsapp group set up – all welcome
- Additional small working group – accepting members
- Survey was available on parent portal
- Please see attached the resources and more detailed updates from this action group.

Fundraising 24/25:

Events Planned:

January Fundraiser

- Looking for supporters/ organisers' and agree at next meeting if going ahead.
- Volunteers needed

Summer Fete

- Discussed significant level of planning involved from January 2025 and looking for organisers to assist
- Volunteers for a range of jobs on leadup and on day- discussed more split shifts
- Discussed specifics of roles from last year- shared between each School
- Ruth – happy to run Eco Room
- Kevin – liaising with Muiredge parents

Ideas

- Sponsored walks/ Scavenger hunt
- Challenges of all ideas – costs, asking local businesses often, draining sponsors

Uddingston Railway Repairs

- Builders from that project have kindly repaired parts of the playground and offered woodchips / creating paths.
- Update going in the SWAY

Actions for this:

- Kelly kindly continuing to follow up with them in relation to an engineering chat with pupils
- Playground is an ongoing issue added to future agendas

AOB

Questions were taken on planning ahead for finances and council members explained this to parents.

Meetings agreed and now booked for the year

Venue:

Staff room at St John the Baptist.

Dates:

18th November 13th January 2025 24th March 2025 19th May 2025.