



## ST MUNGO'S PARENT COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: MR MARTIN CRAIGEN

Minutes of a meeting of St Mungo's Parent Council held in the Conference Room on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7pm.

### **PRESENT:**

**Parent Council Members:** Martin Craigen, Mary Henretty, Karen Hall, Marianne Myles, Carolyn Tribble, Jennifer Yearly

**Teacher Representative:** John Young

**Councillors:** Pat Reid

**In Attendance:** Stephen Phee – Rector, Anne Hemfrey – Clerk, PC Neil Forsyth – “Campus Cop”.

**APOLOGIES:** Jacqueline Thomson, Denys McAlpine, Elaine Whitmarsh, Anne Ostacchini, Claire Quin, Anne Marie Cunningham, Lynne Strain, Gordon Farquharson, Anisah Ijaz.

### **ROLE OF THE “CAMPUS COP”**

Martin welcomed PC Neil Forsyth to the meeting. PC Forsyth is the “Campus Cop” for the school and was attending the meeting to give the Parent Council an insight into his role. He explained that the “Campus Cop” initiative was first trialled in two other High Schools within Falkirk Council area and within a very short space of time proved to be extremely effective in reducing a lot of behaviour issues amongst teenagers in the local community in the evenings and at weekends. It was therefore rolled out to all schools within the Council area which each now have their own “Campus Cop”. He fulfils that role for St Mungo's. He is at the school from 8am to 4pm every day of the week and is in the “social space” before and after school hours. He has one-to-one meetings with vulnerable pupils and sometimes their parents. He feels the pupils all relate very well to him and sometimes disclose problems to him. He also assists in two ASDAN classes.

PC Forsyth has had restorative justice training so the aim is to deal with behaviour issues before the Police become involved. There is no intention of trying to criminalize children, the

aim is to steer them away from trouble before it reaches a serious level. If children misbehave outside school hours he will be made aware of it and try to intervene early on. Stephen said that since PC Forsyth took up the role, the level of exclusions is the lowest for many years. PC Forsyth said he was very impressed with all the systems in place at St Mungo's, which he felt worked well and were better than many other schools. (PC Forsyth left the meeting).

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jennifer reported that Falkirk Council have signed off the accounts and paid this year's allowance. There is a surplus of £370 from last year which will be handed back to the school. Jennifer suggested some of these funds could be used to purchase swimming caps decorated with the school logo for the school swimming team. All agreed this was a good idea. Parents to email Jennifer with any other suggestions.

### **RECTOR'S REPORT**

The HT Report is attached. Also to note:

During Easter it is proposed to start a new exchange programme with a school in Poland. It is hoped that four teachers from the St Mungo's cluster (two High School and two Primary teachers) will visit Poland to swap experiences.

Staffing – there have been some absences through sickness, but the next two months usually see an increase.

### **TIMETABLE**

The current staff complement is 103.1. However, in the next academic year this number will reduce to 99.8. This is because staff numbers are calculated a year in arrears and for the past 2 years pupil numbers have reduced. However, it is expected that the first year roll in the next academic year will rise from the current 197 pupils to 235. The "year in arrears" calculation will have implications for timetabling. The system allows for some extra staff to be allocated to the school in September, but by that time classes are formed. The main consequence of this is that it will not be possible to run courses on wider opportunities as has originally been hoped.

### **Changes to Years 5/6**

Concerns were raised that the timescale on the recent consultation regarding changes to the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> years timetables was too short. Most concerningly, not all parents received the letter informing them of the consultation. There was a suggestion that the number of periods studying RE could be reduced from two to one, or reducing the registration period.

Stephen emphasised that in a Catholic school pupils must do two periods of RE per week in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year.

This issue is "on hold" and will be revisited – there will be a wider consultation on the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> year curriculum.

### **EASTER SCHOOL**

There will be an Easter school during one week of the Easter holidays – Stephen is currently consulting with staff and pupils as to which week it should be. Normally uptake is

very good.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Meeting on Saturday 28th January in St Francis Primary School on “Faith in the Community”.

Young Scots Awards – nominations close 27<sup>th</sup> Feb for community champions.

Cllr Reid reported that the Falkirk Council budget will be finalised shortly.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mary raised the issue of swimming lessons for older pupils. Many girls are very self conscious about putting swimming costumes on and changing into them. There appears to be a situation where girls regularly bring in notes from parents asking for them to be excused from swimming which highlights that it is a significant issue for a number of pupils.

It was suggested that girls should be allowed to do other sports instead of swimming.

However Stephen felt it was important to use all the excellent sports facilities provided in the school and it was part of the school’s role to teach resilience.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.**