



ST MUNGO'S PARENT COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: MRS ANISAH IJAZ

Minutes of a meeting of St Mungo's Parent Council held in the Conference Room on Thursday 7th November 2019 at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Parent Council Members: Anisah Ijaz, Merle Stevenson, Carolyn Tribble, Jacqueline Thomson, Florence Crozier, Ian Bruce, Steve Feltbower.

Councillors: James Kerr

In Attendance: Stephen Phee – Rector, Anne Hemfrey - Clerk

APOLOGIES: Anne-Marie Gregory, Keliann Arthur, Antoinette Cherubini Donaldson, Stuart Donaldson.

SENIOR PUPILS PRESENTATION – PRIORITIES FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR.

The Captain and Depute Captain of Kentigern House and the Captain of Andrew House gave an excellent presentation on their priorities for the coming year. All present thanked them for attending the meeting.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Carolyn pointed out that there was an error in the previous minutes in that a figure of £453 was quoted as “remaining” – she did not know where this figure had come from. The balance at that time was £1058. On the basis that this amendment is recorded here, the minutes of the meeting held on 16th May were proposed by Florence Crozier and seconded by Jacqueline Thomson.

MATTERS ARISING

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The current balance is £1003. As discussed at previous meetings, it was agreed that some of this money should be spent on a banner to advertise the Parent Council. Anisah agreed to look at the design of the banner, Cllr Kerr offered to arrange for the production. Other suggestions for spending some of the funds was for a Parent Council award to be presented at the Award ceremony.

RECTOR'S REPORT

A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Of particular note:

The mid term exams are in January. Traditionally, these have been spread over a period of three weeks. The school are trying to condense this to a period of two weeks. There was concern that this could detrimentally affect marks.

There is work on going to analyse the cost of the school day. A survey will be undertaken.

There were queries raised as to how the PEF budget is spent. Stephen explained that there is very little guidance as to what it should be spent on other than it should be directed to closing the attainment gap.

UPDATE ON STAFFING

One of the Technical teachers is about to leave therefore the Faculty Head will be taking more classes.

The Librarian will be retiring at Xmas, this post is being advertised.

Post Meeting Note: At the meeting Stephen reported considerable problems in the English dept due to a lack of several teachers for a variety of reasons. However, since then Stephen has informed us that the problem has eased considerably due to return to work of staff off sick. He expects everything to return to normal very quickly. He was intending to write to parents regarding the situation but now feels that is not necessary. Similarly, Anisah was due to write to Falkirk Council but will not do so now. To be reviewed at the January meeting.

CURRICULUM

The school are currently holding a consultation on the curriculum. Only 70 survey returns have been received so far. One issue is whether all pupils should study the same number of subjects. There is an ongoing review of whether pupils should take more than 6 subjects at NAT 5, as this inevitably reduces their options for Highers, especially if they fail one or more NAT 5s. The staff would like to offer more vocational courses. The 8 high schools are working together with a view to offering wider qualifications.

This item will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION

Jaqueline reported that she had discussed the issue of whole school masses with Fr Jamie and he was happy to conduct a whole school mass on Holidays of Obligation. This will therefore be arranged henceforth. He did point out that there had been a very disappointing attendance at the mass held in the Oratory the previous Friday (All Saints Day). The next whole school mass will be held in January to celebrate St Mungo's Feast day.

In response to a query, Stephen informed the meeting that Mr Young has responsibility for the Chaplaincy group. There is currently no appointed School Chaplain.

It was suggested that a notice should be put on the school website that Mass is celebrated in the school on Thursday lunch times.

Jacqueline pointed that the following week was Scottish Interfaith week and asked if teachers could “signpost” that for pupils. Stephen said it would be covered in Religious Education lessons.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

Following the discussion at the AGM, and Cllr Kerr’s correspondence with Development Services, it was confirmed that the bus services are improving. It was agreed that the Parent Council should still send a letter to the Council expressing concern. Anne to draft for Anisah/Stephen to approve.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

It was agreed that if we submit all the information we want on the website to Stephen, he will arrange for a dedicated page for the Parent Council to be added to the website. Anne to agree format with Anisah.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The PTA Xmas Fayre is on Saturday 30th November from 10am -2pm in the school.

The issue of uniform was raised – specifically the length of the girl’s skirts, which in some cases it was agreed are ridiculously short. However, it is very difficult for the school to police this issue.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 23rd January at 7pm.