



ST MUNGO'S PARENT COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: MRS ANISAH IJAZ

Minutes of a meeting of St Mungo's Parent Council held by video conference on Thursday 10th December at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Parent Council Members: Anisah Ijaz, Merle Stevenson, Antoinette Cherubini-Donaldson, Louise Harland, Anne-Marie Gregory, Carolyn Tribble, Lesley Mann, Sofia Akbar

Councillors: James Kerr

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

Apologies: Steve Feltbower, Florence Crozier, Pat Reid

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (6th August)

Louise Harland proposed the minutes and Merle Stevenson seconded them.

MATTERS ARISING

Following the AGM in October, three new parents have asked to join the Parent Council: Sofia Akbar, Sharon Mwale and Lesley Mann. Their appointment was agreed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carolyn has completed the handover of the Treasurer's role to Merle Stevenson. Merle has not yet been able to get to the bank to arrange change of signatory, she will do so in the New Year. The bank balance is currently standing at £618. Carolyn has handed the accounts into Falkirk Council, these won't be formally signed off until all changes have been notified. Carolyn suggested that we speak to the bank about making electronic payments, which we don't have the ability to do at present.

RECTOR'S REPORT

A copy of the Rector's report is attached. Key points to note:

Covid 19 – two positive cases amongst the staff (reported 9th Dec). There are sufficient staff to cover classes, albeit some are being held in the social space.

Mrs Farley, Depute, has been seconded by the Regional Improvement Collaborative for 1 year and leaves on the 11th January. Miss Kane will take up the Acting Depute post.

EXAMS

Prelims will be held in January to fit with the NATS assessment window. The school are looking at a second formal assessment being held in March. Miss Jess will collate when different departments are holding exams so no-one is overburdened. No exam leave – if pupils are struggling they will have a longer time period to be assessed. Evidence of performance is generated in a variety of ways. Standards of marking are discussed amongst the staff. There is a careful process of verification. The school are very aware of the inequalities caused by lockdown and will ensure that every pupil gets a fair chance. All pupils will receive a new iPad by March, funded by Falkirk Council (see Rector's report).

Miss Jess took part in a trial of a virtual Parents' evening which had not gone particularly well due to IT issues. If these can't be resolved the parents' evening may need to be postponed. Extra tracking reports will stay in place.

A parent queried why some pupils who had been awarded an "A" in their NAT 5 exams had been told they would have to do it again in March. Stephen to provide a note explaining the process subsequent to the meeting.

There will be no prelims for the Higher exams, instead there will be an assessment window which will provide a good opportunity to produce robust evidence. Parents will be sent a letter. Stephen pointed out that continuous assessment can be better than exams as pupils must study hard all year. The focus will be on pupils who will struggle to produce evidence of their work.

Recovery plan

A parent queried what recovery plan was in place for pupils whose attainment has been adversely affected by lockdown. What is being done to identify these pupils and what steps are being taken to bridge the development gap? There is concern that pupils may not meet their expected potential in Nat 5 subjects given the fact that they lost a full term of tuition.

Stephen responded by explaining that pupils without IT devices had been identified and had either been given a device or copies of work. Staff had regular contact with such pupils during lockdown. Since pupils' return staff had amended courses as required. Pupils isolating have been given guidance and support – they can dial into class so that pupils at home can be "inserted" into live lessons, their work is marked and feedback given. Pupils in danger of not getting an award in literacy and numeracy are identified. Teachers can assign work at different levels, so pupils can sit NAT 4 if they can't do NAT 5.

The CLD worker is working with a number of pupils who are struggling. Close tracking means that the school can identify pupils who need additional support.

Pupils transitioning from P7 have completed a well-being check-in form - the data collected is analysed by the year heads. All seem to have settled in well.

A parent queried whether the information collected on the Health and Wellbeing reports was confidential? Stephen explained that if a serious arose then parents would be contacted, but for minor issues they would just work with the pupil.

QR Codes for Parents and Pupils

This is an online/electronic way for pupils to contact their Pastoral teacher – it can be used while in school or during lockdown by pupils and parents. It is available on the school website.

Bullying / Racism - Recorded Incidents

Aug 2018 - June 2019 - 81 incidents of bullying / Racism (combined total)

Aug 2019 - June 2020 - 75 incidents of bullying and 4 incidents of racism

Aug 2020 - June 2021 - 6 incidents of bullying and 6 incidents of racism

School Improvement Plan in place:

Aim - to reduce the number of incidents.

Aim - All pupils should know how to report this

Aim - to signpost pupils.

All staff will attend staff training for one day

All pupils will sign a pledge linked to the main three school aims

- Nurture the faiths of all.
- Provide the highest quality of education.
- Treat everyone with respect and love.

Members of the Parent Council will be sent a form to feedback any comments/suggestions on the policy.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 11th February at 7pm by video link.