



ST MUNGO'S PARENT COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: MRS TRACEY WHITE

Minutes of a meeting of St Mungo's Parent Council held by video conference on Thursday 2nd December at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Parent Council Members: Tracey White, Merle Stevenson, Florence Crozier, Anne-Marie Gregory, Lesley Mann, Steve Feltbower, Jennifer Millar, Lorraine Fulton, Lorraine Dixon.

In Attendance: Stephen Phee – Rector, Clare Marshall – Teacher Rep, Anne Hemfrey – Clerk

Apologies: Sofia Akbar, James Kerr, Keliann Arthur

OFFICE BEARERS

Tracey White was formally appointed as the new Chairperson of the Parent Council. John Soje was appointed Vice-Chairperson. A list of current members of the Parent Council is attached to these minutes.

Tracey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Anne-Marie Gregory proposed the minutes and Florence Crozier seconded them.

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There is currently £483 in the account. The accounts have been signed and sent to the Finance dept of Falkirk Council. Merle confirmed that our contribution to the Art Dept's projects had been paid electronically in June. Clare Marshall to check and confirm.

Merle will arrange with the bank to remove Anisah as a signature to the account and add Tracey.

RECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Covid measures all remain in place. No Xmas dances, parties or concerts.

- Good attendance at weekly Mass.
- First annual Climate Change conference held on 12th November with the cluster primaries.
- UCAS application process almost complete.
- Some Clubs have restarted.
- iPad rollout is nearing completion. Mr MacKay is writing a procedure paper for the use of iPads
- Mid term exams are going well – this is an extremely busy time for staff and pupils.

Parents queried whether the continuation of the “split lunch” is a Falkirk Council requirement or the choice of the school. Stephen explained that at the last Head Teachers’ meeting with Falkirk Council it was agreed that all mitigations must remain in place for the time being. It is recognized that it does lead to a reduction in extra-curricular activities, but that can’t be helped at present.

SQA RESULTS/ SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Results were in line with previous year’s attainment. Stephen felt this was a testament to all the hard work of the staff. Work on the Improvement Plan is ongoing.

There have been higher than usual absences of staff due to Covid

Parents’ queried how the social space lessons work. Stephen explained that if staff are absent and there are no staff available to cover lessons, the classes in question are all gathered together in the hall, where one staff member (often the Head or a Depute) can supervise several classes.

BANNING MOBILE PHONES

This is a very controversial topic, with no easy solutions. Stephen pointed out that pupils’ activity on social media outwith school hours undoubtedly leads to problems within school. However, many parents would object to a ban on phones as they like to be able to contact their children in event of emergencies, changes of plans at home etc.

It might be possible to enforce a rule that phones are switched off in class. This has apparently been trialed at schools in England. It was suggested that we need to collect feedback from elsewhere.

Tracey suggested that we may need a dedicated meeting to review and agree a course of action. Clare felt that the key to getting the right decision was down to consultation. Stephen felt that in the first instance the issue should be discussed at the Pupil Parliament. Tracey will liaise with Stephen over next steps.

CAR PARKING

This is an ongoing problem. Stephen recently received an email from a parent who had been hit by a car. Stephen has issued What’s App messages asking parents to be responsible. He stressed that he simply does not have the staff capacity to be in the car park supervising the movement of cars.

One parent reported that St. Andrew’s had the Police in attendance for a few days to sort it out. Stephen agreed to speak to the school based Police officer to see if something similar could be arranged for St.Mungo’s.

AOB

Litter – some felt this was still an issue as the bins are overflowing. Stephen had a meeting with FDS, who manage the building, as a result of which the bins have been relocated and are now better placed. Organised litter picks are taking place. The number of complaints has declined.

PC Forsyth and pupils have produced a powerpoint presentation on this issue for the Pupil Parliament.

Lockers – in answer to a query Stephen informed the meeting that there are 1400 lockers, enough for every pupil.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27th January at 7pm.