



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 27th January at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Parent Council Members: Tracey White, Merle Stevenson, Florence Crozier, Lesley Mann, Steve Feltbower, Jennifer Millar, Lorraine Dixon, Sharon Mwale, Laura Donaldson, Antoinette Cherubini-Donaldson, Marie MacDonald.

Guests: Siobhan Baird, Roisin Connell, Julie MacDonald, Kathleen Beattie, Sonya Elder.

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

Apologies: Anne-Marie Gregory, Sofia Akbar, Keliann Arthur, Lorraine Fulton

WELCOME

Tracey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Florence Crozier proposed the minutes and Merle Stevenson seconded them.

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There is currently £428 in the account. We are still waiting for Falkirk Council to process the annual accounts (they are very short staffed at present). Once processed, we will receive our next budget allocation of £1018.

Merle to contact the bank to add Tracey as a bank signatory.

RECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Prior to Xmas, the school received over 120 food parcels from the SVDP. The latter also donated £2000 to buy ASDA vouchers to support families.

- The school collected over 40 hampers for homeless pupils, pupils living alone and families in crisis.
- YPI final – all S1 pupils involved, £3000 was given to the Seagull Trust.
- S2 course choice process has started
- A bereavement workshop has been started in response to the death of some pupils recently.
- A series of virtual parent's evenings are coming up. Tracking reports are being issued.
- Staffing – every day there are 7-13 staff absent for a mixture of reasons and it is impossible to get supply staff to provide cover. At times, Stephen has had to supervise 7 classes in the Social Space.
- As restrictions relax, consideration will be given to returning to one lunch period and one interval – no decision has been made yet.

SQA / SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

There was a great deal of concern about the amount of learning that pupils had missed due to all the issues arising from the Covid pandemic. Parents were keen to ascertain that all the problems pupils were experiencing were being fed back on a national level to the SQA and to establish what considerations were being made for pupils. Stephen and Claire assured them that all issues were being reported at a national level. A decision on exams is expected at the end of March.

BANNING MOBILE PHONES

See under AOB below.

CAR PARKING

Following the last meeting and the concerns raised, Stephen has spoken to the school Police officer who informed him that it is very difficult to police school car parks. Stephen is happy to write to all parents again re car parking. He can't stop parents accessing the car park as a specific drop off zone is provided for parent drop-off and the school does not own the building or grounds. Stephen will speak to FES (who manage the building) and Falkirk Council. A parent pointed out that it was the Traffic Police who went to St Andrew's to sort out the problem there.

AOB

A first year pupil was seriously assaulted earlier this month in the school. The incident was filmed by other pupils on their mobile phones. The pupil who was assaulted had experienced a great deal of abuse and bullying since starting school last August, reports of which had been made to the school. The incident has been reported to the Police, Falkirk Council and the local MP.

There was a general discussion about the apparent lack of consequences when pupils seriously misbehave. It was felt that more consideration needs to be given to ensuring pupils understand there will be very serious repercussions if they misbehave. Some parents felt that fighting in the school, intimidation of pupils by other pupils etc are regular (ie daily) occurrences. Due to the lack of repercussions the perpetrators have no incentive to change their behaviour. Suggestions were made regarding ways to improve behaviour and ensure that pupils' understanding of the consequences arising from unacceptable behaviour is clear and enforced.

The use of mobile phones is a key feature of all the bullying. It was therefore decided to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Parent Council on **Thursday 17th February** to discuss the how to deal with mobile phones within the school. This will be open to all parents to attend if they

wish. A questionnaire will be sent to all parents and teachers to get their views prior to the meeting. As there is bound to be a “kick back” from pupils it was agreed that Stephen would discuss this issue with the Pupil Parliament.

It was suggested that the school should seek out some statistical evidence of what had happened in other schools where phones were banned. It was also suggested that parents should be informed of all the incidents which have taken place over the last few months (anonymising pupils’ names) so that they fully understand the seriousness of the situation.

Clare explained that senior pupils were being trained up in the school as peer mentors and mental health ambassadors. The school needs to showcase good behaviour as well as punishing bad behaviour. Stephen pointed out that Covid had had a huge effect on the mental health of pupils.

All ideas/queries on this issue to be sent to Tracey prior to the 17th Feb.

Other issues raised under AOB: The menu options appear to be less at the 2nd lunch sitting. Stephen said food is prepped for both sittings but popular options always go quickly.

Fire Alarms – these were going off regularly but the perpetrators have been caught

Date of Next Meeting:

An Extraordinary meeting of the Parent Council will be held on Thursday 17th February at 7pm. Further details to follow.

The next scheduled meeting of the Parent Council meeting will be held on Thursday 24th March at 7pm.