

Minutes from Parent Council AGM June 6th 2016

Attending: AlieHilda de Vries, Jonny Mitchell, Jo McGettigan, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Maureen Gunn, Tracy Crossan, Neil Smith, Sharon Welsh,

Apologies: Fiona Gornall, Ray O'Neil, Leona Cook, Andrew Solomon, Bethany Mackay, Zain Alam, Anne Marie McGinlay,

The meeting opened at 7pm with a welcome introduction, school prayer and attendance list.

- With the resignation of the current chair, it was decided to wait until the new term to re-elect office bearers and elect new members.
- As the annual report had been previously circulated and all were in agreement, it was not read out.
- Mr J Mitchell gave an overview of the draft school improvement plan. One of the focuses would be closing the attainment gap within the school looking closely at numeracy and literacy. Health and Wellbeing is another focus for attainment. Positive destinations would also be looked at. He mentioned the Rowntree Foundation's report "Closing the Gap" which can be found at this URL <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/closing-attainment-gap-scottish-education>. This report highlighted such topics as parental involvement, supported study, nurture groups and 1 to 1 tutoring. The existence of Attainment Funding was also mentioned. The possibility of a school inspection during the next session was mentioned.
- Sharon Welsh and Neil Smith will be attending a training event organised by the Scottish Parent Teachers Association in Coalsnaughton in June.
- It was noted that the website requires to be updated with regard to the minutes from previous Parent Council meetings. Mr Mitchell will inform Mrs Friel of this.

- Changes to the constitution point 4.2 “meetings of the parent Council will be open to the public....” was discussed but not resolved therefore it was decided to leave it until next session.
- There was a discussion on how to improve the Parent Council and make it more friendly and appealing to the parents of St Modan’s. One suggestion was to join with the PTA and have joint meetings. This is something that we would like to take forward in the new session. Also to change the timings of the meetings to earlier in the evening to encourage more parents to come along to support our school.
- After Mr McGurk’s excellent talk on the SQA process earlier in the year it was suggested that a parent friendly guide to the SQA process could be something that the Parent Council could work with Mr McGurk to produce.
- It was also suggested that a printable document on Transition eg info on the buses, meal cards, etc would be helpful to new parents. This will be taken up with Mrs Shandley next session.
- The Parent Council extended their thanks to Fiona Gornall for her valuable contribution while she was chair and vice chair of the Parent Council and to the Senior Management Team for all their hard work over the past year.

The date for the next meeting has yet to be set.