

## Parent Council Meeting Monday January 26<sup>th</sup> 2015

Attending: Wendy Croal, Jo McGettigan George Scott, Anne Marie McGinlay, Sharron Welsh, Fiona Gornall, Neil Smith, Gail McEneny, Barbara Sinclair, Clare Malcom, Alex Padden, Tracy Crossan, Tracy Quinn, Mandy Shand, Andrew Solomon, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Leona Cook, Ray O'Neill and Jonny Mitchell.

Apologies/absences: Lucy Rice, Liam McCabe, John Stewart, Lyn Laidlaw, John Stewart

1. A prayer and welcome opened the meeting.
2. The following were proposed and seconded: Fiona Gornall: Chair, Sharon Welsh: Vice Chair, Neil Smith: Minute Secretary.
3. There will be three vacancies for elected parents on the council from next session. Two weeks will be given to alert parents that notes of interest for becoming an elected member must be submitted to the office. Seven parents are constitutionally allowed. Elected members have a limited, legal role to perform. It was emphasised that the Parent Council meetings were completely open and all could participate.
4. An amendment to the Constitution was proposed to accommodate the eventuality of a chair resigning mid-term. Approval of this amendment at the AGM will be necessary. It is proposed that at the end of item 3.7 the following will be added: *In the interim period (between meetings), the vice chair will assume the role of chair.*
5. The HT reported on the latest parental consultation exercise.  
Transition Information
  - a. Parents considered this year's primary/secondary transition information on the website to be much improved, although there are bigger challenges to overcome as the website grows. The transition calendar is now on the website.
  - b. Print out of the record of what each pupil takes at lunch was possible but difficult.
  - c. Class list could not be put on school web site for data protection issues.
  - d. There are issues with putting photos of staff on school web site.

### Calendar information

- a. Adding extra-curricular activity to the school calendar was problematic except for the most regular events.
- b. More faculty contributions for the website would be encouraged.

### BGE curriculum information

Additions to the school web site and extended by external links to the SQA would broaden guidelines on the curriculum and will be developed over time eg. BGE presentations and course plans could be published on the website.

### Examination/Upper school information

- a. Assessment calendar is now on the website. It is only permissible to have two attempts at course work assessments. There are no recommendations of books as yet as the new highers are only just being introduced.
- b. Development of improved tracking is in progress.

- c. For the final exam the appeals process is more limited than before. SQA can in some circumstances look at Papers again through their new Results Service. Whilst a charge is incurred, St. Modan's plans to absorb these costs. More information on appeals can be found on the NEW school web site in the SQA section, there is a link added which leads to the SQA website. There is a reader friendly joint Stirling and Clacks council appeals policy document 'SQA Qualifications 2014 and Beyond', available and it was suggested that this could be added to St. Modan's website.
- d. Development of S6 course enhancements is in progress. These were in addition to their SQA work and would be wide-ranging and very flexible.
- e. The staff were constantly emphasising UCAS deadlines to pupils, twitter is being used for this also.

6. SMT report on recent and planned school activities:

Staff cover was problematic. There is a shortage of supply teachers. The school did not always know the length of long-term absences. Until the summer, we would have the services of a temporary R.M.E.

Drop-in sessions for Parents after school were not practical. They would duplicate Information Evenings.

The S3 BGE Course outlines were praised and appreciated by parents.

A parent suggested a revision of the Awards Ceremony as it was shorter last session. It was stated that the school is always looking to improve the way it recognises achievement and has introduced a range of additional measures to do so, where a variety of successes and contributions to school life are recognised. It was mentioned that awards are also given out in year assemblies from S1 to S3 around the time of the actual Awards Ceremony.

There was a World War 1 inter-disciplinary learning project over 3 days, which was a great success.

There was a S1-S3 low-level disruption initiative.

S3 options night would be on 3/2/15.

The School football team enjoyed success.

Not all local schools intend to move to the 33 period week next session but all are required to do so by August 2016. St Modan's model is not finalised as the school's proposal is dependent on transport issues being resolved and the final agreement with Stirling Council. It already looks likely that the most recent proposals regarding the school day will have to change. It was highlighted that having long days on Mondays coincides with some local holidays and this might have a detrimental effect on pupils' learning.

Mass attended by the whole school will be said to celebrate St Modan's feast day and will be attended by Most Rev. Bishop Leo Cushley.

A brief update on the Wood Commission was given, 2 principle teachers to be appointed to implement.

There had been an increase in placing requests and the school role was due to rise from 880 to 915.

Concern was raised about the impact on continuity of teaching with the new session's timetable now beginning earlier (in May), giving a longer of period of time a class will have with a teacher who may not go on to take them after the summer break i.e a probationary teacher. Reassurance was given that this was not considered to be a concern

Two members of staff had lost fathers. We were asked to remember them in our prayers.

7. Neither the Head Boy nor Girl were present to give a report.

8. There was correspondence from SCES Parent Networking.

9. A.O.C.B.

- a. There was concern about the improper use of disabled parking. The H.T. Promised to bring this to the attention of staff.
- b. Study leave would remain the same as last year for those pupils taking 3 or more National 5 exams.
- c. Mention was made of the Pope Francis Award and praise given for the P6/7 transition.
- d. A transport issue was raised and discussed after the meeting concluded with those directly involved.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015, in the Boardroom unless otherwise stated.

Proposed Agenda: Feedback from SPTC national forum held March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015

Round up of list of parents interested in becoming an elected member

School Improvement planning

News from the Pupil Council via the Head girl and boy

Head teacher's news

A.O.C.B.

Please alert the chairperson to any items you wish to be discussed in advance of the meeting where possible.