

Minutes From Parent Council Meeting Held On 19th September 2016

Attending: Adam Crossley, Tracy Grossan, Claire Friel, Ray O'Neill, Lisa Wilkisky-Dick, Gill Ryan, Patricia Morrison, Lisa Yeaman, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Denise Burns, Lilli Schlossbach, Leona Cook, Anne-Marie McGinlay, Andrew Solomon, Tony Walker, Jo McGettigan, Neil Smith, Lesley Sexton, Tracy Quinn and Sharon Welsh.

Apologies Alie Hilde de Vries

The meeting opened at the new time of 6.15pm with a welcome introduction, school prayer and attendance list.

1. Election of Office Bearers

With the resignation of Fiona Gornall as Chair at the end of the last session, new office bearers were elected:

Chair - Sharon Welsh

Vice Chair - Tracy Quinn

Elected Members – Leona Cook and Neil Smith

New Elected Parent Representatives – Gill Ryan, Denise Burns and Eileen Fitzpatrick

2. Parental Involvement

It was discussed how the PC could work more closely with parents and perhaps organise information evenings for them.

Live & Learn are a group of motivational speakers who come into schools to give sessions on subjects such as positive mindset and exam management and help prepare students for their exams using workshops & fun sessions. It was decided by the Parent Council to ask one of their representatives to run a parent seminar in St Modans early in the New Year.

Last session a representative from Scholar came to give a presentation which was highly informative it was suggested that this may be run again.

Both of these sessions will be arranged separately from the PC meetings.

3. Uniform Bank Update

Neil Smith told the PC that the profile of the uniform bank needs increasing and was looking for suggestions & people to help run the bank. Neil also suggested raising funds for new uniforms to be added to the bank & more uniform donations were needed. It was suggested by the PC that the bank should be brought to parent evening briefings & an honesty box was also suggested to try to increase its use. The PC asked if a note about the uniform bank could be included in the school's uniform leaflet. A swap shop idea was also noted.

4. Head Boy & Head Girl Report

Head Boy, Adam & Deputy Head Girl, Lily, told the PC about the new clubs available including badminton, engineering & the Young Enterprise Group for S6 pupils which help them understand how to start-up a new business. Lily also told the PC about promoting female sport. The S6 pupils are enjoying helping the P6 & P7 pupils attending the transition programme. The parent information evenings regarding the senior phase were well attended & discussed topics such as UCAS & higher education. The new Buddy training scheme is going well which helps those pupils who are struggling with school & the University tours have begun. A bake sale was held which raised £200 for the S6 Lasallian Project & the school show preparations are under way. The Chaplaincy group is being well attended & the new S1 year have held their first Mass. The new vocational building is under construction with work hopefully being completed by Christmas. The first Awards Ceremony of the year has also been held.

5. Update from Mr O'Neill

Transport – Stirling Council have signed a 7 year contract with their bus companies & most Stirling routes are now registered as public services buses. Sharon Welsh has emailed Stirling Council to confirm the status of the Stirling buses, they confirmed that members of the public could potentially flag down a bus going to St Modans, but thought this was unlikely as they doubt if members of the public would wish to use a bus full of pupils. Sharon will contact Stirling Council again to find out if the new situation is working. There were no concession passes available on buses for this school year. Clackmannanshire Council do not have any immediate plans to turn their school buses into public buses. It was mentioned by the PC that the Alloa buses are full to capacity with pupils having to stand, which is unsafe, but the Hillfoots bus route appears to be under capacity – Tracy Quinn will email Clackmannanshire Council to find out their plans for the school buses & suggest that the Hillfoots route be detoured to try to ease the congestion on the Alloa buses. It was also mentioned that both the Denny & Stirling buses are sometimes turning up to school late.

Car Park – Parents have been reminded to drop off & pick-up from the main car park & not to use the front of the school. Some parents have commented that using the main car park is as dangerous as using the front of the school but there is no room to expand the car park, suggestions are welcomed regarding this situation.

Sickness Outbreak – it hasn't been confirmed that the sickness experienced by many pupils at the school was the Norovirus, but the virus is similar. Deep cleaning & monitoring are continuing & the number of sick pupils have decreased.

Parent Pay – There has been a good uptake on parents using the new Parent Pay system to pay for school meals. Trips cannot be paid via Parent Pay unless they are registered on the website. Those parents who do not have the password to create an account on Parent Pay can obtain their own unique password from the school office.

6. AOCB

Neil & Sharon attended the SPTC (Scottish Parent Teacher Council) meeting at Coalsnaughton in June. The SPTC give Parent Councils ideas for their own meetings.

The outstanding point from the last meeting regarding a change in the constitution was confirmed by the SPTC that the constitution point 4.2 “meetings of the parent council will be open to the public” should be changed to “meetings of the parent council will be open to the parent forum” It was agreed that P7 parents could attend events run by the parent council but not the meetings.

One parent mentioned the current uniform supplier Scotcrest was not stocking enough of the St Modans uniform. They were told to wait a couple of months until the uniform was back in stock. It was suggested that the PC could look again at Logo Express as the uniform supplier. Lisa Wilkisky-Dick has agreed to chase this up.

Tony from the PTA told the PC of the struggles they were experiencing. The events are not well attended & it was suggested that the location of the school didn't help from a fund raising point of view as people had to drive to the school rather than people just walking or catching a local bus to events. The bingo tea only attracted 7 people & the race night, only 2 people attended. They are struggling for members & are looking for prizes & fund raising ideas. Tony asked to attend the next PC meeting with their agenda for suggestions.

Mrs Friel will discuss the website update at the next meeting.

The date for the next meeting has been set for 14th November at 6.15pm.