



ST MODANS PTP MEETING

Minutes

24TH April 2017

Attendees

Sharon Welsh
 Tracy Quinn
 Gill Ryan
 Denise Burns
 Leona Cook
 Jo McGettigan
 Cynthia Holden
 Clare Malcolm
 Ray O'Neill

Lisa Dick
 Lesley Sexton
 Alie-Hilda de Vires
 Tracy Crossan
 Tony Walker
 Maureen Gunn
 Mrs Friel

Apologies Eileen Fitzpatrick, Andrew Solomon, Lisa Yeaman, Trisha Morrison

Agenda Item	Action	Who
<p>1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies The Chair opened the meeting at 6.15pm with the school prayer, thanks and introductions were made.</p>		
<p>2. Matters arising from last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair gave an update regarding the production of the new banner and introduced the new banner to the PTP members. • The Headteacher gave a brief update on the catering issues – the head of catering has already spoken to the catering staff regarding recording items incorrectly and has removed cakes and crisps from the breakfast menu. 		
<p>3. SPTC Meeting Gill Ryan gave the PTP members feedback on the recent SPTC meeting that some of our members attended. This was a useful workshop as it gave insight into how to run an effective parent council. There were attendees from other schools who brought a variety of ideas to the meeting. Gill informed the PTP of the SPTC website which everyone can access. The website contains useful resources such as forms and checklists along with success stories.</p>		
<p>4. PTP Changes The Chair informed the members of the changes made to the Parent Council and PTA – now called the PTP – Parent Teacher Partnership. The new banner reflects this new change and the improvements we are trying to make within the PTP to improve engagement with parents. The Chair will prepare a new constitution for the AGM. It was agreed to set up a working group to look at rewording PTP leaflets and improving parental engagement. Facebook was discussed as a means of communication alongside Twitter which the school currently uses and prefers as we already have 1700 followers. Mrs Friel informed the PTP that the school is trialling a new app called Show My Homework – a tool which allows both parents and pupils to access homework schedules. This app can also send notifications which Mrs Friel suggested could be used to reach out to parents. The PTP members suggested that the PTP could also use the P7 open evening to promote the PTP. Currently parents can contact the PTP through the school office, it was discussed that a dedicated email address could be set up. This will be looked into by the Communications working group. The Chair suggested that the working groups be rotational so that everyone could get involved with communication and fundraising.</p>	<p>Group required to look at Social Media and communication with parents.</p> <p>Group required to assess and update the PTP literature.</p>	<p>Cynthia, Denise, Lesley & Gill.</p>
<p>5. Treasurers Report The current PTA fund contains £536 in total. They are currently looking for bids from the school to use the fund.</p>		

<p>6. Fundraising</p> <p>It was suggested by the PTP that a fundraising working group be set-up to discuss and plan future fundraising projects. There were various fundraising ideas brought to the meeting, including a lottery or 100 club idea with parents signing up using standing orders. Again, it was agreed that the fundraising group would be rotational, likely to be on a termly basis.</p>	<p>Working group proposed to set-up the new 100 club.</p>	<p>Claire, Sharon, Tony, Tracy C, Cynthia, Leona & Victoria</p>
<p>7. Head Boy & Girl Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Head Boy & Girl were part of a pupil council who were involved in the recent interviews for the new Head of Modern Languages, bringing their own questions to the interview process. The S1 fundraiser this year involved sponging people, for the charity Let The Children Live. The S2 fundraiser is going to be a Lip Sync Battle involving the Teachers vs 6th year pupils. The National 5 music class performed their exam pieces in front of parents at the SQA Performance Evening. The S3 pupils completed the “concrete in the classroom” project which involved making concrete bricks in the new purpose built Vocational Training Centre. <p>The Chair thanked the Head Boy & Head Girl for their regular attendance and for all their hard work putting together the reports over the year and wished them success in their upcoming exams.</p>		
<p>8. Headteacher’s Report</p> <p>Staffing Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Headteacher informed the PTP that there were more permanent posts being appointed to the school than probationary posts. The school’s staffing budget has been reduced by 1 FTE (one teacher) due to Stirling Council cuts. Further teaching posts are likely to be lost over the next 2 years. There has also been an £80k reduction in the school’s support staff budget. <p>Pupil Equity Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty is the Scottish Governments priority. St Modans has received a fund of £84k to close the attainment gap. This is based on the free school meals registrations for S1 – S3 pupils. Literacy, numeracy and health & well-being are being targeted. This is a 3-year plan. The school has a list of possible investments to send out to the parents for ideas and feedback. 		
<p>9. Changes to the National Qualifications Assessment</p> <p>The Headteacher informed the PTP that the Scottish Education Secretary John Swinney has written to all High Schools in Scotland informing them of his efforts to help reduce teacher workload and over-assessment of pupils by changing, in the first instance the National 5 qualifications next session. Mandatory unit assessments will be removed in 2017/18. This is a concern as those pupils not attaining the National 5 qualification may well find themselves leaving school without a credible and industry-recognised qualification. The school plans to continue to provide the best possible curriculum and qualifications to our young people and to minimise the impact of the change as far as possible unless further changes are announced. The school may have to make early decisions on presentation levels (Nat 4 or 5) of pupils next session if Units are not assessed using the formal SQA unit Assessments, as suggested by government. Updates will be provided when available. For an interim period Mr Swinney has announced the RPA process (Recognising Positive Achievement) will continue which means some young people who fail Nat 5 may still be credited with Nat 4 if Unit assessments are completed. In the longer term, it is planned that RPA will be removed.</p>	<p>The Headteacher to report on any updates.</p>	
<p>10. School Improvement Plan</p> <p>Mrs Friel informed the PTP of the new school improvement plan designed to close the attainment gap. The school priorities for this plan are likely to be literacy – new library, numeracy – consistent teaching skills/techniques throughout the school, health & well-being – 6 principles of nurture and leadership – in part through ambassadors and solitaire awards. Mrs Friel is looking for more parental involvement regarding the plan and asked for parent volunteers from the PTP.</p>	<p>Mrs Friel asked for parent volunteers</p>	<p>Sharon, Cynthia Leona Gill, Lisa D & Maureen</p>
<p>11. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denny Transport – it was brought to the attention of the PTP that pupils from Denny are not being allowed on the bus in the mornings if they don’t have their bus pass or £1.50 to pay for their fare, and that they are not being issued with tickets when they pay. Some pupils were reported to be left by the side of the road with no supervision. A parent had contacted Falkirk Council to 	<p>Liaise with parent regarding contacting Falkirk Council</p>	<p>Sharon</p>

<p>complain about this treatment but the council said it was within their rights to demand payment. It was explained by the headteacher that transport is not controlled by the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Languages – a parent discussed the matter of modern languages being a core subject in S3. The Headteacher explained that the decision was taken to retain modern languages as a core subject following a lengthy consultation with parents and plenty of research. 		
<p>Date of Next Meeting The date of the next meeting will be the AGM on Monday 5th June 2017.</p>		