

Minutes of St Joseph's College Parent Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 1900 virtually by Zoom

Present

Mel McGill (Chair), Bernadette Jones (Headteacher), Tommy Crombie, Lynn Mitra, Thalakunte Muniraju, Linda Nosratzadeh, Fiona Mitchell, Kenny Pullen, Fiona Purdie, Rebecca Topping.

In attendance

Jennifer Challinor, Mona Chaturvedi, Jane Crombie, Avril Dunlop, H A Khan Khan

Apologies

Claire Renton, Keith Walters

Welcome & Housekeeping

M McGill welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking them for attending. In terms of housekeeping, she requested that microphones remained muted unless individuals were speaking.

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Matters Arising

Bus Shelter

M McGill read a letter regarding a bus shelter for the bus stop on Aldermanhill Road. The letter indicated that there is scope for a bus shelter, however, there is a waiting list for the work to be carried out, and therefore this could take some time to complete. B Jones welcomed the news that a shelter might be forthcoming.

Headteacher's Report

Recruitment of staff for August 2022.

B Jones informed the Parent Council that appointments had been made for a Business Education Teacher and an English teacher. Additionally, 2 teachers of Maths had been appointed. She explained that the school had not been able to appoint an RE teacher but that, within the Maths department, there are teachers who are qualified to teach RE and therefore, the current RE requirement within the school, will be covered. Another Business/ Computing post has been advertised based on the needs of the Department.

Retirement

Three members of staff: D McGee (Depute), M Hutchison (Maths) and A Brown (Pastoral Care) are retiring. B Jones stated this they would be a huge loss to the the school.

Examinations

Exams are currently taken place. S4-6 are on Study Leave but welcome to come into school for any additional support they may require assisting them with their revision.

B Jones explained that managing the examination process is complex due to managing additional exam requirements, as well as the day to day running of the exams. Thanks to Andrew Johnstone and Pupil Support staff who are helping to manage this process.

B Jones stated that the new timetable would commence on 6 June 2022 after the Mid-term break for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

Forthcoming School Events

- The S6 Leaver's Ceremony will take place on 13 May.
- Young Musician of the Year – will also take place shortly. Parents will be invited to this as numbers expected for this event will be within guidelines.
- S3 Celebration of Achievement will take place during school time at the end of May.
- Awards Evening will take place this year. SMT are currently discussing the format for this and trying to confirm a guest speaker. M McGill asked if a Vote of Thanks would be required. B Jones confirmed this would be required.
- Sports day – will also take place between 4-6 in June. The Regional Sports will be held on 14 June.
- Workshops have been set up to allow pupils to find out about the different aspects of a school show.
- There will be a trip Highland Show on Friday 24 June, organised by the HE department. The cost of the trip at £20/per head is to cover transport costs which have significantly increased. The school will try to subsidise trips to help ensure all pupils who want to engage in these activities have the opportunity to do so. PEF (Pupil Equity Funding) is being used to support pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals to be able to participate.
- P7 Transition will take place 22-24 June

Achievement

- Synchronised Skating Success. B Jones reported that 10 of the British Champions who successfully compete for the Solway Skating Club Synchronised Skating teams are St. Joseph's College pupils. Congratulations to all on their achievements.
- S3 Prefects. Voting took place last week and new Prefects will take up their duties shortly. This will include assisting at primary school sports.
- Finlay Thorburn (S2) has been selected to interview Hayden Christensen and Ewan McGregor of Star Wars fame on behalf of BBC Newsround.
- The school's S3 Master Chef competition recently took place. Kyle Higgins and Joe Clark won this competition.

M McGill stated that it was brilliant to hear of all the wonderful activities that pupils are now able to become involved in.

B Jones also reported that:

- Some Ukrainian pupils will join the school next week. She stated that the school will do all it can to support the pupils and make them welcome.
- S3 Pupils will be involved in the forthcoming Regional DG Goes Bang DYW event being hosted at the Easterbrook Hall.
- There has been a training session for Headteachers on School Improvement Planning within the Authority. As part of the training schools will also work with those in the Ayrshire Authorities to help agree best practice in moving forward; especially in terms of how we make up for lost education for those pupils who have been affected by this. She stated that St Joseph's College is working within the group of schools with the highest pupil rolls but is the smallest one within this group. B Jones indicated that one area for consideration will be how best and when to use technology to improve the delivery of lessons. As part of this review, the school has decided to continue to use Satchel One. She also stated that going forward the school will make sure that parents have the opportunity to contribute to the School Improvement Plan.

Vaccinations

To conclude her report B Jones stated that the NHS is currently doing a range of different vaccinations in Authority schools. The HPV Vaccinations for S1/2 which were delayed due to Covid will take place in June.

Treasurer Report

The funds in the Parent Council and the PFA are as follows:

- Parent Council - £569.37
- PFA - £6,516.36

M McGill stated that the accounts will now be audited and sent to the Authority for approval.

M McGill explained that the funds in the PFA account are used to support activities and events in the school. She stated that the funds in the Parent Council Account are purely for the administration and running of the Parent Council.

AOCB

K Pullen asked if there would be In-Person Parents'/ Carer Evening this session. B Jones stated these would not take place this session as it had been agreed to provide parents with an additional report in lieu of Parents'/Carer's Evenings. She also stated that parents could contact staff directly with any specific issues.

There was a query about the timing of the Careers information and the completion of Option forms. On the day the Options form had to be completed there was information sent out about the different Science Courses, however this arrived after the time the forms had to be returned. B Jones agreed to investigate this query.

M Chaturvedi asked if pupil assessment evidence; including class tests could be sent home. B Jones explained that assessment would not go home but parents/carers may receive a feedback sheet. Another parent of an S1 pupil asked how to ensure she was doing the best for her child. B Jones suggested that a call to/ meeting with their child's Pastoral Care teacher in the first instance would be beneficial; possibly after the S1 reports are distributed at the end of May.

B Jones asked if the Parent Council could agree dates for next year so these could be added to the School Calendar. It was agreed the meeting dates should be in line with this year's dates; rotating the days rather than have all on a Tuesday as was previously the case.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 September 2022. This will be online, but M McGill suggested that for future meetings, a Form could be distributed to parents to determine the preferred method for future meetings.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.05 pm. M McGill thanked everyone for their attendance and input.