



ST NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2017

PRESENT: MR P McLAUGHLIN (HT)
MR A TAYLOR (DHT)
MR D CHAPPELLE (Chair)
MS M McCARNEY (Vice Chair)
MRS E CAIRNEY (Parent & PTA Rep)
MRS A HENDERSON (Parent)
MRS Y WEBB (Parent)
MR T BRESLIN (Church Rep)
MRS K BOYD (PT Numeracy)
MRS L HORGAN (PT Literacy)
MRS LA BRADLEY (PT Raising Attainment)
Cllr S MURRAY
MS L FAIRBAIRN (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: MRS M HERON (PT Guidance)
MRS M WILSON (Parent)
MR E DALY (Parent)
MR J O'DOWD (Parent)
MS K McCARTHY (Parent)
Cllr M FISCHER
Cllr J JAMIESON

Mr Chappelle welcomed everyone and the meeting.

All in attendance introduced themselves and Mr McLaughlin welcomed Councillor Murray. He then explained that so many teachers were invited to attend tonight's meeting to discuss their part in Raising Attainment.

Mr Chappelle opened the meeting with the school prayer.

Previous Minutes: These were agreed

Matters Arising:

- British Education Awards: We were invited to nominate a pupil for the British Education Awards. Monica Kierney (Head Girl) has been put forward and has now been short-listed. The awards will take place on 31 January 2018 in Manchester, and Monica has been invited along with her parents. We wish her well.
- Prizegiving: Mr Breslin commented that Brendan Rodgers was totally inspirational at the Prizegiving Ceremonies in October. Mr McLaughlin explained that Mr Rodgers was so impressed by the school, particularly the music, that he has invited pupils to his home on Christmas Eve for carol singing.

PTA Update:

Mrs Cairney gave an update of the recent Christmas Fayre which raised almost £1200. It was felt that it was very much a community event. The PTA are constantly looking at ways to improve their fundraising events and will look at the possibility of holding the fayre on a Thursday next year to see if this can help improve attendance. Donations this year were overwhelming and Mrs Cairney thanked staff and parents for their generosity.

The next PTA meeting will be held in January which will concentrate on the forthcoming Fashion Night.

Mr McLaughlin thanked Mrs Cairney for the amount of work she and the team put in to the Christmas Fayre.

Chairs Report:

National Parent Forum published a leaflet which was passed around the group.

Publicity supporting LGBT in schools has had mixed results.

The last Parent Forum meeting, held in November, discussed the upgrading of all school websites. A Taylor has met a representative from the website. This should be up and running by April. Education Committee report £16000 for upgrading ICT. The plan is to have a ratio of 1:2 devices per child within the next 2 years, increasing to 1:1. Kirkintilloch High are piloting bringing in your own device, and this is happening in other Authorities. A lack of continued investment to sustain and maintain what we had is a problem.

Plans to close the LCR in Twechar and move to Wester Cleddens were briefly discussed.

Parent Forum meeting agenda was changed due to the consultation for empowering schools had just come out.

Mr Chappelle will email documents to L Fairbairn to forward to members.

Previous links were sent after last meeting. Individual responses are not necessary, however, a joint Parent Council response could be submitted.

The impact of the Head Teacher's Charter was discussed.

Review of Management Structure was discussed.

Budget issues – savings still to be found.

Email from SCES. Parental Involvement Working Group. Fife Cluster Group are looking at ways to have parental involvement in Catholic schools.

Excellence and Equity for All:

Mr Taylor issued handouts to everyone in attendance and highlighted the key points. This was explained and discussed. All staff are on board.

Closing the Gap/Improving Employability Skills/Positive Mindset.

- Numeracy - K Boyd discussed the strategies put in place to assist pupils struggling with numeracy, by taking things back to basics across the school. She explained how they recognise problems and how positively pupils respond.
- Literacy - L Horgan discussed how Reading & Writing and Talking & Listening levels are identified at the end of S1. Pupils in S2 literacy class with levels below the age of 10 have all improved. This is achieved by stripping everything back and picking out key information. This will eventually be rolled out to S1 pupils. There are literacy workshops for parents. Various other depts. have contributed. S1 Literacy Day reinforces skills across the board. Paired Reading groups taken by S6 pupils who are trained by Mrs Stewart.

- Raising Attainment – LA Bradley discussed targeting pupils who are off-track in 3 or more subjects. The initial monitoring is already in place and we are awaiting the prelim results. We run a Supported Study programme which has already proved successful and have started study skills classes.
- Mr McLaughlin explained that we have created a Pupil Equity Fund team consisting of K Boyd, L Horgan, LA Bradley, D Shankland and G Mulgrew. We are creating an Achievement Resource Centre (ARK) within the school.

The Pupil Equity Fund members were thanked for their contribution and left the meeting.

HT Report:

- Mr McLaughlin discussed links to the school newsletter via Sway or Twitter. The newsletter is now compiled by Nicola McGee in the office and Mr McLaughlin complemented her on the new format.
- Christmas Events:
 1. S5/6 “Snow Ball” will take place on Thursday, 14 December.
 2. School Concert next Wednesday, 20 December.
 3. Staff Reflection was held last week with Fr Ross Campbell.
 4. Pupils visited parishes yesterday along with members of staff.
 5. Santa Dash will take place on Friday 15 December.
- Show My Homework has had a few teething problems, but has been successful. We would like more parents to be involved. Positive feedback includes more than one parent can have access.
- Junior House Captains (S3) have been appointed.
- Columba 1400 continues. Mr McLaughlin was invited back to Skye for a Head Teachers’ Leadership Academy where John Swinney discussed the impact of Columba 1400.
- S4 Prelims are finished.
- S5/6 Prelims take place in January.

Mr Chappelle raised the question of a new co-opted member being appointed. Former pupil and journalist Kevin McKenna’s name was suggested. Mr McLaughlin will pass on details to Mr Chappelle to invite him.

AOCB:

Cllr Murray spoke briefly on her interest in the Parent Council and how it works.

Mr Chappelle thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was brought to a close.

Next meeting: Monday 5 February 2018 at 7pm.