



St Bernadette's Parent Council Meeting

Minutes from meeting on 28th February 2022

Attendees: Peter Butterly (Chair), Louise O'Rourke, Marianne Savage, Audrey Duncan, Lauren Edwards, Joanne Harley, Jennifer Walker, Katie Sweeney, Ann Duncan, Melinda van der Spuy, Mike Kelly, Craig Beer, Nick Masterson (minutes),

Apologies: Fr John, Nevenka Carson, Councillor Laura Murtagh and Natalie Masterson

| No | Item | Action req'd |
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| | <p>Attendees/ Apologies</p> <p>All the above people were in attendance with apologies received from Fr John, Nevenka Carson and Natalie Masterson.</p> | |
| 1. | <p>Minutes of Last Meeting</p> <p>Minutes from meetings were approved and seconded.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Update by Chair</p> <p>Football strips Following Parent Council meeting 28th February 2022, the Parent Council formally agree to pay for the school football strips. Order covers 10 strips, 1 x goal keeping strip and includes 10 pairs socks, tops with St Bernadette's badge printed on tops. Chair confirmed the order had been placed and paid for (£367.20). Chair to be reimbursed from Treasurer as kits could not be ordered via school due to local authority budget freeze. Anticipated delivery date is mid to end of March 2022.</p> <p>Car park etiquette Mrs Savage to confirm with school office if notice on car park etiquette has been raised in school newsletter.</p> <p>Chair confirmed that feedback regarding the speed of traffic on Edward Avenue and incorrect roundabout etiquette had been passed onto Councillor Laura Murtugh. Councillor Murtugh was not aware of any concerns and will investigate this. Chair to update the group at the next Parent Council meeting.</p> <p>Falkirk Council Budget Meeting Chair confirmed a meeting for all parents across the Falkirk Council area took place on 15th February 2022 and was hosted by Robert Naylor (Director of Children Services). Chair advised Council have a funding gap of £28m across the board. Chair advised Children Services are the largest of the Council department and proposals put forward for consideration include phased closure of community education centres, increasing cost of school meals, increasing cost of school lets and increasing free transport distance to 3 miles for secondary school pupils and possibly increasing free transport distance to 2 miles for primary school children.</p> <p>Chair also advised that during the budget meeting, it was suggested that there could be a slight reduction on number of teachers across the Council region as certain schools have a reducing school role.</p> <p>Chair also advised the next budget meeting is scheduled for Thursday 3rd March and advised the Parent Council to monitor social media/newspapers updates/announcements regarding further budget decisions/outcomes. From an education perspective, Falkirk Council are looking to make savings of £5.3m target.</p> | <p>Chair to place item on future agenda</p> <p>Chair to place item on future agenda</p> |

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| | <p>Chair advised there had been no further meetings held with Falkirk Parents Association or similar bodies since the last Parent Council meeting.</p> <p>P7 Hoodies The Parent Council have agreed to fund P7 hoodies as a standing item for pupils going forward for future year groups.</p> <p>Digital Online Homework Jennifer Walker shared with the group some concerns regarding the amount of digital online homework for younger children. It was felt that for younger children in particular, there was perhaps too much online homework instead of written/paper-based material and content. Furthermore, younger children may require additional support accessing digital content and this is presenting challenges to parents/carers especially where there are multiple applications, websites and where perhaps households do not have suitable devices for children to access digital content. COVID-19/lockdown expedited the move to digital material, and it was acknowledged there are benefits to digital content however Mrs Savage took an action to discuss with teaching staff, seek further inputs from staff and parents and will update the group at the next Parent Council meeting.</p> | Chair to place item on future agenda |
| 3. | <p>Finances</p> <p>Update provided by Katie Sweeney.</p> <p>Account balances</p> <p>£1,478 in main account £2,327 in 200 Club £1,743 in fundraising account</p> <p>Total = £5,548</p> <p>Further deductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,370 reserved for Todhill Grant • £370 reimbursement for football strips • Circa £600 for P7 hoodies | Chair to place item on future agenda |
| 4. | <p>Fundraising</p> <p>Ann Duncan shared with the Parent Council that the obstacle course was superseded by the recent Super Silly Fun Run which was a fantastic and enjoyable event. Whilst the exact total is unknown, Mrs Savage advised it was circa. £1,000. The school staff and Parent Council would like to thank families for their continued generosity and support towards the school.</p> <p>Ann Duncan updated the Parent Council that the fundraising committee are looking to meet ahead of the Easter holidays to discuss further fundraising activities in line with COVID-19 restrictions prior to the summer holidays. Ann Duncan to update the group on possible activities at the next Parent Council meeting.</p> <p>200 Club Jennifer Walker updated the group that the 200 Club has brought in the following revenue over the last 3 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2021 = £665 • January 2022 = £669 • February = £657 <p>Jennifer advised that the 200 Club has seen a reduction in membership. Mike Kelly advised a reminder of the 200 Club could be included in the Church newsletter to attract new members. Mrs Savage also confirmed that the 200 Club winnings can now be collected at school.</p> | <p>Chair to place item on future agenda</p> <p>Chair to place item on future agenda</p> <p>Chair to place item on future agenda</p> |

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| | <p>School branded hair accessories Chair had been contacted by an organisation selling school branded hair accessories. Ann Duncan to discuss with the fundraising group and update at the next Parent Council meeting.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Headteacher Update</p> <p>Around the school Mrs Savage shared with the Parent Council that further COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and whole school assemblies could now be held within the school. The first school gathering will take place on Ash Wednesday. Mrs Savage confirmed that weekly assemblies, hymn practices and school masses can now go ahead in line with latest COVID-19 restrictions however latest guidance means parents are not allowed inside schools at present. Mrs Savage to update the Parent Council on any changes to restrictions.</p> <p>Ministry of Meta Skills Mrs Savage updated the group that this is going well within the school and hopes to continue whole school this in future.</p> <p>Staffing Mrs Savage confirmed that student teachers Miss Morgan (P3), Miss Ferguson (P4) and Miss MacDonald (P7) are still with the school and that Miss MacDonald (P7) will move to P1 after the Easter break and that a new student is starting in the nursery just before Easter for 4 weeks.</p> <p>Trips Mrs Savage shared with the group that a whole school summer trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park was being arranged and that details will be shared with parents shortly. Mrs Savage confirmed that hardship funds are available if required.</p> <p>Pantomime visit Mrs Savage informed the group that plans to attend a Christmas pantomime were underway. Exact dates to be confirmed but expected to be 2nd to last week of the school term in December. Details of this will be shared with parents in due course.</p> <p>Sacrament preparation Mrs Savage confirmed that Sacrament preparations across the school classes was underway, and that Fr John has been visiting the school regularly.</p> <p>Sacrament details listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmations 21st May 2022 at St Francis (Archbishop Cushley attending and celebrating this mass). • First Confessions – Wednesday 27th April 2022. • Holy Communion – 2 sessions on 11th June 2022 (10:30am/2pm). | <p>Chair to place item on future agenda</p> |

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| | <p>P7 transitions</p> <p>Mrs Savage confirmed high school transition planning is in progress and that all P7 children regardless of future high school choice will be invited to St Mungo's (date to be confirmed). The visit will be led by the St Mungo's Religions Education department and based around Scottish Catholic Education Service resources (health & wellbeing).</p> <p>Mrs Savage also confirmed the dates for high school visits as per below:</p> <p>Larbert High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition underway and children have already visited school and next visits are 13th and 16th May <p>St Mungo's High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th June 2022 <p>World Book Day</p> <p>As this will take place around Lent, it was felt it to be appropriate to reduce the number of fundraising events taking place during this time. Mrs Savage informed the group that other ideas were being considered in place of financial fundraising events (helping communities and growing our faith).</p> | |
| 6. | <p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parent Council would like to thank the school staff for all their efforts on both World Book Day and the Super Silly Fun Run. Dates for future meetings as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tues 26th April 2022 Mon 6th June 2022 | <p>Chair to place item on future agenda</p> |

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 26th April 2022.