

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING



DECEMBER 6TH, 2016

Description	Action
<p>(1) Welcome and opening prayer Mr. Bryan Heaney welcomed everyone in attendance as the chairman of the P.C. Parents Mrs. Alison & Mr Niall Handy, and Mrs Rebecca Dowey, Acting PT were welcomed. (Apologies and attendances are set out at the end of the minute.)</p> <p>Opening prayer led by Father Scally.</p> <p>(2) Minutes of Previous Meeting: Corrections to the last meeting minutes were raised by Mrs Nazarian and PC members for clarity and accuracy purposes on the following accounts:</p> <p>School Partnership: Mrs Johnstone was not actually involved in the school partnership. Only Parent Council members. Mrs. Farrugia from the PC gave initially a first update.</p> <p>ParentPay and School website: Noted minutes being confusing by having overlapped the information of these two subjects which should not have been mixed. The insert of Mrs Nazarian's comments in the addendum was unpractical for the clear understanding of the parents. Highlighted that the minutes as stated were not reflective of the cooperation between St Peter' School and the Parent Council members in relation to the website as any feedback that has been given has been taken on board. Ms Kennedy's involvement is solely to do with the school's website and Mrs. O'Connor's is with the development and set up of ParentPay. Notes on the subjects of Parent Pay and the School website are to be adjusted accordingly.</p> <p>◊ Web links: Noted that some of the web links put in the minutes didn't work and need to be updated.</p> <p>Educational Attainment: Attainment item is not part of the Head Teacher's report.</p> <p>Choir : On the enquiring about the number of pupils attending the School's Choir – it should have been minuted "<i>adequate</i>" instead of "<i>too many</i>".</p> <p>Discussion on what minutes ought to reflect or working to be: As a resource tool to take account of discussions that have taken place. Also noted the importance of being a communication tool for the PC to communicate with other parents other than PC members directly speaking to parents individually which tends not to be about the minutes as a whole but individual subjects. Ultimately it is aimed at being circulated on the new school website for the parents to see and understandable in the form of a note of a meeting with</p>	<p>P.C Clerk</p>

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<p>clearly marked subject headings.</p> <p>Commented that the minutes previously circulated were generally fit for purpose and fairly brief and succinct. Noted it was a good style for the minutes and never a cause of discussion. However it is useful to have action points added.</p> <p>Agreed to have November's meeting minute synthesized; before it goes public.</p>	<p>PC Clerk</p>
<p>(3) What is happening to the School.</p> <p>School website Mrs Nazarian indicated that the school should be able to have the website going live for the Christmas holiday.</p> <p>Agenda item - School meals (incl. sugary drinks) Two items arose from last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Parent Council is awaiting information on the postal address in order to thank AMEY's caterer representatives who attended last PC meeting. Mrs O'Connor has contacted them via email asking for it. 2. In collaboration with Mrs O'Connor, PC was to approach the appropriate people from the Council to express its intention to join the group of schools that are only having milk and water at lunch time. As this action had not been taken forward, the Parent Council enquired on the course of action. Confirmed that PC is to write a letter for Mrs O'Connor to put forward to the City Council. <p>Proposed deletion of flavoured milk and juices from the school menu: Noted that feedback is so far favourable, however emphasis should be given to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flavoured milk and fruit juice not being an issue re dental hygiene as long as it is served with food. Importance stressed at not "over-demonising" those drinks as they still represent a medium to guarantee fluid intake. 2. Drinks issue should be clearly noted on the PC agenda in order to allow a better consultation with the parents and with sufficient notice. 3. St Peter's is still on sugary drinks under the umbrella of AMEY: however, the City Council already provides for other schools just water and milk only. <p>It is proposed to seek further feedback from parents on this subject before Christmas in order to allow the recommendation to move forward.</p> <p>Aside of the above, comment raised on jugs of water being too heavy for the younger children to pour. Enquiry for a solution. Mrs. Nazarian indicated that help is provided upon the child raising its hand and alternatively someone sitting at the table can also assist immediately. Water cleanliness in jugs also questioned.</p> <p>A better understanding of how children are coping at school lunch times could be established by the PC monitoring it over a set period of time - based on a similar action carried out at James Gillespie School. Mrs. Nazarian had no objection with the PC initiative.</p> <p>Agenda item - Medication and Inhalers New policy on children health from the Council for all schools in Edinburgh to follow. Represents a full policy with clear standard procedures that could ultimately appear on the School website.</p>	<p>PC / Mrs O'Connor</p>

As example of understanding: a child with asthma diagnosis will have two inhalers into the school; one inhaler will go into a zipped pocket with the pupil's name on it together with a flow chart issued through the Council and informs what to do when. The inhaler is in a zipped pocket with its name on it which goes in a black backpack and is kept in all types of classes/trips the child attends. The second one is an identical pack being kept in the school office in zipped pocket named with flow chart. Regular staff checks ensure these inhalers are in date. Emergency inhalers there to be solely used in emergency situation. The School's procedure is to have the child inhaler at all time. All teaching/support staff are given a regular mandatory up-to-date training on acute or severe allergies and asthma. On the subject of defibrillators, they aren't generally found in primary schools.

Agenda Item - New Behaviour Plan

There is not a huge behaviour problem in the School, rather a low level of disruptive behaviour that occurs from time to time, however enough to feel the need to be standardised across the School. Hence, the importance in having something to capture the attention of the children and making sure the incentives are meaningful.

A draft is presented to the Parent Council which illustrates the thoughts resulting from discussions with the staff and ongoing involvement of the children. The new approach would be based on a traffic lights model at classroom level and also raise the sense of identity & community through the creation of "clans" where points could be earned. Rewards could be translated into choices of activities like cooking, choir, crafts, digital animation, etc. It would also allow P7s to have increased responsibilities through monitoring the management of the behaviour standards across the school. Lastly this plan would be a trigger for improved communications with parents.

The Parent Council reminded the importance of article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; to ensure appropriate language is used as regards to the use of golden time and extra play time.

The plan is intended to come out as a new policy. Importance to have feedback from parents possibly in the form of a set group to share ideas/suggestions.

Agenda item – Head teacher's report

The Head teacher emailed her report to everyone on the day and distributed a paper copy for all to review. Headlines highlighted :

Partnership Schools – thoughts put forward are being translated into 4 actions points of focused discussion. Other meeting scheduled Friday next week.

High level of students presence in the School - a valuable teamwork for the benefit of the school, the students and the pupils.

Learning journal - teachers' feedback is that it works for Nursery but unfortunately not as practical for Primary at this stage. Other types of journal could be looked at such as the online journal (class blogs being regularly updated) on the school website

Agenda item - transition plans from P1 to P2

Short enquiry on the above item regarding the timescale. Mrs. Nazarian proposed to communicate with P1 parents. Item brought forward.

Mrs
Nazarian

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(9) Any other business

Parent Council's decision process and assessment Parent Council own communications are to be included in the next agenda given today's discussions.

Schools partnership

Carried forward (if of any relevance)

Educational attainment

Carried forward (if of any relevance)

Survey

Carried forward (if of any relevance)

(9) Closing Prayer led by Father Scally

(10) Apologies

Mrs O'Connor, Mrs D. Johnstone, Mr. J. Evitt, Ms. L. Kennedy, Mrs. J. Carter-Dailly, Mrs. M. Saliba, Mrs. A. De Bonrostro, Mr. G. Mone, Mrs. E. Farrugia, Mr. S. Tait.

Attendance: Mrs K. Nazarian, Ms Dowey, Father P. Scally , Mr. B. Heaney, Mrs. J. Beech-Brandt, Mrs. A. Tierney, Mr. N. Thorin, , Mr. A. Crichton, , Mr. N. Handy, Mrs. C. Daverin, Mrs. K. A. McAdams, Mrs. J. Staermose-Johnson, Mrs. M. Cresswell, Mrs A. Dines, Mrs. E. Meyer McKeon

(11) End of meeting

Bryan Heaney thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting is scheduled Tuesday 31st January 2016.