



St Andrews Parent Council (StAPC) – Minutes of 19 September 2019

Present: Alison Reid (AR) – Chair, Karen Foubister (KF1) – Secretary, Lianne Henry (LH) – Treasurer, Rachael Moar (RM), Laura Booth (LB), Gaby Barnby (GB), Karen Foubister (KF2), Gwen Simpson (GS) – Parent Reps, Mark Taylor (MT) – Head Teacher, Steve Sankey (SS) – Councillor (for the new build discussion only)

Apologies: Cheryl Moar, Michelle Morris, Andrew Drever, Norman Craigie, Jenny Rosie

1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019 were unavailable and approval will need to be carried over to the next meeting.

2. Matters Arising from minute of meeting on 11 June 2019

Not discussed

3. Head Teacher Update

MT thanked the PC committee and raised the events and successes of the last school year, notably the funding of the busses for the Easter concert to enable it to go ahead in the theatre and the hugely successful Summer Fair which was a great boost for the school and a lovely community get together. MT also went over all that's been achieved in general with loads of events run by school staff and involving the community. He discussed the challenges still ongoing with the reduction in SfL provision with the school roll now standing at 172 P1-P7 and 31 in the school nursery.

School Extension

The ongoing delays with the extension were discussed. The project still hasn't gone out to tender. SS suggested asking the new Director of Education James Wylie to a PC meeting and the concerns about the project can be put to him, along with the ongoing concerns on lack of SfL resource. We reflected that the build was first agreed at committee in 2017 and the completion date was due to be February 2020, therefore the build is now 2 years behind. Ideas for action were discussed.

Actions

- **PC to write to James Wylie referring to the timeline that was agreed at committee (Minutes available on OIC website)**
- **SS to raise the delays in the build with James Wylie**

Staffing Update

MT reported that he has been allocated a probationer for this year and she is being mentored by Fiona Reid who is also taking the P7 class some of the time. The composite P2/3 class is going fine but LH raised that lots of parents are still finding this situation unsatisfactory and she wanted it noted that the decision to composite was taken solely due to the SfL cuts. MT acknowledged that many parents are still unsatisfied with the situation.

MT informed us that there's a whole new staff team in the nursery. Helen is the Manager with staff of Rebecca Tait, Lisa Rutherford, Susan Wilson and Keisha (Modern Apprentice).

Art and music still have the same teachers and Fiona Hamilton has taken over as PE teacher. MT feels that the staffing outlook is generally positive although SfL has lost 13 hrs in real terms. Penny works extra through good-will. He raised the point that staff sickness is very low and teacher commitment is exceptional. Mrs Hancock's hours have been reduced and she is still the only SfL provision in school for P2-P7.

4. Fundraising

Christmas Cards - Underway and Michelle to give an update at the next meeting.

Blue Door – Application in and still hopeful that it will coincide with funds required for the playground after the new build.

Ideas Discussed – looking into a longer term bigger prizes raffle, Bingo, Race night, Orkney Mock Wedding, Ceilidh, 80's disco in Matchmakers for parents and friends.

Actions

- **GS to find out about about raffles run through the swimming club**
- **LH to investigate 80's disco in Matchies**

5. Football – Indoor League

GB gave a rundown of issues with costs for the indoor league associated with training costs for Picky and fees to enter teams in the league. St Andrews have done a great job of being inclusive, but this has proved very expensive and costs will need to be passed on to parents if we are to continue to include everyone. Mark reported that other schools don't include everyone in the indoor league. We discussed potential solutions and the consensus was reached that we should try to include P5s in training, but the costs will need to be looked at carefully for submission of teams. GB will draft a letter to P5-P7 parents.

6. AOB

KF1 brought up the possibility of a fundraising group for the P7 trip to Lagganlia next May. MT said that there will be a meeting, and this can be put to other P7 parents then. He said that the school would support this if it went towards reducing costs for all participating pupils. Ideas discussed were pop-up shop, car wash, sponsorship event, making lunches for events and charging. These ideas would incorporate P7 pupils themselves to ensure their investment in their trip.

Action

- **MT to arrange a meeting of P7 parents**

Discussed the handover of secretary role to Rachael.

Action

- **KF1 to arrange handover of role**

7. Date of Next Meeting

AR to get back to everyone with a date before the October holidays.