St Vincent’s Primary School

East Kilbride

Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 9th October 2018

**Attendees**

Eileen Tompkins, Danielle Timmons, Yvonne Boyle, Sharon Hamilton, Clare Simpson, Olive Thomas, Liz Blake, Carolanne Gilmore, Fiona Dryburgh, Archie Buchannan, Lisa Millar, Jennifer Bingham, Michael Feeney, Carole Cruikshank

**1 Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Agenda issued and reflected in these minutes. Chair opened meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Meeting continued with prayer from church rep.

**2 Apologies**

David Kelly, Bonnie Salinas, Jacqueline Burke

**3 Minutes to be approved from previous meeting dated 29th August**

**4 Head Teachers Report**

* Standards & Quality report – this gives an in depth account of the workings of our school during the school year 2017/18. A copy of the report has been given to the Parent Council and will be uploaded onto the school website following AGM. Further copies are available on request.
* The Improvement Priorities for the coming year are outlined in the school improvement plan which will also be available on the school website. Key priorities for this session are to improve; children’s attainment in literacy and numeracy by developing teacher professionalism, consistency of learning and teacher/pupil participation. Improve children’s health and wellbeing through increased access to a variety of outdoor learning opportunities.
* Our current roll is now over 333 with 56 children on the FME list. Last year we received £47,000 Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) from Scottish Government which was spent on various initiatives, including staff training to close the poverty gap and raise attainment for all.

We worked with Strathclyde university to develop approaches to learning and teaching in Literacy and Science. We also worked with Hidden Giants to help develop creativity throughout the school and play based learning in the infant school. PEF has enabled us to afford so many new resources for the school especially in Literacy and ICT. We have taken on the First Ministers reading challenge and have made a significant investment in new books throughout the school.

This year our PEF is £56,600 and we have used over £22, 059 to fund 0.6 teaching hours to target selected children and raise attainment in literacy in P2 and P3. We are also continuing our work with Hidden giants to build on the work that was started last session and we have plans to invest in Numeracy and outdoor learning resources as well as further staff training and if possible further targetted support.

* This year we celebrate 100 years since the Catholic Education Act in Scotland which saw Catholic schools transfer from Diocesan ownership to State governance. There are still a number of events planned including an invitation to Mass in St Columcille’s Rutherglen on Friday 26th October – I would be delighted if some of our parents attended.
* We are hugely indebted to our parents and other volunteers who support the work of our school and we hope to progress this involvement – I would be very grateful for any help you can give us as we work together for the good of our children. A very practical way to do this is by supporting your Parent Council and other consultative groups – to help us sort out issues such as school parking, playground concerns etc
* A huge thank you for the magnificent response to the Macmillan coffee morning and Dancethon. We hope to support Church in Need with their milk bottle initiative and we have already spoken to staff about children’s involvement in this years Christmas Fayre through enterprise activities.

Our school has got off to a good start and we look forward to building together on the progress that has been made for the good of all our pupils.

**5 Chairpersons Report**

This last year has been quite a successful year for the parent council – we’ve had a number of successful fundraising events, such as our discos and Christmas fayre.

The Christmas fayre was an especially great festive event with free entry being appreciated by all. We have decided not to have any public stalls at our next Christmas fayre as they were not cost effective and took up a great deal of space. This year we have a number of eager parents willing to help out so this years fayre is sure to be another fantastic family day.

Parent council also helped out at the communion breakfast and confirmation celebration. These special days were a pleasure to be part of and we look forward to helping out with these again next year.

We had a number of discos throughout the year with the best by far being our last disco in September. Our new DJ was a great addition and a hit with all the kids and parents alike. We also implemented a new layout, which made the flow of children much easier to deal with.

Hopefully we can continue to improve our events for the coming year.

**6 Treasurers Report**

All is looking well and up to date. We have now moved away from using cheques and everything is cash and online.

Total income for the school year was £6658.08

Total expenditure for the year was £4486.21

Surplus funds £2171.87

Successes of the year have been the Christmas fayre where we raised £2886. And the recent disco night of £661.80

Plans for this year are to arrange some giving back events, with the first one being a free disco night closer to Christmas.

**7 Present Office bearers step down**

Temporary chair (Church Rep) elects new office bearers - all office bearers reinstated.

Lisa Millar offered to assist Minute Secretary when required. Bonnie Salinas offered to take over the upkeep of the school notice board.

**6 Any other Business**

* Carpark issues – the carpark facilities are for use of the staff and disabled badge holders only. It is currently being overused and is becoming dangerous for children walking though the carpark. Ideas to resolve this issue were discussed.
* Morning Playground – The playground is extremely busy in the mornings with the Primary 7 classes finding it difficult to get through the crowds and into the side entrance of the school. An idea to resolve included asking parents to leave the playground at 8.55am once the teachers are out. This would exclude the months May & October for prayers.
* Holidays – There has been a considerable rise in the amount of children being taken out of school for holidays. Parents are encouraged to avoid this if at all possible.
* Playground facilities – it was mentioned that the playground is lacking in activities for the children during breaktimes. Mr Mckenna is heading an eco-committee and would appreciate any assistance from parents to help with ideas and apply for grants. Parent council have decided to provide playground games that will be signed in and out each break.
* Information – it was mentioned that there is not enough information about meetings etc. This was duly noted and all areas will be updated as regularly as possible (School App, Email, Facebook, Noticeboard)
* School gate – It was commented that the small gate at the school becomes very congested at school pick up. A solution would be to close this gate and open the double gates – this may be implemented in the coming weeks.
* Fixes – concerns were made about a hole outside the school near the small gate/noticeboard. This is currently covered with a grate that can be easily moved. This will need to fixed before the weather deteriorates and becomes a bigger hazard.
* Councillors – questions put to councillors Buchannan & Dryburgh regarding pathway on main road being overgrown. Any further advancement on the possibility of a bridge being created between the Lindsayfield and Ballerup village estate was also asked as this would alleviate parents concerns of walking along the busy road and may cut car congestion as more people would walk.

**Date of next meeting**

6th November

**Date of next AGM**

1st October 2019