St Vincent’s Primary School

East Kilbride

Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 15TH January 2019

**Attendees**

Eileen Tompkins, Gerry Gordon, Danielle Timmons, Lorena Ziolo, Olive Thomas, Clare Simpson, Carolanne Gilmore, David Kelly, Geri Gray, Archie Buchannan, Jennifer Bingham, Sharon Hamilton

**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**

Lisa Miller, Bonnie Salinas, Jacqueline Burke, Carole Cruikshank, Suzanne Cullen

**3 Minutes to be approved from previous meeting dated 6th November**

**4 Head Teachers Report**

**Pre-Christmas events** – in the month of December we had a huge range of successful events such as the Christmas fayre, Nativity, Café Noel, Class parties, Choir appearances, choir recital and end of term Mass. We are indebted to the support of the parish community and thank them for their efforts. A huge Thank you to all who helped organise and attend our events.

**Enrolement week** – At date of meeting current roll is 338. There are 48 Primary 7s leaving for high school this year.

**Playground changes** – The new procedures implemented regarding morning drop off are working well; alleviating risk in the playground and strain on the carpark.

**Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)** – A great deal of thought and effort is put into allocating this funding effectively, to make the most impact. So far the funding has helped to improve many areas in the school ranging from teaching hours to equipment. We are now looking to explore the possibility of setting up a consultation group to develop outdoor learning facilities for the children.

**Upcoming events**!

BBC Radio2 Launch of 500 words – St Vincents has been chosen as the Scottish representative for the launch and have to provide a list of 20 songs, 7 of which will be played on the station on the morning of Tuesday 29th January.

EK Take2 Launch 30th January – this will be an ongoing project in all classes throughout the term with the whole school celebration of learning on 13th March.

Launch of Primary 4 Science Club for pupils and their parents called Science makes sense(s) – this will be ran for 5 weeks by Miss Timmons, Mrs McGeary and Mr N Mckenna. If successful we hope to roll this out across the school.

P7 Residential 25th – 28th February

Christian Meditation DVD – St Vincents will take part in this recording which will be used as an example of good practice.

Pope Francis Faith Award – this is undertaken by the Primary 6 & 7s who work on putting their faith into action in school, at home and in the parish community. They recently organised a collection for the homeless through the Simon Community and will be organising a mass for the elderly in February, along with visiting a care home to spend some time talking to the residents.

**5 Chairpersons Report**

Treasurer – with the resignation of our treasurer, and no volunteers as yet it was discussed how procedures will need to be changed/managed until a new treasurer(s) is appointed.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of volunteers on the parent council - this is making it extremely difficult to run all the events throughout the year for the children. Parents/Grandparents/Care givers are urged to volunteer any time they can to allow the parent council to continue.

Christmas fayre this year was a huge success and enjoyed by all who attended – changes to improve the enterprise set up were discussed and will be taken on board for the next fayre.

Dates for diary - First Communion and Confirmation dates were discussed and plans will be made nearer the time. Communion 11th May / Confirmation 6th June.

**6 Any other Business**

* Playground facilities – as noted in previous meetings 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 a team of volunteers to put together ideas and help apply for grants/funding to improve the playground for the children.
* 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 will be implemented in the coming weeks.
* **Update** Fixes – concerns were made about a hole outside the school near the small gate/noticeboard. A temporary fix has been put in place to cover the hole sufficiently.
* Councillors – councillor Buchannan updated us on issues previous discussed. The underpass leading to the school now has lighting 24/7 – making it a safer option for children & parents alike. The security lighting surrounding the school was assessed and will be fixed accordingly. The path linking Lindsayfield and Ballerup Village – there are no plans or funding available as yet though a consultation group to discuss active travel in East Kilbride is being set up and this will be discussed as part of this process.
* School App – this has proven to be an effective form of communication with parents. However it was noted that it is not being used to its full capabilities – meaning weekly homework, class activities etc could be posted. As an eco school we will be focussing on minimising the usage of paper when possible and the app will be one of the main forms of communication. All parents/grandparent/care givers are encouraged to download the app to their phones/tablets – this can be found in your app store under Primary School App.

**Date of next meeting** 19th March 2019