

Trinity High School Parent Council

Minutes of meeting held via Skype on Monday 18th October 2021

Present

Mr Marshall, Father John Eagers, Maureen McCafferty, Claire Jones, Laura Mclver, Yvonne Jennings, Claire Harkins, Clare Douglas, Karen Young, Siobhan Lamond, Jacqui McDade and Gemma McGoran

Apologies: Shauna Luse

Minutes of last meeting approved.

Matters Arising

Profile of PC – There was talk of the Parent Council being split in to two groups, but decision has been made to stay as one. It's felt that the PC should branch out more to gain more enthusiasm from parent body. A huge thank you to those parents who have recently joined, more people have joined in the past year than ever before.

Rebranding – The PC should have our own Facebook page and email address so that parents can contact us direct. Laura will continue to investigate the best way to set this up. The Facebook page will not be a place to make comments, just a place to share information. More parents may contact us if they have an email or somewhere they can private message. Maureen will check if there is still an active email address for the parent council.

Mr Marshall confirmed the PC can have space at the end of school newsletter to update parents. Claire Harkins thinks there is also a way to put out info on Twitter, FB and school website – the more places we can get info out to parents, the better. We need advice from a digital expert as to how best to set this up. Mr Marshall will take this back to the school and contact Renfrewshire Council to check if they have any advice.

Claire Harkins and Clare Douglas are happy to post anything the PC would like to send out. Mr Marshall will post the minutes of the previous meeting on the school website once they are ratified.

ACTIONS: LM / MM / PM

Office Bearers – Clare Douglas has stepped forward to take an office bearer role. Anyone else interested should let Maureen know or message the PC WhatsApp group.

Head Teacher Report

Covid – will hear in the next week what's happening with facemasks. There is no social distancing with pupils, but school are still not having large gatherings. Can still have house groups getting together. CO2 monitors have been place around the school. Guidance on ventilation remains the same. If inclement weather, room will be purged between classes.

There is still a high level of cleaning and hand sanitising happening in the school and the one way system still in operation.

Clubs and Events – 30 clubs have been set up and are happening – clubs for faith, music, magic and sports to name a few. A number of online events have also taken place for S1. There was an online information event for the parents of S5 and S6 pupils applying to UCAS which was not well attended. However parents at meeting said they didn't receive the link to the meeting. The school are trying to maintain a level of communication via online as can't do face to face at the moment.

Events have been run for European Day of Languages and Challenge Poverty Week (food bank collection took place throughout the week).

There have been a few cases of Covid in school but not near the levels of last year, attendance of teachers and pupils have been good. Classes are still working and maintaining focus up to the end of term.

Recently there was a day to celebrate the Feast of St Therese. Plans to celebrate Feast of St Margaret and Feast of St Andrew are in place. Celebration of the Feast of St Columba will happen later in year.

S6 leadership classes have arranged a number of charity initiatives across the school – 'Show Racism the Red Card' is this week. Pupils will wear something red on their uniform.

Staffing – there are a number of vacant positions in non-teaching roles which will be interviewed in the coming weeks. Mr Craig is returning to the school for 1-2 days per week to work with pupils on vocational awards.

West College Scotland – Mr Marshall met with West College Scotland to discuss working in partnership regarding their vocational courses. They're keen to know what courses the young people of Trinity would like to do.

Parent Forum – 16th November has been set as the day for diocese and parent forum, waiting to know what the guidelines will be like before sending out invites.

In-Service Day – There was an in-service day today in school in which the mental health and wellbeing policy was looked at. Also looked at what assessments will be like in the coming year, with exams now confirmed. Students will know the date for prelims ASAP so young people can start preparing for them.

Personal statements – Support for personal statements has increased this year. Personal statements could also be used in CVs for those not going onto FE. They will be following all pathways.

Charitable donations – Parents mentioned that bringing in contributions for foodbank was a great idea, but the competition element (house points) was not palatable with a number parents, in the past a non-uniform day was the 'reward'. Mr Marshall said the RE dept ran the week and they wanted to look at poverty and what it really means, discussing poverty with the students. Informal drop off points were located within the school, house points weren't pushed, the main message in the school was the message around RE and tackling poverty. House points were also given to pupils who contributed in class regarding poverty, they got points for the whole agenda. It engaged pupils and there was positive feedback from them. A non-uniform day will happen later on in the year.

School will send a letter out to parents at start and end of term to give updates.

Mr Marshall will speak to SMT and Chaplaincy group about how they deal with fundraising going forward.

ACTIONS: PM

Excellence & Equity Raising Attainment & Achievement

Mrs Monaghan presented a PowerPoint which explained the school's vision, strengths and agreed improvement priorities. The school sets realistic expectations while still reaching. There is an inclusive support strategy which has helped increase the attendance of some pupils and has given support for young people. Mrs Monaghan went through the attainment in literacy and numeracy as well as attainment over time. Regarding positive destinations, Trinity are high up in terms of young people leaving Trinity and going to a positive destination.

AOB

It was asked if 'show my homework' was still being used. Mr Marshall confirmed that unfortunately it's not useable at the moment. Will need to look at whether Satchel 1 is viable.

When asked, Mr Marshall also confirmed that there would be a school show this year. There are plans for a virtual Christmas concert this year to showcase talents and then the school show in the summer will be 'Oliver' which will happen in person!

Date of next meeting

Monday 15th November 2021 at 6pm. It will be confirmed nearer the time if the meeting will take place in the school or on Teams.

END