

## Minutes: Tynewater Primary School (TPS) - Parent Council (PC) Meeting 90

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 09:00 – 10:00

### Online Teams Meeting

#### \*Action point (\*AP)

1) Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Jane Brown JB, Fiona Hayes , Sana Malik, Matt Elliot  
Present: Emma Diffley ED (Chair), Julia Critchley JC (Secretary), Aurora Mancini AM (Treasurer), Clare McCallum CM (Headteacher), Isobel Leonard IL (Principle teacher) Laura Mackay LM, Laura Else LE, Mairi Milne MM, Anna Davanna AD, Stevie Blackwood SB, Daniel Balgrie DB, P7 pupils - Edie, Keva, Alex, Charlie

2) Minutes of last meeting/Outstanding Actions

(1) The minutes of the previous meeting (90) were accepted

(2) Outstanding actions:

- (a) No Dog Signs: CM has raised this with Skanska. Skanska and Midlothian council (MidC) have taken this forwards and will put up 4 'No Dog' signs in strategic locations. CM points out that there is no MidC policy on dogs in school grounds and therefore the school is unable to enforce requests to keep dogs out of the grounds. ED has approached Gail Currie at MidC Central Education Team to push for a policy regards dogs on school grounds and awaits a response.
- (b) Garden Volunteering: This item is further discussed later in minutes.
- (c) Lost property: volunteers have made progress on sorting through property. IL reports not much lost property at present.
- (d) Playground equipment and refurbishment: ED hoped to raise this at Parent Council chairs meeting. This has been postponed and ED will enquire at the next MidC PC Chairs meeting.
- (e) Review of Books/Reading schemes: this item covered later in minutes.

3) Chairperson's Report

- a) MidC PC Chairs meeting was postponed. ED intending to attend.
- b) Marathon: TPC has entered 3 teams of 4 for the relay. Entries covered by PC funds but will be paid back in sponsorship. Just Giving page has been created for fundraising. Funds raised are to go towards TPC. Specifically for school books and renovation of the raised beds.
- c) Headteacher post: remains unfilled. ED reports that the recent round of recruitment attracted 2 applicants neither of which were suitable for interview. Of note the PC was given only 1 week notice of potential interview dates. MidC were unable to organise any interview panel lay member training in advance of this potential date. This is frustrating as PC is keen to have parent representation on the interview panel. ED continues to contact MidC to both request training and representation.
- d) Community Council Meeting: ED was unable to attend. LE attended and gave a brief summary of what was discussed. Pathhead Community Council is keen to support the school where possible. ED and LE plan to attend the next meeting together.

4) Treasurer's Report

- a. AM updated the PC with the current balance (£4187.26). £50 for leaving presents for Mrs McCabe still to be processed.
- b. All other significant payments for this year have been cleared (e.g. reading cloud)

- c. PC agreed priorities for using the funds should be books, raised beds and extra playground equipment.

## 5) Headteacher's Report

- a. CM is delighted to have the PC meeting back in the school with P7 pupils joining
- b. Whole school assembly: The staff are gradually getting the children used to being together again in the assembly hall. The plan is to try and get parents back into watching assemblies later this term.
- c. Charades performance: The Mould that Changed the World was a wonderful opportunity for the children. CM and the staff are all very proud of their hard work and talent. All staff very disappointed (as were the children) that parents could not come in and watch as had been planned. This was a MidC decision and out with the control of CM/staff. Staff are looking at ways to incorporate bits of the performance into end of year assemblies to give parents some experience of the live show.
- d. Covid-19: in council buildings (which includes the school) facemasks are still to be worn while moving through the buildings. They also need to be worn when adults are unable to socially distance. They are no longer required in the playground.
- e. Rights Respecting Schools: TPC has achieved Silver Award in the past. This will need to be repeated as the school works towards eventually achieving Gold Award. This term the school will dedicate assembly to a different right each week. The idea is that during the week classes will spend some time focussing on that Right and then come together as a whole school community to discuss.
- f. Louise Munro : CM updated the PC of the news that Mrs Munro is leaving to pursue a new career path. CM highlighted the fantastic contribution Louise has made to the school community during her 13 years working at TPC. CM is particularly grateful for all the support provided by Lousie during the transition of headteachers. CM expressed on behalf of the staff how much she will be missed. ED thanks Louise on behalf of the PC, expressed again how much she will be dearly missed and highlighted how fantastically she has fulfilled her role.
- g. Latin Club: Josie Purves (newly qualified teacher) is planning to start a Latin club for pupils during one of the lunch breaks. This will likely be aimed at P4-P7.
- h. Sports Day: Staff are planning dates in mid-June for school sports. Date and reserve option for bad weather. The plan is for light-hearted potted sports. The PC agree to provide ice-creams for the event.
- i. Parent meetings: these will be in-person this term. Benefits of online appointments were discussed including increased efficiency as the online appointments run to time better than face to face. The online format suits some parents better as allows more flexibility around work and childcare. However staff are really keen to have meetings face to face this time as parents have not been into school for so long. It was pointed out that some parents have never been into the school. Seeing the children's work on the walls and looking through jotters is a big advantage of face-to-face meetings.
- j. Written reports: the staff are progressing with writing end of year reports.
- k. Transition: CM confirmed these will be in person for the children. Information will be going out to parents soon.

## 6) Daniel Balgrie – Senior Community & Lifelong Learning lead for Dalkeith area

- (a) DB is keen to offer parent engagement and parenting programmes
- (b) He outlined a range of programmes they can offer. These have mostly been online over the past 2 years. Moving towards more face to face sessions
- (c) He asked what would TPC parents & staff find helpful and outlined various programmes including Raising Teens with confidence, & Raising Children with confidence. These courses discuss brain development, relationships, mental health and wellbeing. DB notes that raising teens with confidence is popular with parents of children who are at transition stage.
- (d) DB confirms he can offer in school face to face sessions. It was agreed that focus should be on parents of P1 and P7 transition. AP: ED, DB, and CM will take this forwards and arrange 2 programmes for these 2 parent groups.

7) Gardening Volunteers and Garden priorities

- (a) Garden Tidy will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 12:00 – 16:00. All volunteers welcome.
- (b) CM updated the PC that class teachers are working on their class timetables and identifying times that would be suitable for each class (or a small group of pupils from that class) to help for short periods in the garden. Once this timetable is arranged parent council member LE will collate and arrange for parent helpers to come and assist with these gardening sessions. Staff member Jackie McNairn will also be present at these sessions. Jackie has kindly offered to attend during school holidays to help maintain the beds. **AP: CM will confirm that PC members are also able to attend during holidays (as we have done in the past) to keep on top of gardening/weeding.**

8) PC Funding for new books

- a) IL reports that class teachers have compiled lists of required books
- b) IL and Mrs Clarke have also liaised with other schools to compare reading lists and help TPC compile a suitable list of required books.
- c) The staff now have a list of required books which includes new books and replacements for existing books which are worn out.
- d) PC agreed to spend £1000 on the new books on this list.

9) Residential trips

- (a) CM confirms that the staff are exploring plans for residential trips to resume next year. The focus will be on ensuring that the P7 have a residential trip.
- (b) CM and the staff acknowledge that school trips, activities and residential can be a significant financial strain for many families. The staff are going to review activities for all years across the school. This is with a view to balancing activities and costs.
- (c) The school will send a survey to parents to ask their view on trips, residential and costs.
- (d) LE suggested ideas from other schools such as; parents who feel able can round up when paying for trips/activities and this money going into a pot which can be used to bring down the overall cost of school trips. Or the pot could be used to subsidise trips for those who cannot afford.
- (e) ED suggested exploring using PC funds to subsidise trips and bring down the overall cost or again subsidise for those who cannot afford.

10) Summer Fayre

- (a) PC members voted not to arrange a Summer Fayre this year due to rather short notice at this stage.
- (b) Plan is to have a social event which will likely be held on the same evening as the parent – teacher meetings. PC will arrange refreshments and the event will be designed to facilitate socialising between parents. **AP: ED to create subcommittee to plan this event**

11) AOB

- (a) Edie Green (P7 pupil) approached the PC with a wish list of playground equipment. Edie and Zoe have been through the playground equipment and reviewed current items. The list included – clip on basketball hoop (much easier to set up than the current hoops on wheel stand), new basket balls, badminton shuttlecocks, volley ball equipment. **AP: Edie and Zoe to compile the lists and costings and send to PC/ED for review**

12) Date of next meeting and close

The next meeting will be:                      Tuesday 24th May 18:30 – 19:30 (Online)

Future dates:                                      Friday 24th June 09:00 – 10:00 (In school)