

## Minutes: Tynewater Primary School (TPS) - Parent Council (PC) Meeting 101

Friday 22nd September 1100, Tynewater PS Community Room

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

#### 1) Welcome and apologies

- a. Apologies: Nicola White, Alija Blaz, Aurora Mancini (treasurer), Laura MacKay, Sarah Whigham, Laura Else
- b. Present: Louise Ferguson LF (HT), Emma Diffley ED (Chair), Julia Critchley JC (secretary), Anna Davanna AD, Liza McMillan, Leoni (P7), Moray (P7), Mairi Milne, Cara Cheplin, Lisa Green, Kat Walkingshaw, Jane Brown, Sana Malik

#### 2) Minutes of last meeting/Outstanding Actions

- a. The minutes of the previous meeting (100) were accepted.
- b. Outstanding actions:
  - i. AP from meeting 100: Light Pollution to surrounding community from TPS. PC has previously requested that the school children write a letter to Skanska outlining the issue and asking if this can be addressed. **AP: ED to liaise with LF to organise, perhaps ECO committee**
  - ii. AP from meeting 100: Headphones - the cost of this and numbers required has not been established. A ball park figure of £1600 is felt to be too much for PC funds. **AP: LF to explore this further, confirm whether required and establish numbers, cost etc.**
  - iii. AP from meeting 100: Car parking & congestion in school grounds and surrounding roads. Gillian Bathgate (GB) (midlothian council) has been in touch with ED. Plan in place to paint lines for the school coach spaces to deter cars from parking at pick up/drop off. GB is aware that TPS has high proportion of out of catchment children and therefore cars are essential transport for many families. Park and stride to be encouraged. Potential for the old primary school site to be a safe/designated car parking area in the future. The safety issue at the crossing point at the top end of Chrichton Avenue is difficult. Installing road crossing markings is not feasible. Perhaps bollards at the lowered kerb are an option and GB is exploring.

#### 3) Chair person's report

- a. Halloween party - booked for Tuesday 24th of October. Thank you to sub-committee for organising.
- b. Skanska lets - ED has confirmation that we can use the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.
- c. Christmas fair - ED requests volunteers to form the sub-committee to organise this. Date is 2/12/23
- d. Gardening - Between last terms and the recent school garden produce sale the PC has raised £84. Huge thanks to Jackie McNair for organising the gardening. Thank you to the parent volunteers.

#### 4) Treasurer's Report

- a. AM sent her apologies.
- b. Bank balance is healthy with no recent significant spending.
- c. AM is trying to source a card reader from the bank.
- d. JC to liaise with AM regards online banking/payments
- e. LF requested £200 for playground equipment - approved

#### 5) Headteacher's report

- a. **Chief Executive Visit** - TPS had a visit from Grace Vickers and Michelle Strong on Wednesday. This is a visit they are making to all new Head Teachers and included a tour of the school. They were both very pleased with the ethos and plans for the school and impressed by the spaces for learning Tynewater affords and the focussed attention to learning they observed in classes across both atriums.
- b. **School improvement plan** - SQIP is now completed and will be shared on the school website for all parents to access. A parent friendly leaflet with SIP Priorities will also be shared in due course.

Key priorities are:

- Reviewing our Vision, Values and Aims - including Columba 1400 Pupil Leadership
- Developing practice in writing - SEIC Writing Connector
- Inclusion - Nurture Principle 2 and Principle 4
- Metacognition - Growth Mindset, Learning Powers, Building Resilience

#### Maintenance Priorities:

- Rights Respecting Schools - Silver Award
- Digital Technology - Digital Schools Award journey
- Celebrating and Tracking Wider Achievement
- Parental Communication and Engagement Strategy

#### c. **Pupil Leadership Groups** - These will underpin the school priorities and include:

- Rights Respecting Schools Group, Digital Leaders, Eco, Pupil Council – including School Ambassadors, Literacy Champions, Maths Champions, junior road safety officers (JRSOs).
- These were previously known as pupil voice groups. All P7 children will be involved. All children from P1- P6 can put themselves forwards but not all will get to join. In order that the groups are productive they will be smaller than in previous years. So that every child is still able to experience being in a 'voice group' the school will hold 'MAD' assemblies each term - 'mixed age discussion' and these will be feedback & discussion opportunities on relevant topics.

#### d. **Communication strategy** - LF aware that there are issues with the multiple platforms for communication from school to parents. Please can parents/carers fill out the survey. PC has shared this on the class WhatsApp groups. The school is proposing to have a better and more frequently updated website and then emails for communication rather than a mixture of seesaw/schoolApp and email.

#### e. **Christmas Pantomime** - LF is keen to use Macastory. This is felt to be the cheapest and most inclusive option. The company come to school and will perform Hansel and Gretel for 1 hour in the school hall. Total cost £600. PC agreed this was the best option in terms of cost and inclusivity. PC approved funding £400 and the school then pays £200 with no charge to parents.

#### f. **Progress so far this term:**

- Focus on Ethos - pride and expectations
- Visions values and aims Consultation ongoing
- Relationships Focus - got to know staff and pupils
- Reviewed School House System
- Reviewed Wider Achievements tracking
- Reviewed Pupil Leadership including Pupil Voice Groups and Metacognition
- Rearranged lunch timings to maximise learning time and LA Support for pupils
- Established targeted intervention groups across the school from SfL and LAs
- Review Meetings for individual pupils - with parents and multi-agency partners
- ELC and P1 good practice visits - play pedagogy and learning environments
- SEIC Writing Connector Session 1
- Ready to Learn; Ethos, Relationships and Culture Policy drafted September 2023
- Nurture Groups Intervention established with a new SfL and Nurture space allocated

#### g. **Good news stories** from P7 ambassadors Moray and Leoni

- We had our first parent event which was the Meet the Teacher events this term – the teachers loved welcoming you back into the school building and look forward to seeing you again at Parents Evening
- Our Assemblies this year so far have focussed on Rights Respecting Schools, House Captain and School Ambassador Speeches, being safe in school and having a Growth Mindset to help you learn
- We had a vegetable sale after school – selling the crops from our gardens and we made **£84**
- We have many clubs running or planned for this term, led by pupil leaders and by Active Schools. These clubs include Athletics, Chess Club, Coding Club, Pupil Voice Group, Eco Group, Digital Leaders, Art Club, Yoga and Judo.
- We have now appointed our House Captains and School Ambassadors and they can't wait to get started
- We have had Hockey sessions running for Primary 6 this term
- We have had drumming sessions running for Primary 2 and Primary 3
- Brass tuition for P6 and P7 pupils has started again.

### 6) Active schools (AS) funding

- a. ED reported back on the funding proposal from Jenna McAndlish (active schools coordinator). She had organised a 4 week block for this term, which would have accommodated up to 40 children with

sessions led by coaches. However there was a very tight deadline for a decision on a large sum of money and ED was unable to commit to this without having the time to discuss with wider committee.

- b. Sponsorship - Previously we had thought Lothian Broadband would sponsor active schools at Tynewater but unfortunately they are no longer looking to support our area.
- c. Cost of AS sessions - these must be free for the children to access to come under the AS umbrella. Jenna McAndlish has quoted £800 per block of 4 weeks for activities, led by AS coaches for up to 40 children. The PC feel this is too much for the PC to fund particularly as many children from the school community will not benefit. PC is keen to fund activities/resources which all children can access.
- d. AS booking system - this is a recurring point of criticism and a significant barrier to children accessing the sessions. Many parents complain that the system is difficult to navigate and not user friendly. The way activities are released to the system and then it is first come first served to book prevents fair access to securing places on the courses.
- e. AD is running AS yoga sessions in the school (currently for P2 & P3). These are very popular. Thank you to AD for giving up her time.
- f. JC noted that as discussed at a previous meeting, if more parents/carers were willing to do the training and offer their time then more activities could be held at TPS. JC reported that she did the active schools coaching training last week and enjoyed it. She meets with Jenna in October to discuss what sessions she could run within Tynewater's AS programme.
- g. **AP: ED to discuss with Jenna options for AS in Tynewater and to feedback that with the difficulties created by the booking system making fair access to the sessions difficult we feel unable to commit large amount to active schools programmes in it's current format.**

#### 7) Christmas Cards

- a. ED reports that we are using the same company as last year. The teachers will need to facilitate the children completing their designs.

#### 8) Funds and fundraising

- a. PC has a healthy bank balance at present.
- b. Fundraising activities planned include - Christmas cards, Halloween Party and Christmas fair
- c. AP: ED to book village hall for next term for a fundraising social activity (Bingo or Quiz etc)
- a. PC agree that this is ultimately a matter for the school management team to decide upon.

#### 10) Coldwells

- a. Survey - 60 responses which is a good proportion of the Tynewater families. Feedback overwhelmingly critical. Issues mainly on quality of photos, children looking untidy and even unhappy. Children reported not feeling comfortable with the experience. The website is felt to be confusing
- b. ED and LF have explored alternatives. Coldwells is the cheapest and has the most options especially for families with siblings.
- c. LF has written to parents addressing concerns from the survey. The school reassures parents that they will help support the children with the photos in future and ensure no child is upset by the process. Tissues and combs will be on hand. Free retakes are available for cases where the parents are unhappy with the photo or if the child is not able to participate with a photo on the day.
- d. Class photos - There were lots of negative comments about the class photos and there will no longer be taken by Coldwells. The class teachers will take a class photo at the start of the year instead.

#### 12) Garden Tidy

- a. Jackie McNairn would appreciate parent volunteers to clear and cover the beds to keep the weeds at bay over the winter,
- b. **AP - ED to arrange a date with Mrs McNairn**

#### 11) Lost property

- a. Frustration from the PC as there have been repeated efforts to sort out lost property and manage the second hand uniform stock. Unfortunately the cupboard where the uniform is stored frequently becomes very messy again.
- b. Plan going forwards is to lay out lost property and second hand uniform at parents evenings, open evenings and coffee mornings. PC volunteers kindly keep stocking up the 'help yourself rail' in the school reception. This seems well used. Thank you to Anna Davanna and Mandy Glass for their on-going efforts tidying the uniform.

12) Friendship bench

- a. This is in need of refurbishment.
- b. AP - AD and LF will look for parent volunteers to sand and varnish the bench

13) Car parking

- a. PC request that the school remind parents not to park in the school carpark at drop off/pick up and to park considerately on the surrounding streets.
- b. As discussed earlier there are plans to paint markings to discourage cars from parking in the coach spaces.
- c. Potential for staff or children in the JRSO group to come out in high viz to challenge drivers.
- d. LF suggested that for morning drop off encouraging a 'drop and drive' approach whilst discouraging parking might be more successful and should help with the congestion.
- e. **AP - LF to communicate with parents/carers about car parking**

14) AOB

- f. Calendar Park - Sara Whigham and Cara Chepplin have set up a committee to campaign for funding to improve the facilities at calendar park. Such as an upgrade to the play equipment and a pump track. PC agree to advertise and help them recruit volunteers to help with this campaign.

Next meeting: Tuesday 14/11/23 (18:30 online)

Future dates: Friday 19/1/24 (AM in school) Tuesday 12/3/24 (18:30 online)

Friday 10/5/24 (AM in school) Tuesday 4/6/24 (18:30 online)