

**Minutes: Tynewater Primary School - Parent Council (PC) Meeting 87**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm – 7.30pm**

**Online Teams Meeting**

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

1) Welcome and apologies (6:30)

Apologies: Anna Davanna, Jane Telfer, Fiona Hayes, Sana Malik, Mairi Milne, Christina Thompson, Stevie Blackwood

Present: Emma Diffley ED (Chair), Julia Critchley JC (Secretary), Aurora Mancini AM (Treasurer), Douglas Lawson DL, Laura MacKay, Polly Tolley, Nicola White NW, Claire Lorimer CL, Clare McCallum CM (depute headteacher), Matt Elliot, Laura Else LE

2) Minutes of last meeting/Outstanding Actions (6:35)

(1) The minutes of the previous minutes were accepted

(2) Outstanding actions:

(a) The only outstanding issues related to the garden which was to be discussed later on the agenda

3) Chairperson's Report (6:40)

- a. In response to the recent announcement of Mr Lawson's upcoming retirement in February 2022 ED thanked Mr Lawson for 25 years of head teaching. She acknowledged many years of hard work and dedication to the school, staff and children. On behalf of the PC she noted he would be greatly missed, passed on our congratulations and very best wishes.
- b. ED welcomed Mrs McCallum (CM) to the school. CM is taking up the role of depute headteacher following Mrs McCabe taking up a depute position at King's Park PS.
- c. The chair wished Mrs McCabe well in her secondment at King's Park.
- d. ED updated the PC on all the exciting preparations for the Pathhead Village Xmas extravaganza at which there will be fundraising opportunities for the school.
- e. CL took on the organisation of the children's Christmas card fundraiser this year and sourced a new company. ED thanked CL for all her hard work and noted that it has been much greater fundraiser compared to previous years. CL commented that the card designs being done in school increased sales. ED thanked staff for facilitating this.

4) Treasurer's Report (6:45)

- a. AM reported on recent account activity and will share the summary report online.
- b. Received fundraising £389 from Christmas cards.

5) Headteacher's Report (6:50)

- a. Mr Lawson (DL) shared with the PC recent in school charity fundraisers including collection for BBC Children in Need and the Poppy Appeal.
- b. DL congratulated Chloe in P7 for her excellent fundraising initiative. She chose to do a sponsored haircut and has raised over £1000 for charity.
- c. Introduction of new devices for every child. The devices (tablets and chrome books) will be arriving soon. Parental consent (forms issued to parents this week) needs to be completed before the devices can be released.

- d. DL discussed the school diary. He provided an update regards the P1 nativity and intent for a recording to be made available. All the classes will have individual Xmas class parties as is allowed by restrictions. Xmas lunches will be held next week.
- e. Mr Lawson discussed his upcoming retirement which has been a very considered decision. He describes the past 2 years as challenging due to covid and is very sad to leave the school/staff/children. DL reassures us he will be working hard up until his last day to ensure smooth running of the school and handover.
- f. DL welcomed Mrs McCallum who is settling in well to the school. ED asked CM how she is dividing her split role between support for learning and depute. CM outlined her support for learning role and the excellent handover she received from Mrs McCabe. CM explained that the school is very busy in run up to Christmas. She and the staff are still developing her role while prioritising Xmas preparations and the overall needs of school.

6) Car parking and safety (7:00)

- a. ED raised concerns on behalf of parents/carers regards parents/carers parking badly in order to park as close to school as possible. A near miss was witnessed recently. ED noted that Midlothian council and the police are both aware of issues with parking.
- b. DL suggested 'parking tickets' issued by the pupil council to highlight the problem.
- c. NW suggested a poster design competition for the children to highlight safety concerns.
- d. PT pointed out that a long term solution is required. Currently there is no designated drop off point. PT suggests lobbying Midlothian council for a better and safer solution. She noted Tynewater PS (TPS) has no traffic calming solution in place and lots of out of catchment children with no other option than to drive children to school.
- e. ED would like the school to send out a message discouraging the use of car when non-essential. This is for congestion/safety as well as environmental reasons.
- f. LE supported both shorter term actions as suggested and also lobbying the council. LE shared her knowledge from an Edinburgh school where the children have effectively presented to the council on school safety issues. She suggested we try similar at TPS.
- g. DL responded that the pupils would be keen to be involved. Permissions would be needed for videos etc. DL pointed out that with the proposed housing development, the wide access gate to that field and the nearby pedestrian gate into the school, a safer parking solution could be engineered into the planning of this new development.
- h. CM wondered if there is any difference seen in congestion during walk to school week. ED replied that with the volume of out of catchment children these weeks are not that different.
- i. **AP – to contact Gillian Bathgate at Midlothian council about parking concerns**

7) Gardening Club (1910)

- (a) ED confirmed again with DL that parent volunteers are welcome in the playground for gardening activities.
- (b) DL suggested asking the wider parent forum to engage with plans for the garden and hopefully create a garden steering group.
- (c) CL commented that it has been very disheartening this year investing hours of time weeding and planting for the crops to then be wasted.
- (d) DL noted that the raised beds are 13 years old and some of the wood needs replaced.
- (e) DL suggested that we work with Pathhead Horticultural Scoitey
- (f) JC highlighted that in the past we have had great collaboration with children and the school with gardening projects. Unfortunately covid has created real barriers with parent helpers unable to work with the children as we have in previous years.
- (g) AP – PC to survey parents/cares to gauge interest in a garden steering group**

8) PE Kits (1920)

- (a) NW who raised issue has had to leave meeting so this item was deferred

9) Library funding (1925)

- (a) ED enquired as to how the school library is being utilised at present and whether more books/choice are required
- (b) DL described the current use of the library and emphasised how much the children love our library. £500 has been donated to school for new books and new books
- (c) DL stated that the library stock was last audited 5 years ago and that a repeat audit of library is being done at present to help determine what new sets are required. School budget for books is healthy at present
- (d) ED on behalf of PC offered to fund new books if required

10) AOB

DL discussed the PC proposal for a coffee morning on the 17<sup>th</sup> December. With increasing concerns of rising covid cases this will be postponed until after the new year

10) Date of next meeting and close (1930)

Next meeting: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 1830 on Teams