

Minutes: Tynewater Primary School - Parent Council (PC) Meeting 88

Tuesday 18th January 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Online Teams Meeting

***Action point (*AP)**

- 1) Welcome and apologies (6:30)
 - Apologies: Anna Davanna, Sana Malik, Mairi Milne, Christina Thompson, Douglas Lawson, Aurora Mancini (Treasurer), Julia Critchley (Secretary), Matt Elliot
 - Present: Emma Diffley ED (Chair), Jane Brown JB, Fiona Hayes FH, Stevie Blackwood SB, Claire Lorimer CL, Laura Else LE, Clare McCallum (Depute Head Teacher)

- 2) Minutes of last meeting/Outstanding Actions (6:35)
 - a. The minutes of the previous minutes were accepted
 - b. Outstanding actions:
 - (i) Contact Gillian Bathgate re parking
 - (ii) Poll Parent Forum re Garden Steering group

- 3) Chairperson's Report (6:40)
 - a. Huge thanks to all the team who helped with the Christmas Raffle. We raised £689 which astonished all of us! Thank you too to everyone who donated prizes. These were distributed before Christmas via children in school where possible.
 - b. Nicola White and Christina Thompson have decided to step down from the PC for the time being. Thank you to both of them for all their contributions and energy to date.
 - c. Report on MLC Parent Council Chairs meeting. MLC are following the guidelines provided by the Scottish Government's ERG. Next ERG meeting will be 2 February so no rules will change before then.
 - d. ED has contacted the Parental Engagement Officer at MLC (Gail Currie) to ask about the policy on providing work for children who are isolating. FH noted that all East Lothian teachers were being directed to the national E offer provided on the ERG website. Staff are required to provide work for pupils who are isolating. Some concern over access to devices etc but that should not be a significant problem in Midlothian once the Council devices are provided.
 - e. ED also asked MLC about PC engaging with the process for appointing a new HT..
 - f. Rollout of MLC devices to school. Ongoing - starting with older age groups. Some discussion over the financial responsibilities handed to parents and children with these devices, risks of damage/theft, risks to young growing bodies associated with carrying heavy objects to/from school. Any concerns about this should be flagged with the school.
 - g. Some discussion over Mr Lawson's departure on 11 February. We will be sorry to see him leave us for his (very well earned!) retirement. Since this is the last PC meeting before his departure we would like to note our most sincere gratitude for the energy, devotion and dedication he has given to our school community over so many years. Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school directly with any messages of thanks for Mr Lawson.
 - h. Dates for 2022 meetings circulated. If/when we are allowed to meet in school, the Friday morning meetings will allow the Four Heads to join us as they did pre-Covid.

- 4) Treasurer's Report (6:45)
 - a. Treasurer sends apologies. Chair noted that £689 banked for the raffle.
 - b. £50 spent on flowers for Mrs McCabe.
 - c. Some forthcoming expenditure for the sensory garden to be confirmed.

- 5) Headteacher's Report (6:50)
 - a. Mr Lawson sent his apologies. No report for this meeting.

- 7) Gardening Club (1910)
 - a. **Carried over from previous meeting: AP – PC to survey parents/carers to gauge interest in a garden steering group**

- 8) Anti-social behaviour in Pathhead

- a. Noted that a meeting will be taking place Thursday 27 Jan about anti social behaviour in Pathhead by **some** young people. Tynewater Community Council, PYP, Tynewater HT and PC chair will be taking part. Proposal to possibly re-engage with community policing team. Also mention of teaching and learning within school about socially acceptable behaviour.
- b. **AP - Any suggestions/ideas/contributions to this discussion, please email ED before Thursday 27 Jan.**

10) AOB

- a. Some discussion over how to spend PC funds. Suggestion that updating or adding to the books in the library, particularly for older children and to provide a wider range of types of books (fiction, non-fiction, reference, picture books etc) would be a good use of PC funds.

10) Date of next meeting and close (1930)

Next meeting: Friday 25th February 11am on Teams (tbc - if able to meet in school, will do).

Summary of actions

- a. ED to contact Gillian Bathgate re parking around school
- b. PC to survey parents/carers to gauge interest in a garden steering group
- c. PC members to email suggestions/ideas/contributions for the discussion on combating antisocial behaviour in Pathhead.