

Minutes: Tynewater Primary School (TPS) - Parent Council (PC) Meeting 98

Tuesday 7th March 2023, 1830 – 1930, Online *Action point (*AP)

1) Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Fiona Hayes, Stevie Blackwood, John Dagger (HT), Aurora Mancini AM (treasurer), Jane Brown, Alicja Blaz

Present: Emma Diffley ED (Chair), Julia Critchley JC (Secretary), Clare McCallum (CM) (deputy head teacher), Laura Mackay, Laura Else LE, Katrina Walkingshaw, Sarah Whigam, Anna Davanna AD, Sana Malik, Mairi Milne, Liza McMillan

2) Minutes of last meeting/Outstanding Actions

- a. The minutes of the previous meeting (97) were accepted
- b. Outstanding actions – none to discuss

3) Chairperson's Report

- a. ED reports that she has been in touch with Gail Currie about the new headteacher post but as yet has not heard anything definitive.
- b. As there are not enough volunteers from PC members to run a summer fair we are taking the decision to not hold one. There is a Pathhead village coronation event on 7th May which is taking up a number of PC member's time.
- c. ED reported back from a consultation run by the OECD and the Foundation for Education Development, exploring the purposes of education to support human flourishing. Lots of criticism of UK education being assessment focused, lacking variety and creativity. Should be more focus on every person being the best they can be.
- d. Building work in the field behind school has started by Muir Homes. This may impact on children within school due to noise, dirt etc. There will be traffic congestion on the access road to school.
- e. Easthouses catchment consultation - consultation out from Midlothian Council. This doesn't directly affect Tynewater Primary School, but will affect the high school catchment boundaries and thus may affect some out of catchment families.
- f. Reminder from PC to staff/head teachers that PC have pledged £5 per child for class trips this year.
- g. Recent PC organised gardening session successfully weeded the raised beds and put in more manure. Mrs McNairn is taking out small groups of children regularly during the week and has a plan for growing produce this year. PC has funded slate signs for raised beds to label them as belonging to each class and give the children more ownership.

4) Treasurer's Report

- a. ED read out AMs report as AM send apologies.
- b. £600 spent on Reading Cloud
- c. Balance approx. £5000

5) Headteacher's report – JD sends apologies. CM in his place

- a. Columba 1400 project starts this month. P4/5/6 will go to an assembly and have talk from Jim Howe from Columba 1400. 16 children will work with the organisation to build the foundation for the project next session. This will lead on to children being part of policy making for the school. Plan to have a 4 day session in Pathhead village hall next term. More info about this on their website. Exciting opportunity for school.
- b. Ethos, culture and relationship policy now into 3rd draft. Pupils, teachers & PC have been consulted. The 3rd draft will go out to parent & carers soon for opinions.

- c. P7 teacher interviews process continues. Lots of applicants. Mrs Leonard & Mrs Clarke are managing the class well in the interim.
- d. P6 teacher Mrs Thompson is leaving in 4 weeks, cover is being organised. CM reassures the PC and is confident there will be a teacher for class 6 after the Easter break. Delays are at an Authority level, due to staffing authority wide and funding.

6) Gardening

- a. ED updated on garden in her HT report. The Eco Pupil Voice Group are helping to organise. Mrs McNairn is organising with children within the school. PC will have another garden tidy after Easter to help keep the raised beds manageable for the children.

7) Summer Fair

- a. Decision not to have a summer fair this year as discussed in HT report.
- b. Might plan a social event for September instead – e.g. bingo night. Decided summer term is just too busy. Agreed to book village hall in advance and then decide upon an event.

8) Library volunteers

- a. ED asks CM if school is ready for parent volunteers to start helping with the library. AD is keen to help organise parent volunteers. Previously Nicky Faux has had a lead role in the library but is unlikely to have the time now due to work commitments.
- b. CM is keen for the Library pupil voice group and Miss Seaton to be involved with organising the library.
- c. AD very keen to help get the library accessible and usable by the children and she is already in school helping on Wednesdays.

9) Class residential trips.

- a) ED asks whether other class residential trips planned. P7 have a residential camp. CM is aware of a P7 Dalkeith cluster schools residential next academic session.
- b) Regards other class trips CM feels that the staffing at present might not be able to facilitate class trips this year. With unfilled posts and staff going on maternity leave there might not be capacity within job plans. Residential trips are a big staff commitment.
- c) JD/CM are keen that residential class trips are reintroduced in a manner which is planned far in advance and in line with the school curriculum rationale. They feel it is important that parents know far in advance what trips and how much they will cost.

9) AOB

- a) Coats at lunch - ED asking on behalf of parents why children are wearing coats to eat their lunch. Children have fed back that they didn't like eating in coats. Parents felt this was unhygienic. The children didn't like going out the middle door into the playground. CM explained it was a trial for 2 weeks. The idea was to help speed some children up and avoid the extra journey to the atrium. However the school has gone back to allowing children to collect coats from atrium after eating.
- b) Composite classes – parents have been asking whether composite classes will still be necessary next year with the numbers expected for the 2023/2024 school roll? Can they go back to having 2 P4 classes and still have 8 classes but without a p3/4 composite. CM explains that this decision will be made at authority level.
- c) Assemblies – please can school clarify assembly dates and times? **AP: CM says will decide at staff meeting tmrw and let parents cares know asap**

10) Date of next meeting and close

Future dates: Next PC meeting will be on Friday 21stth April 0900 in Community Room, TPS