

## Minutes: Tynewater Primary School (TPS) - Parent Council (PC) Meeting 99

Friday 21st April 2023, Community Room, TPS

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

#### 1) Welcome and apologies

- a. Apologies: Mr John Dagger JD (headteacher), Aurora Mancini AM (treasurer), Laura Mackay, Stevie Blackwood, Kat Walkingshaw, Sana Malik, Alicja Blaz
- b. Present: Emma Diffley ED (Chair), Julia Critchley JC (Secretary), Laura Else, Liza McMillan, Anna Davanna, Mairi Milne, Jane Brown, Sarah Whigham, Claire McCallum (CM) (deputy head teacher), Jamie May & Nina Cassidy (P7 ambassadors), Jenna McCandlish (Active Schools)

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

- a. The minutes of the previous meeting (96) were accepted.
- b. Outstanding actions:
  - i. PC to book a date for the village hall for a social event next term -
  - ii. P7 ambassadors are awaiting a 'wish list' for the library from the Library & Literacy Pupil Voice Group (PVG)
  - iii. The Eco PVG are to write to Skanska re light pollution. P7 ambassadors liaising with the PVG and ED will find out where to send the letter.
  - iv. The junior road safety officers (JRSO) PVG have been asked to create posters regards asking drivers not to leave engines running
  - v. CM to feedback to PC whether bird feeders are being used and if more donations required

#### 3) Chairperson's Report

- a. New Headteacher: interviews will be held in May. Training for parent/carers who are able to sit on the panel will be next week. ED will send out invite to whole school community for volunteers.

#### 4) Treasurer's Report

- a. AM sent her apologies
- b. ED reports that the bank balance is healthy and AM will circulate accounts after the meeting.
- c. ED highlights to CM that PC pledged £5 per child towards class trips.

#### 5) Deputy Headteacher's report

- a. CM reports a very positive start back after the holidays with a very busy term ahead.
- b. Thank you to families who supported the Easter Egg competition. Winners to be announced this morning.
- c. Reports will be sent out this term and there will be consultations the week beginning the 5<sup>th</sup> June.
- d. Both P1 and P7 transitions will happen this term and the structure of transition arrangements will be in line with the rest of the Dalkeith cluster.
- e. Columba 1400: This will be a community project within the school and Pathhead village. This will commence next week. It will be an ongoing project exploring Tynewater PS's Visions and Values and how that links with the local community.
- f. Current priorities for the school include completing the school handbook and finalising the Ethos, Culture and Relationships policy and TPS is working with educational psychologist, Barbara Gill.
- g. CM and JD are working together to outline priorities for the new headteacher, including:
  - a. Learner achievements and how best to track these
  - b. Progressing the Visions and Values for the school which are now 7 years old
  - c. Looking at the curriculum rationale, including helping parents to understand the structure and themes for each year.
- h. The school is keen to involve parents and utilise their skills/experiences. Including holding events such as the 'world of work day' and also when a class is covering a topic about which a parent/carer may be able to share experiences.
- i. Pupil Voice Groups: P7 ambassadors reported on behalf of some PVGs

- a. Pupil council: are working on making posters about the school's values and the ethos, culture and relationships policy
- b. Eco: have been enjoying time outside and planting seeds with Mrs McNairn
- c. JRSO: making posters advertising the free bus passes
- d. Charities: raised £143.57 for red nose day
- e. How good is your school: are suggesting items to add in to the fortnightly SWAY

## 6) Active Schools (AS):

- a. Jenna McCandlish from Active Schools Dalkeith cluster attended, explained her role/the role of AS and outlined a proposal. Currently at TPS this term we have yoga & ball skills organised by AS
- b. Roles of AS:
  - a. support school staff
  - b. encourage 2 hours PE per child/week
  - c. provide competitive opportunities for school children e.g the recent cross country running
  - d. encourage celebrating sport
  - e. developing pupils e.g the upskilling of senior pupils by teaching them to deliver sessions
  - f. providing coaching training for staff/carers/senior pupils
  - g. work closely with Volunteer Midlothian
- c. How to increase AS opportunities at TPS
  - a. Background is that in November 2021 Sport Scotland agreed all opportunities through AS must be free to attend. This creates a huge challenge for delivering a diverse programme of opportunities to all schools.
  - b. The maximum a session coach can charge to AS is £25/hr which limits the type of activities that can be offered.
  - c. Sessions can be during school lunch break or afterschool, no Skanska charge for MUGA or hall hire up until 6pm.
  - d. AS prefer to split 1 hour session into 2 half hours with max 20 spaces per session to increase accessibility to as many pupils as possible. Not all activities can accommodate as many as 20 children.
  - e. AS propose for the next academic year 4 'blocks' of activity. 2 blocks, (1 of 4 weeks and 1 of 6 weeks) during the session August – December, a 7 week block during the session Jan – March and a summer term block of 6 weeks. These blocks would be a 1 hour session per week split into 2 half hour sessions. This would cost the parent council £825. We could have more sessions if we wished and are able to increase the budget.
  - f. The activities are TBC but could include football, upbeat dance, parkour, bumblebee sports
  - g. With more parent volunteers willing to undergo training (provided by AS) and able to give up time during the week we could have more sessions. AS will also arranged necessary PVG (protecting vulnerable groups) checks
  - h. ED shared that Lothian Broadband are keen to sponsor TPS. There are some issues around sponsorship, advertising and wording which can be worked around to allow Tynewater Parent Council to raise funds & receive sponsorship and then use that money towards active schools.
  - i. The PC asked Jenna if there is anyway the booking system could be improved as it is a barrier to parents successfully signing their children up. At the least receiving notice in advance of when booking will become 'live' would be a positive step.
  - j. The PC agreed to commit £1000 of PC funds to creating a AS programme for the next academic year. Activities to be arranged. **AP: The PC will survey parents to try to ascertain which activities would be popular.**

## 7) Lost property

- a. Parents have raised concerns that items which are clearly labelled are being left in lost property when they should be returned to the owner. The PC request that staff look through the lost property more frequently and return labelled items.
- b. The PC will continue to manage the unlabelled lost property.
- c. It was suggested that a rack of smaller second hand uniform be put out in the foyer used by the nursery children. Nursery parents with children starting P1 will be able to help themselves to suitable items. **AP: a rack of smaller items to be put outside the nursery door in the foyer.**

## 8) Headphones for chromebooks

- a. Children agree that headphones can be very useful in classroom when children are engaged in different activities which require sound.
- b. Not enough headphones for each child/class resulting in children having to go to other classrooms to borrow.
- c. Acknowledged that sharing headphones is not very hygienic.
- d. After discussion it seems there is a need for each child to have headphones.
- e. **AP: CM and the staff to ascertain how many more sets of headphones required and the cost.**

## 9) Gardening

- a. ED reports that PC has provided 6 bags of topsoil for the raised beds. Not all was required and left over has been donated to nursery garden.
- b. PC purchased potatoes for the raised beds.
- c. Jackie McNairn has bought some fruit bushes and PC has agreed to cover that cost.
- d. Garden is definitely being enjoyed by many of the school pupils. Particularly beneficial for some of the children with additional support needs.
- e. The nursery requires more compost/soil for their raised beds which the PC will fund
- f. **AP: A garden tidy TBA later this term**

## 10) Childsmile

- a. Parents have asked whether Childsmile are visiting/going to visit TPS?
- b. **AP: CM to investigate**

## 12) Waterproofs for nursery

- a. Nursery staff are asking for funding for more waterproofs for the nursery children to facilitate outdoor experiences.
- b. In the first instance the school/parent council will ask for donations of waterproofs.
- c. **AP: PC to ask nursery staff get back to PC with proposal/price for new waterproofs**

## 11) AOB

- a. Indoor shoes: This item was raised as it is unclear whether children are being asked to change shoes or not. Reasons in support of indoor shoes include them being helpful in bad weather when children wear wellies/boots to school which would be uncomfortable for all day. Not wearing outdoor shoes inside is more hygienic especially with children often sitting on the floors. Indoor shoes are usually preferable to socks/barefeet especially with risk of drawing pins. Downsides are the additional cost to parents. Especially as indoor shoes should be sufficiently supportive for PE. Parents who have bought indoor shoes have then been annoyed when it appears their children do not actually wear them. Some children with sensory needs prefer not to wear shoes at all. It was agreed it is hard to please everyone but that clearer guidance from the school to parents on this topic would be welcome.
- b. Library volunteers: the school can and will arrange Reading Cloud training for parents/carers who wish to volunteer in the school library.

## 13) Date of next meeting and close

Future dates: Next PC meeting will be held Online Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 1830