

Minutes: Tynewater Primary School (TPS) - Parent Council (PC) Meeting 92

Tuesday 24th May 2022 18:30 to 19:30

Online Teams Meeting

*Action point (*AP)

1) Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Fiona Hayes FH, Sana Malik, Matt Elliot, Stevie Blackwood, Mairi Milne, Anna Davanna AD

Present: Emma Diffley ED (Chair), Julia Critchley JC (Secretary), Aurora Mancini AM (Treasurer), Clare McCallum CM (Headteacher), Isobel Leonard IL (Principle teacher) Laura Mackay LM, Laura Else LE, Jane Brown JB

2) Minutes of last meeting/Outstanding Actions

(1) The minutes of the previous meeting (91) were accepted

(2) Outstanding actions:

(a) Playground equipment: Edie and Zoe to compile the lists and costings and send to PC/ED for review - CM has list

(b) Gardening in holidays: CM will confirm that PC members are also able to attend during holidays (as we have done in the past) to keep on top of gardening/weeding. CM confirms that as long as named person is shared with Alan from Skanska then ok to attend during holidays. Agree ED will be the PC named person

3) Chairperson's Report

- a) ED has been in contact with Daniel Balgrie to try to arrange an evening for P1 parents. He cannot make the evening on the 1st June. Alternative date will be found and also a session for parents of P7 transitioning to S1.
- b) Matt Elliot has stepped down from the PC. ED thanks him on behalf of the PC for his help over the years
- c) Midlothian Council PC Chairs meeting was postponed. ED intending to attend.
- d) Marathon: Raised over £700 pounds so far (some of the entry fees still need covered from this amount)
- e) Headteacher post: No news yet from council about interviews
- f) P7 funding: The PC voted not to fund the P7 prom or P7 calculators. As previously agreed the PC aim to spend fundraising fairly across the school. PC is suggesting that we will fund a photocard for each P7 as a memento. This could be an existing class photo or a 'fun' group shot could be arranged. The photo card will be intended for staff/pupils to sign and leave messages for each P7 and this could be instead of encouraging signing of jumpers. The PC is very keen to encourage an ethos of being able to pass on/reuse school jumpers. CM will discuss with the staff regards momento photo card instead and to discourage signing of jumpers.
- g) P7 jumpers: ED had discussed with CM regards jumpers and ordering for next year. CM feels the opinions of the children (current P6) are important and is arranging a consultation.

4) Treasurer's Report

- a. AM updated the PC with the current balance (£3,982).
- b. Recent spend of £155 for P7 trip
- c. AM keen to hear fundraising ideas going forwards
- d. Suggesting coffee mornings to start slowly raising money again.

5) Headteacher's Report

- a. CM started with describing the lovely send off for Louise Munro. She will be very much missed. Louise was very grateful for the gifts. Teresa Anderson and CM are trying to manage the office between them until new admin staff recruited. 7 candidates are being interviewed for the position.
- b. There is lots happening at the school in the next few weeks. Sports day is next Wednesday. CM requesting if PC could fund ice creams. Agreed.
- c. P1 information night is next Wednesday at 6pm. JC will speak at this event to explain the role of and promote the parent council.
- d. The books from the list that the staff have drawn up have been ordered. **AP: IL will send round the list to the PC email.**
- e. The no dog signs are still awaited.
- f. Latin club has started up in the school at lunchtimes. Children are really enjoying it.

6) Gardening

- (a) Raised beds are looking good. Children, parent volunteers and Jackie McNairn all working hard. Planting is happening this week.
- (b) Lots of donations of flowers/plants. We received £400 donation of bedding plants. Huge thanks to the parent who arranged this generous donation.
- (c) We will need to make a plan for the repair of the raised beds but this can now wait until the end of the growing season.
- (d) PC pass on thanks to all the parent volunteers

7) PC 'meet & greet' at upcoming June Parent Evenings

- a) Agreed that the 14th June is the best night to have a PC social event alongside the parent/teacher meetings.
- b) This night covers P1 - P7
- c) Enough volunteers to manage coffee and cake
- d) **AP: PC members to contact ED to offer availability that evening From 1530 – 1830**
- e) **AP: ED to advertise and create Whassap group**

8) Reading Schemes

- (a) LM discussed the Read, Write, Inc (RWI) books as an alternative to the Oxford Reading Tree (ORT). FH could not attend the meeting but passes her recommendation of RWI.
- (b) CM explained that she has lot of experience with both ORT and RWI. She explained that RWI is much harder to use practically as it doesn't work well for children at different reading abilities. It is a very teacher led scheme and staff intensive. At CMs previous school they concluded it is an excellent resource for targeting phonics but it falls down with the children who are keen readers as the books focus on word building but not content and story lines. In her experience of both the ORT is superior as a reading scheme. CM informs PC that Tynewater is using RWI resources for targeting phonics.
- (c) ED noted that the ORT stories can be quite dry and we were looking to add variety and broaden the options.
- (d) CM and other school headteachers are looking at raising numeracy and literacy rates across Midlothian. She explained 'PM starters' which assess where children are with their literacy. This assessment system does work well with the ORT.
- (e) IL outlined PM starters: 30 levels in the box and each level is linked to an ORT level. Each level has 4 lovely short stories within it. The teacher can then assess the child as they read the text and match to the keywords for that level. The PM starter assesses the children's comprehension as well as reading ability. This helps the staff develop strategies for each child. It helps identify where reading may be good but comprehension not at the same level.
- (f) The PM starters system is designed to help fit in with the school improvement plans and help boost attainment.
- (g) CM assures the PC that the school does have a wide variety of books and the children are exposed to different genres as well as able to read the books they enjoy.

- (h) CM & IL will arrange for the reading scheme books to be on display in the school at parent evenings. CM will be arranging literacy/numeracy drop ins for parents of the younger years next year.
- (i)

9) Playground/outdoor learning equipment

- (a) A new play hut is being provided by Skanska
- (b) AD and Miss Emslie (P1) are keen for more outdoor play equipment e.g. mud kitchen
- (c) ED has been asked by P1 staff for an outdoor cupboard for storage and she is trying to source a suitable second hand alternative before buying new.
- (d) Parents have offered their skills to both school and PC t
- (e) AP: CM/ED will look into contacts within the school to help make a mud kitchen.**
- (f) Miss Beattie from Nursery is working closely with Miss Emslie with P1 transition. They are working to develop the space and create play focused areas indoors and outdoors. They will compile a list of equipment/materials required.
- (g) ED asks if school could arrange older class to sand/varnish the friendship bench. Noted that the builders son is still in the school in P7. AP: CM will speak to P7 and the parent specifically about this.**

10) AOB

- (a) A parent asks when PE kit will return. AP: CM will consider this and send out a response soon.**
- (b) There will be a free uniform exchange soon and ED will need volunteers. CM suggest we should put some preloved uniform out on display at the parents evenings.
- (c) ED suggests that we should have a fundraising target in mind for each year and then plan events to try and achieve that target. That gives us a better idea what activities/equipment the PC can fund over the year.

11) Date of next meeting and close

Future dates: Friday 24th June 09:00 – 10:00 (In school)