

Minutes: Tynewater Primary School (TPS) - Parent Council (PC) Meeting 94

Tuesday 6th September Online

*Action point (*AP)

1) Welcome and apologies

- a. Apologies: Mr John Dagger JD (headteacher), Mrs Clare McCallum CM(deputy headteacher), Laura Mackay, Sana Malik, Jane Brown
- b. Present: Emma Diffley ED (Chair), Julia Critchley JC (Secretary), Aurora Mancini AM (treasurer) , Laura Else LE, Lisa MacMillan, Stevie Blackwood SB, Steven & Julia Cochrane, Mairi Milne MM, Sarah Whigham, Lisa Salton LS, Emily McFadyen

2) Minutes of last meeting/Outstanding Actions

- a. The minutes of the previous meeting (93) were accepted
- b. There were no outstanding actions to discuss

3) Chairperson's Report

- a. We had agreed to spend fundraising from previous academic year on books for the library.
- b. ED met with headteacher JD who is keen to restart the classes regular library sessions. The school also plans to re-start the accelerated reader programme for P4 plus.
- c. Garden – this has been maintained quite well over the summer with big thanks to Jackie McNairn. We will need to make a plan with school to actually use the vegetables. ED took some veg to the Pathhead Horticultural Show on behalf of the school and we won a medal. Hopefully this will encourage children to continue their efforts. The raised beds will need fixing later this year.
- d. Following her meeting with headteachers JD/CM, ED has circulated to the PC an update regarding the school improvement plan.

4)Treasurer's Report

- a. AM updated the PC with the current balance (£4057) with no outstanding payments
- b. AM reports that we now have access to online banking which will improve the payment process
- c. Waiting to get a card reader which will help at fundraising events – AM exploring best options for this.
- d. The accounts have been audited and prepared ready for AGM

5) School Teacher Gifts

- a. LS: Raised the issue of school teachers gifts.
- b. At the end of the summer term there was some confusion, in the then P3 class, around the best way to arrange combined teachers gifts. Some parents were upset at not being able to contribute. LS is keen that teachers hard work is recognised with gifts but worries that some parents might feel ashamed if they are unable to contribute or can contribute less than others.
- c. ED suggestions 3 options – 1) all contribute to shared card/contribution and card is from all children regardless of contribution (including where no contribution), 2) no communal collections at all, 3) one person can organise a collection and those who wish to contribute get in touch.
- d. JC suggests that if go with option 3 – those parents who organise/wish to contribute can keep the details of the collection separate from the overall class WhatsApp chat. This should avoid feeling of pressure on those who cannot/prefer not to contribute.
- e. **AP: PC to agree decision on this topic and then ask school to circulate.**

6) Parent Council Champions

- a. ED keen for volunteers to share the PC workload.
- b. Suggests members of PC come forward to organise separate tasks.
- c. EM asks if we have a structure to calendar. ED replies that covid has very much disrupted any routine. Halloween party, Christmas fair and summer fair have happened in the past. Other fundraisers have been ad hoc such as the marathon relay.
- d. AD has taken on pot luck supper. LE is organising gardening rota.
- e. **AP: PC subgroups led by 'champion' to be created via PC WhatsApp chat**

7) Gardening

- a. The garden volunteers rota worked very well last term. J McNairn supervised the sessions with parent helpers.
- b. LE has been in touch with CM to ask if this can be done again. CM has not responded. Releasing learning assistants might be a problem.
- c. PC are very keen to see the vegetables used by the children and definitely not wasted.
- d. **AP: Weekend gardening date to be arranged.**

8) Second Hand Uniform

- a. ED keen for a second hand uniform exchange. Perhaps this could be combined with a regular monthly Friday coffee morning.
- b. MM volunteers to organise coffee mornings. SB will help with that.
- c. **AP: MM and subgroup to arrange dates and will combine with uniform exchange**

9) Library

- a. School are keen to revive and revamp the library in preparation for children using it regularly again.
- b. Nicky Faux, who works in the school anyway, has started on this but needs volunteers. ED has sent round an email to call for volunteers.

10) Social event -pot luck supper

- a. To encourage parents and carers to mix out with the play ground.
- b. Venue will be the village hall. Everyone brings own dish to share.
- c. AD to organise.

11) Fundraisers – Halloween party & Christmas Fair

- a. Halloween: we cannot have a joint P1-P7 party as that would involve too many children. P7 are too big, excited, boisterous! We have split the party into 2 halves in the past and it worked very well.
- b. **AP: LE will lead on organising Halloween part and will gather a group to help**
- c. Christmas Fair: **AP: ED to put a separate request out for subgroup to organise**

12) AOB:

LE raised the lack of active school activities offered to TPS this year. LE, MM and ED have heard from various sources reasons for this. Speculation is that active schools cannot offer the staffing for this and are relying on teachers and parent volunteers to facilitate. While not confirmed, the PC feeling is that Midlothian Council only wishes to have active school activities which are free for parents. **AP: ED will email the school to ask them to clarify why the active schools programme is so limited this year.** J Cochrane has heard that more activities are offered in East Lothian (EL). **AP: SB will contact her friend who manages EL active schools to find out more**

13) Date of next meeting and close

Future dates: Next PC meeting is morning of Friday 28th October in school

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Parent Council AGM is on Tuesday 11th October at 18:30