

Minutes: Tynewater Primary School (TPS) - Parent Council (PC) Meeting 103

Friday 19th January in Tynewater Primary School

***Action point (*AP)**

1) Welcome and apologies

- a. Apologies: Sana Malik, Sarah Whigham, Fiona Hayes, Aurora Mancini (AM, treasurer), Laura Else (LE), Anna Davanna (AD),
- b. Present: Emma Diffley (ED, Chair), Julia Critchley (JC, Secretary), Louise Ferguson (LF, Headteacher), Nicola White (NW), Lisa Green (LG), Willena Boukelia, Laura Mackay, Mairi Milne, Liza McMillan, Jane Brown, P7 Ambassadors

2) Minutes of last meeting/Outstanding Actions

- a. The minutes of the previous meeting (101) were accepted.
- b. Outstanding actions:
 - i. AP from meeting 101: Headphones - LF was to discuss with staff and ascertain whether new headphones were required, if so how many and the cost. LF has established that a bank of headphones placed in each atrium accessible when required would be best. Number and cost has been confirmed, staff are currently deciding on the best storage unit. Potentially something like a mobile coat rack. LF will contact PC asap with final quote.
 - ii. AP from meeting 101: Light pollution - LF reports back that a group of pupils have drafted a letter to Skanska about the harmful effects of light pollution around the school. ECO group previously wrote to Alan Dickson (Skanska Midlothian) with little success. This letter will be posted to the Lead facilities manager for Skanska UK.
 - iii. AP from meeting 101: Garden tidy - ED and Jackie McNairn looking at dates for a spring garden tidy.
AP - decide date for spring garden tidy
 - iv. AP from meeting 102: Library bags. We have agreed not to buy any more bags at present. The school has a large stock, though not enough for each pupil. Folders/wallets that fit inside school bags and protect books is an alternative option. At present this agenda item is on hold until the school has an effective system up and running for the children to utilise the library.
 - v. AP from meeting 102: Scottish Government Education Consultation - having looked over the survey questions more thoroughly ED and LF felt that these consultations are for staff to engage with rather than parents/carers so will not be distributing them on to the school community.

3) Chair person's report

- a. The Christmas Fair went well and raised around £1400. Using a token system was successful and could be extended to cover everything next year. ED suggests that PC should consider a complete overhaul of the organisation of the Christmas Fair for next year. This is a significant undertaking and PC will be looking for a volunteer to take over the planning of our Christmas Fair.
- b. Deputy head teacher - Last term ED was involved with the interviews for the Deputy Head teacher role.

4) Treasurer's Report

- a. AM sends her apologies and a report will follow.
- b. ED updates that the account is healthy after a successful Christmas fair - approximately £4150.
- c. ED reported that the card reader worked well, the charge is % but all felt that was worth it for the benefit of not requiring cash payment.

5) Headteacher's report

• **Staffing Update**

Mrs Donaldson was successful at interview for the role of Acting Depute Head Teacher until the end of this session. At this point the management structure for Tynewater will be reviewed. At the end of last term, LF expressed gratitude to Mrs Leonard and Mrs Clarke for all their support and guidance in their roles as Acting Principal Teachers, a post which has now come to an end. After the Spring Break, we will welcome back Mrs Thomson from her maternity leave – she will return to Tynewater three days per week.

• **School Improvement Plan Update**

We continue to make good progress towards our School Improvement Priorities. January Inservice Day saw staff engaged in training around Nurture Principle 4 – Language is a vital means of communication and this training has continued with further input from our Education Support Officer of ASN, Nadia Percy-Davis. This centred on Emotion Coaching and Zones of Regulation Training – a programme which we will be implementing across the school to support children to recognise, name and regulate their emotions. Staff also engaged in training for the Google Read&Write toolbar – an accessibility feature which can be used to great effective to support all learners.

• **Reading Resources**

TPS has been working hard to improve the effective use and management of resources across the school; clearing out, collating and organising resources from across the whole school to ensure these are accessible and high quality for staff and pupils. As a result, we have pulled together a very good range of high quality non-fiction texts to complement and provide variety as well as a rich variety of chapter books. The money raised by Parent Council for reading books is still required though to update, refresh and plug gaps in the Oxford Reading Tree programme to bring this up to date and ensure the books are fit for purpose.

• **Community Links**

LF has met with a rich variety of community partners and scheduled a meeting to attempt to pull the many knowledgeable heads and different projects that are currently running in Pathhead together to plan community learning experiences for children.

Delighted to welcome Karine Polwart into school to work with our P5 and P6 pupils to enrich their learning about Scots Language.

Rev. Dale London continues to visit classes on a weekly basis as a member of our community and to enrich the experiences of children through active discussion related to the pupils learning at the time. These are popular visits, valued by both staff and pupils alike.

Welcomed Tanya Prior, from Euphoria Dance School in to each class this week to run some free dance taster sessions with the children. These were well enjoyed by pupils across the school and were a good chance for children to try out a new skill and wider curriculum offer.

Good News Stories (P7 Ambassadors Moray and Leoni)

- The whole school had their Christmas Lunch on the 13th of December and enjoyed the meal and Christmas music.
- Thank you to the Parent Council for our Panto. Everyone enjoyed it and the little ones loved it! It was really funny when one of the actors sat on Mr Christie's lap!
- Primary 5 are going on their visit to Roslin Chapel. P6 and P7 have already been and it's very interesting!
- Primary 4 went on a visit to the Forth Road Bridge and they had a great time, even though they lost a hat on the way!

- Primary 4 have also been going to swimming every week.
- Primary 6 have finished their block of skiing and it all went really well.
- We had a Christmas House Challenge organised by our House Captains. This was a Christmas Kahoot Quiz and was won by Tyne. Tyne were also our overall House winners for Term 1 and Term 2 and will choose their House Treat. We now go back to zero and all Houses have another chance to win the next House treat.
- ELC and P1-3 both performed two Nativity performances which were amazing! We really enjoyed the songs in the Wriggly Nativity.
- All classes had a Christmas Party – the music was great and everyone was treated to an ice lolly!
- In Primary 7, we have raised an amazing amount of money for our Prom - £530.78! We will be arriving in limos!

6) Reading Cloud

- This is TPS's current library management software.
- Is costs around £600/700 per annum, this is funded by the PC
- There are a lot of online features which are not particularly user friendly & our school has never utilised
- The annual fee is due. To cancel, 90 days notice is required and this deadline has passed.
- LF has discovered that the same company offers Junior Librarian, which is cheaper at £500 and more user friendly. The staff/pupils would be able to access the system via iPads and chrome books which would be a big advantage.
- As we are committed to the current company for the next 12 months anyway the committee decide to change to Junior Librarian and see how that system works.

7) Thank you cards for Christmas fair sponsors/donors

- These have been created by TPS pupils
- ED has confirmed that enough have been made (approx 20) and they will be distributed ASAP.

8) School costumes

- Concerns had been raised amongst parents/carers of P1-3 children during the nativity preparations regarding being asked to provide outfits or items of clothing for the child to wear in the Nativity that were not garments they would have had at home anyway. Therefore requiring purchase of an item which may then only be worn for that occasion.
- PC would be happy to fund a stock of these sort of outfits/costumes which could then be re-used. However things change year on year making it hard to cover all possibilities.
- It is noted that the school does have a large supply of costumes/outfits already.
- Agreed that the staff would have a look through current stock and create an inventory. Later in the year a call for donations of required second hand items can be arranged and the Pc can arrange to purchase/ fund any additional items that are required.

9) Summer fair

- Idea is that this will be primarily a fun event though hoping for some fundraising
- NW has offered to take on the organisation
- The date of Saturday 22nd June was decided. approx 1130-1430

10) Marathon

- Approx £800 was raised for PC 2 years ago from parents/carers entering the Edinburgh Marathon Relay

- b. The committee agreed we should support this again
- c. 4 runners required per team (legs are approx 8.3, 5.5, 8 and 4.5 miles) entry is £140 per team which PC will need to pay soon.
- d. Agreed that to enter each runner must be prepared to contribute their share of the entry fee up front to avoid any risk of the PC making a loss.

11) Parking

- a. Campbell Orr has replaced Gillian Bathgate as our contact for parking issues at midlothian council (MC)
- b. ED had been told that MC is going to put double yellow lines where the dropped kerbs are near the school to try and prevent dangerous parking.
- c. ED feels that Gillian Bathgate has accepted that pushing the park and stride method of solving the problem is not going to be the answer as so many parents work or live out of catchment and rely on driving their children to the school
- d. It was highlighted that there is a growing issue of cars sitting with engines running in the road of the school car park. Engines idling in parking bays is also to be discouraged but this issue is more pressing as these cars are causing an obstruction. On occasions the school buses are unable to leave due to cars blocking the road. **AP: LF will politely remind parents/carers in the newsletter to drive and park responsibly and she will also don hi-vis and go out to speak to the drivers who are doing this. In future the PC will consider photo graphs and 'name and shame' campaign.**

9) AOB

- a. Friendship Bench - As soon as there is a suitable opportunity ED, LG and AD will sand and oil the bench.
- b. Pathhead Village Day - LE has asked if TPS or the PC or both would like a stall at the village day in May. The PC agreed we would organise a tombola or similar and LF will explore what sort of stall the pupils could utilise.

Future dates: Tuesday 12/3/24 (18:30 online)

Friday 10/5/24 (AM in school)

Tuesday 4/6/24 (18:30 online)