

Minutes: Tynewater Primary School (TPS) - Parent Council (PC) Meeting 106

Tuesday 4th June Online

*Action point (*AP)

1) Welcome and apologies

- a. Apologies: Sana Malik, Lisa Green, Aurora Mancini (treasurer),
- b. Present: Emma Diffley (ED, Chair), Julia Critchley (JC, Secretary), Louise Ferguson (LF, Headteacher), Anna Davanna (AD), Laura Mackay, Laura Else, Jane Brown, Mairi Milne, Liza McMillan, Nicola White

2) Minutes of last meeting/Outstanding Actions

- a. The minutes of the previous meeting (105) were accepted.
- b. Outstanding actions:
 - i. AP from meeting 103/104: Irresponsible parking in school car park and cars/buses with engines running. This has improved markedly since the staff/JRSO interventions. However occasionally buses are still sitting with engines running and parents/carers have started to park irresponsibly at pick up again. **AP - LF has sent out reminders and the staff and JRSOs in high viz intermittently return to car park duties. This strategy seems successful & the item can be considered resolved for now.**

3) Chair person's report

- a. ED updated the PC that she and Anna met with Janet Donaldson (deputy HT) regards planning school trips and how PC can help with funding. AD is exploring options for minibus hire and whether parent volunteers could help with the driving e.g. potentially parents/grandparents may be able to drive minibuses. Key messages are to try and keep trips affordable and keeping transport costs down is an important step.

4) Treasurer's Report

- a. AM sends her apologies.
- b. Account stands at approx £3200
- c. >£500 so far donated towards summer fair (NW to be applauded for her efforts)
- d. PC has funded multiple class trips this term

5) Headteacher's report

- LF updated PC on the schools visions, values and aims. Posters display these in every classroom.
 - Vision: Thriving together at Tynewater.
 - Values: be kind, show respect, stay safe, love learning.
 - Aims:
 - Thriving - be healthy, happy & optimistic. Seek challenge. Show resilience & ambition.
 - Together - take care of ourselves, each other & our world. Work collaboratively & achieve our potential
 - Tynewater - explore, connect with & contribute to our our community. Ensure everyone is included and contributions are valued.
- New School day consultation - 33 votes to 3 votes in favour of the 3:20 finish and a 50minute lunch break
- Timetable of wider curricular opportunities being created for all classes over all terms was shared with the PC. This includes active schools activities, African drumming, recorder club, community projects, active schools tasters and Midlothian schools sporting competitions. These events are spread out across the terms and classes. P5-7 are quite busy throughout the year. P4 has quite a big time commitment to swimming lessons over 2 terms. The school are still to look at costings for these (mostly transport costs). This timetable will be shared with parents via website and handbook.

- LF acknowledges that some sporting opportunities were missed this term, which caused some upset. The Rugby and Football events were unfortunately cancelled outwith control of the school. The P5 golf was missed (as discussed at previous PC meeting) as was P7 athletics (due to clash with P7 transition activities)
- Class trips - LF keen to keep flexibility in the programme for teachers planning class trips. Trips should be relevant to children's learning. Tynewater is creating a list of places that are free, and will work out in advance the estimated travel costs. ED suggested PC give the £5 per child for trips as a lump sum at the start of the year - agreed. LF keen that trips are planned early in the year and not all left until the final term. Local trips can keep costs down, and even involve 2 classes with all day mini bus hire but multiple runs in the mini bus.

HT's Good News Stories

Our wider achievements and successes this year include:

- We received our Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award in March 2024 this year in recognition of the work of our RRS Pupil Leaderships group and across all classes.
- Community engagement has increased and we have had a number of community members in school supporting learning in a variety of curricular areas throughout the year. Our Head Teacher attends Village Hall meetings and liaises with different community groups to build partnerships. We have 13 Community Grandparent Partners who work with classes on a weekly basis to support learning and provide opportunities for intergenerational partnership working.
- Primary 5 have had a wonderful session with local artists Sarah McFadyen and Karine Polwart, to create artwork as part of our community project. These will hopefully be displayed on a community board on the new path network. Discussions with various community partners are underway as to how we can make this a more sustainable, annual project. We will also be welcoming members of our local community into school to a pop up café where we will display the art and children will have the chance to converse with different generations about Pathhead in the past.
- Our community project has also seen Primary 3 visit our local smiddy, Primary 7 visit Vogrie House, Primary 4 had a visit from RHET about local farming and P1 and 2 have plans to go to Vogrie for sessions with the Forest Ranger about their local environment.
- A number of pupil groups have attended Active Schools events, competing for their school. Devolved leadership and close partnership with the Active Schools coordinator have made this financially possible with transport costs.
- The JRSO pupil group have campaigned and monitored our car park to make this a safer place, introducing a pick up/drop off zones and car park badges.
- Our Columba 1400 Pupil Group engaged with parents, staff, pupils and the wider community to review our Vision, Values and Aims.
- The Primary 7 pupils completed a highly successful enterprise project to raise funds for their P7 Prom.
- Our Parent Council has funded a Christmas Pantomime, new school playground equipment, new headphones and has enabled each year group to have at least one class trip to support and extend learning.
- Transition opportunities have been reviewed and an increased offer has improved experiences for children joining in Primary 1 and S1 at DHS.

School Improvement Plan Update

Draft at present and still to be signed off by education authority.

Introduced achievement assemblies

Authority visit feedback very positive overall. Involved surveying the children.

Lots of work on nurture principles. Including a wellbeing survey.

Building language to help describe emotions, including zones of regulation.

Received the Right Respecting School Silver and now working towards Gold

This year has been focussing on improving environment (V, V &A) and next year will focus on the curriculum rationale. Working on developing digital learning. One focus will be on identifying and supporting children with dyslexia.

Another focus for next year will be poverty proofing and the cost of the school day. Gail Currie is arranging focus group on this topic and GC intends to come to a future PC meeting to discuss.

Discussion following HT report

LE suggest that like at Trinity primary we could ask parents for a minimum contribution to transport costs and the option to pay more if able. This works well in Trinity and rare for their to be a shortfall. Usually the trip costs are covered this way.

Discussion that there is a balance between keeping costs down and parents/children feeling that they are missing out on trips because of reluctance to ask parents for money for trips.

Also discussed that one can argue that there is some benefit to children learning the cost of trips/activities buses and learn to appreciate they cannot always have everything.

6) Summer fair update

- NW gave an update on the summer fair. Games, facepainting, silly science Scotland, police coming, food stands, drumming workshop. Sponsorship >£800 so far. Noble amusements are donating prizes. More volunteers are required. More tombola jam jars are needed. Need more home baking offers.

7) Midlothian Schools Sporting Events

- a. This was covered in the HT report. Disappointment expressed by parents that P6/P7 missed the opportunity to attend the Midlothian schools athletics competition this term. This is an opportunity to attend a competitive sporting event run by Lasswade athletics club. While P7 were busy with transition it was unclear why P6 didn't get the opportunity. LF informed the PC that unfortunately the staff did not realise it was open to P6. This event has been added to the calendar for next year.
- b. It was discussed that there are options for future to help with attendance if parents are able to volunteer as helpers and provide parent transport. This is happening later in the week with children from P5 & P6 attending Scottish schools orienteering.

8) School communication

- a. No time to discuss this item

9) School trips/camps and funding

- a. Already discussed at this meeting

10) PC recruitment

- a. PC would benefit from a rep from the current P6 next years P7 parents
- b. PC will need a new chair from next October as ED will stand down at the AGM
- c. Agreed we should have a rep from each class
- d. Succession planning for a new treasurer is required as AM will only have 2 years left at TPS
- e. ED will create a summary of what the PC does to share and try and raise profile

11) AOB - none

Future dates:

TBC