

Minutes

Trinity Primary School Parent Council

Held on Tuesday 7th June 2022: 7:30pm

Location: Trinity Primary School

Attendees:

Helen Duncan (Chair), Jacqueline Scott (HT), Aimi Armstrong (ADHT), Cheryl Berthinussen (AHT), Julie Wardhaugh, Krystelle Bamford, Angela Hassard, Kristin Deeken, Kev Head, Sandy Robinson, Cllr Jule Bandel, Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

Apologies: Jen Bird, Toby Kelly, Will Inglis, Cllr Cammy Day, Cllr Hal Osler.

Welcome to newly appointed Councillors for Forth & Inverleith Wards; Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie and Cllr Jule Bandel respectively.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes approved.

Update crossing guide absence at corner of Craighall Rd/St Stanley Rd – guide has now been appointed awaiting final checks.

3. Correspondence

Parental Engagement Survey; questions on satisfaction on parental engagement with schools. Survey was sent to parents but PC were not supportive of timing of questionnaire given covid restrictions had not yet been lifted. There has been update on the outcome of the survey. Cllr Dijkstra-Downie offered to request an update.

Consultative Committee Working with Parents (online meetings held earlier in the year) presented to Education Scotland on their findings. Mostly an information update. HD attended meeting and provided feedback that in our experience parental engagement hadn't been considered sufficiently by Education depts in both the initial response to covid and the ongoing recovery plans.

HD received a thank you email from TPSA for running Tombola at May Fair.

4. HT Report:

See attached HT report

Staffing:

Significant reduction in staff absence. JS updated on all staff changes included in HT report. Confirmed no composite class at P6/7 for the start of the new school year. Class teacher leads have been established at each teaching stage.

Class reorganisation now complete and meet the teacher event will on 21st June.

Facilities & Funding:

Kitchen refurbishment in progress. Likely to be packed lunches for first couple of weeks of new term until completion.

Discussion on food waste in school and potential ways to reduce. Discussed providing new parents examples of what a good snack could look like. Reducing snack sizes was seen as an option to encourage less waste at lunch time. Discussed whether staff would have an opportunity to influence school meals but Menus are set now until April 2023.

It was also suggested that having photos of dinners on the menu would be helpful for parents to use to discuss with the younger children what they might eat to cut down on waste. JS agreed that this would be a feasible option.

Budget:

PEF budget confirmed for next 4 years allowing more certainty in staffing.

Learning:

Significant increase in number of opportunities for learning through the last term as restrictions mostly over. The PC discussed the great successes of the open morning and the P7 show in particular.

Attainment predictions – slightly below norm although, positively, nearly all children have made progress. Attainment gap does seem to have widened over the last 2 years and this does require additional support. P4 attainment is the lowest across the school and this is consistent across City of Edinburgh. This is likely to be due to the timing of covid when these children were at the end of P1 and needed most parental support.

School Uniform:

Recent update from school encouraging parents and carers to return more consistently to school colours. Nearly new school clothes are easily available through TPSA if required. Also request to discourage hoodies. Discussion regarding return to PE kits in school but recognised that the time for younger pupils to change can be very long so this is still being considered.

A recent survey on school uniforms has been issued by the Scottish Government but so far this has been circulated amongst parents informally as the school have not been requested to share officially yet.

Parent Questions:

School trips: Its is sometimes unclear if parents volunteer to help out with a trip whether they will definitely be required. Staffing shortages in the office have meant that there has been less control around this than previously. It should be assumed that if you volunteer you will be required. The school very rarely/never turns down the offers of help with out of school activities.

Lack of availability of wifi in school: School system upgrade to allow wifi access across school is due before the end of this term. There is a high profile focus in education dept to improve IT capability across all schools. This includes the wifi infrastructure, i-pads and teacher laptops.

School also looking at option of card readers in school now that wifi will be available. This could be used for fundraising events but there may be an option to have a reader to take payments in the office.

Request regarding options for more secure facilities for scooters. The school encourages all children to lock their bikes/scooters and having parents back in playgrounds has helped with the uptake of this across the younger children. More covered/secure storage could be an option however there is an issue with space for additional outbuilding or shed given the playground space is at a premium and is used extensively during the school day. Funding would also have to be considered. The issue is to be raised with the team who look at transport/travel to school.

5. Review of Parent Council 21/22

New members have valued the opportunity to make connections within the school. Discussed whether we should move back to face sessions but will continue with a mix as planned for the next year. Also discussed representation at new P1 parent events and school open evenings.

6. Locality/Trinity Community Council

Trinity Community Council – Meeting on 13th June to discuss the 2nd phase of building at Trinity Academy. The focus of the meeting will be a discussion about what the school can do for the community.

It was agreed that PC would continue to attend TCC on rotation.

Thanks to Krystelle Bamford for attending TCC on PC behalf.

And thank you to all Parent Council members for attendance at Locality Meetings and Trinity Community Council meetings over the year.

7. Accounts:

HD to provide contact in Edinburgh Council to discuss redirect of our annual payment.

8. AOCB

All questions covered as part of HT report.

9. Meeting Dates

Tues Aug 23rd in school

Tues Sept 13 AGM with TPSA on Zoom

Tues Oct 11 on Zoom

Tues Nov 29 in school

Tues Jan 17 on Zoom

Tues March 14 in school

Tues June 6 in school