

Minutes

Trinity Primary School Parent Council

Held on Tuesday 11th October 2022: 7:30pm

Location: Trinity Primary School

Attendees:

Helen Duncan (Chair), Jacqueline Scott (HT), Aimi Armstrong (ADHT), Julie Wardhaugh, , Will Inglis, Kev Head, Pamela Loudon, Cheryl Berthinussen (AHT), Sandy Robinson, Sarah Silverberg, Anastasia, Angela Hassard, Kristin Deeken, Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie, Lisa Gaule

Apologies: Cllr Hal Osler, Krystelle Bamford, Emily Williams Boylston, Catriona Regan

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes approved.

3. Correspondence

Following a number of issues raised at the last meeting and follow up correspondence with CEC the school has been instructed to recruit resource where required to support the additional Ukrainian pupils in the school. The enrolment process is now significantly easier with most of the admin actually being completed on the boat. The situation now seems stable however the Ukrainian community may be transient with 1 family already re-housed in another town.

4. Headteacher Report

Term has continued well since our first meeting of the school year on 23rd August. We have enrolled a significant number of new pupils with our roll currently sitting at 611. The berthing of the Victoria in Leith Docks has resulted in several Ukrainian families seeking places for their children. Whilst this was not without its challenges at the beginning of the term things have now settled and financial support from CEC has been offered.

Staffing

We welcomed two NQTs (newly qualified teachers) to Trinity in August. Laura Johnstone is teaching P1 and is already showing herself to be an asset to the Trinity team. Julian Tiffay, who was teaching in P6, made the decision to resign at the September weekend and continue his professional registration through an alternative means. We were grateful to him for making this decision early in the school year to minimise disruption to the class. Germaine Fagan has returned to Trinity on supply whilst the post is advertised.

Our PSA team will be increased with the appointment of two further PSAs. We are awaiting approval from HR. It has been agreed that these posts will be funded centrally as part of the support for our increase in roll. One is a qualified teacher from the USA who is very interested in seeing how the Scottish education system works whilst awaiting GTC

registration. The other is a teacher from Ukraine who is being hosted in our community. I do not doubt that both will prove invaluable in supporting learners going forward.

We have two students from Queen Margaret University joining P7 for their placement.

Facilities

Following a frustratingly long wait to have our original staffroom repainted this is finally happening this week. This will mean that the staff can return to their base and, more importantly, the cook school can be reinstated as a learning space. New furniture has been ordered and Mrs Walsh is looking forward to getting it set up for STEAM learning.

The kitchen refurbishment continues. The current date for the return of hot meals being offered is Nov 11th although, I have to say, we remain sceptical. There have been numerous meetings with CEC and Clarks Contracts and both parties are aware of the impact on the school. The project has been subject to significant delays for a variety of reasons.

With the increase in the roll space in school is tight and we are continuously looking at how and where we store resources, provide learning areas etc. A clear out of the boiler room is currently underway.

Budget

We are awaiting the decision as to whether school will be reimbursed for the items damaged in the break in. The smartboards and monitors have now been replaced but we have still to take delivery of the new desktops. Looking forward, HTs have been advised that cuts to the council budget may have implications for education.

Improvement plan progress

We have started to improve the playground experience with the introduction of a scooter area, construction materials, loose parts and a music station. House captains are to be given a budget (thank you to a very generous donation from a local company) to purchase resources following consultation with learners. It does however come with the proviso that damaged resources will need to be replaced from the budget! Opportunities for wider achievement are slowly increasing with clubs starting up again. Our P6 and P7 learners now have 1:1 devices (it is hoped that the additional i-pads required will be with us soon). Our Families Connect programme started last week with 8 parents / carers joining our family support worker and PSO. Staff professional review and development has seen many staff taking on a leadership role in school.

Learning @ Trinity

'Normality' has returned and we have seen class photos taken, Gaelic football, a meet the teacher evening, Trinity Together meet your house event, sharing learning experience in class being undertaken, SLT meeting with learners to chat about what and how they are learning, MADD about Us celebrated in the playground with parents and carers, a P4 visit to the harbour, flu vaccination, P6 learning about financial education, an outdoor take away coffee morning and our first biscuit and blether about Equalities. P7 had a fabulous week in Benmore.

Parent Questions:

P6 Teacher: Discussion took place regarding a replacement teacher for P6. It is a possibility that this P6 class could have 3 teachers in the academic year. This is being taken into account by the school however the recruitment of a permanent teacher must follow the correct processes.

P5 ipads – how will they be used in school? The use of 1:1 ipads in school is designed to enhance learning. Pupils only have access to approved apps that are seen to be academically beneficial. At the moment the i-pads are relatively new so the children are using them more. Children are learning new digital skills but they are also being given the choice about how they learn. All these skills will be required for going to High School. It was discussed that it would be useful to share a video of how the i-pads are used for learning in the school. Parents are welcome to contact the school with any specific concerns. Also any child having issues with their i-pad should speak to a class teacher who can help resolve.

Benmore: All lost property brought back from Benmore has been washed and distributed back to the P7s.

School lunches: Aside from the issue of no hot meals feedback has been received that there have been issues with the quality & quantity of school cold lunches. Portion sizes were deliberately reduced for P1 and P2 due to food waste however more sandwiches are always available if they are required. For the older children there is always plenty of food, albeit until the kitchen is complete the food is always the same. Often there is food leftover at the end of the lunch service.

Class photo: Every class has had a class photo taken. Family and individual photo will be scheduled for May.

5. School Kitchen

Covered in HT report above. No impact on school for cost of over run however everyone hugely frustrated with delays. There was an encouraging meeting today and Contractors now working weekends to get to an 11th November handover date. Hot food will be fully available from 21st November with limited hot food available from 14th November.

Parent feedback has also been received with frustration specifically in relation to the financial strain on families to provide lunches for children who are fed up with packed lunches and won't eat them anymore. There are also issues that school meals may be the only hot meal some children get in the day and the lack of a kitchen is impacting the most financially vulnerable.

Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie will raise issue with responsible Council Convenors. She will also chase on ensuring the contractors are committed to the November dates. Also will raise the

question of alternative provision of hot food for the children of families who are the most financially vulnerable.

6. Inclusive School: Role of Parents

It was agreed to put “inclusive School” on the agenda for the next meeting. In particular this is aiming to get an understanding of what inclusion means from parents’ perspectives and what inclusivity looks like in schools. The next meeting will be when we are together in the school.

7. Trinity Academy Update

Bangholm now open. Parents from Trinity Academy are also running an informal cafe facility at weekend with all proceeds going to Trinity Academy PSA.

The Trinity Academy redevelopment remains firmly in Council plans. Discussion is now turning to where the Trinity Academy pupils will be housed as the work is underway. This may impact on Trinity Primary depending on what the preferred solution is.

The current proposal sees a finished development by end 26/27.

8. Locality/Trinity Community Council

Trinity Community Council – HD will share dates and request volunteers

9. Accounts:

The annual CEC payment of £778 has been received and a cheque will be written to transfer the funds to the school.

10. AOCB

TPSA are struggling with lets so have requested PC help. HD will contact TPSA to see what support we can provide.

Succession planning – reminder that current chair will step down at the end of this year and is looking for a successor or even a co-chair for a period of time.

It was agreed that we would have some Parent Council representation at the Parents/Carers meetings on 7th/ 8th November.

9. Meeting Date

Tues November 29 in school

Tues January 17 on Zoom

Tues March 14 in school

Tues June 6 in school