

Minutes | Trinity Primary School Parent Council

16 January 2024 | 7.00pm | Online

Attendees: Helen Duncan, Jacqueline Scott Cheryl Berthinussen, Sandy Robinson, Lisa Gaule, Jayne Galinsky, Angela Hass, Jack Caldwell, Emily, Ollie, Will Inglis, Kristin, Suzy Ensom, Krystelle Bamford, Aimi McIntosh, Sanne Dijkstra-Downie, Jen Bird, Pamela Loudon

Apologies: Cllr Hal Osler, Cllr Amy Mceese-Mechan

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were approved.

Correspondence

The Smartphone parent pledge is underway. The group thanks Ollie for taking this forward. Ollie suggested that it would be great to have someone represent parents from every year group. It was suggested that the group share this campaign with Trinity Academy so that they are aware.

Helen kindly put the parent council submission on the impact of COVID-19 on children and families to the Scottish COVID-19 enquiry. At the time and at a council and government level there wasn't a strong voice for children and families, and so the TPSPC wanted to put forward a submission to represent children and young people during this period. The school case study is a powerful story to submit. It is available to view on the Parent Council webpages.

The bus pass issue has not moved forward. Lots of avenues have been explored and the answer continues to be a no, for the use of a group buss pass for children travelling on Lothian buses.

Sanne noted that it would be good to catch up with the group on the potential crossing on Newhaven road. The last update on dates was 2026. Craighall road also has the potential for two crossings. Sanne will update the group on where things are with this.

A question from the group was – what are iPads being used for and for how much of the day?

Amy recently met with leads for empowered and digital learning. There will be an information event for families on the use of iPads and the way that digital methods are used in learning. This may be combined with a digital session on online bullying, WhatsApp groups, and other social media / phone related questions. Jacqueline noted that there is guidance on the way iPads should be used. Trinity Primary do not allow iPads home.

Headteacher report –attached.

Building works

At the time of the meeting, the work had been put out to tender. Tree removal and ramps will happen at the time of the building work too. Classrooms are planned to be completed over the summer. Classrooms will be completed first, with the hope that the kitchen will follow. The priority is to get the children back onto one site. With a kitchen back on site – it will mean that food will revert back to the full menu. The biggest concern will be the dust and noise when building work begins. Information will be sent out to parents when a plan is in place for drop off / pick up [post meeting note – this has been completed].

Trinity Academy

At the time of the meeting, plans for Trinity Academy received 142 positive responses and The City of Edinburgh Council has granted planning permission for the extension at Trinity Academy. When work begins, if travelling to school from Craighall Road – there will probably be a lot of roadworks and building works. From the primary school – access will be the biggest issue. Victoria Park entrance may be better to travel through than the lane. The lane needs to remain open and park access for children will be encouraged.

Locality meetings and behaviour issues

Helen and Trinity Primary School Parent Council had asked for behaviours in schools to be raised at locality meetings. It seems to be a difficult conversation, as the agenda point was removed from the agenda, after it had been added. Helen had added it as an AOB agenda, but it was continually dismissed. The upshot is that the Council is aware that behaviour is an issue, but it looks like they are not willing to discuss it currently. Jack reported that the issues around behaviour seems like this is a bit of theme across meetings, and feels as if it is not being reported as seriously as it could be. Jack and Sanne will take back to the Education Committee. There is also a sense that wider behavioural issues are coming up at parent council meetings. Trinity Primary School Parent Council would like to see more acknowledgement of behaviour as an issue raised across Edinburgh and the impact that this is having on many other children, teachers, and in classrooms. It is suspected that the inclusion agenda is a part of the behaviour challenge, but there may be a societal change too.

TCC Meeting

Suzy had a positive experience at the recent TCC meeting. There was lots of discussion about pavement parking, planting in Victoria Park, and discussion about the consultation for the Victoria park bowling green.

Accounts

Will reported that the paper account has been zeroed out and the account has been closed. This year's payment has been received. This is £778. Helen and Will chased this. Historically we have passed this back to the school and propose we do the same this year – providing the school with £800.

Chair

The chair and treasurer positions are open moving forward. All interested parties are very welcome to discuss!