

Tynecastle Parent Council Meeting

Date:8/10/12

Attendance:	
Tom Rae- Head Teacher, Mary Brownlee-Chair, Jenny Anderson, Anne Cunningham, Ros Marshall, Beatrice Bryant, Anne Ambler, Niccola Bertolotto and Morag Thomas	
1. Apologies:	
Caroline Astor, Heather Osborne, Sue Stevenson, Sue and Iain McKendrick, Angela Bell and Nikki Hall	

Item	Discussion key points	Action Points
2. Approval of minutes	<p>-Mary thanked the parents who attended The Celebration of Learning event</p> <p>-Referring back to the last meeting when the school calendar had been queried-it was confirmed to be correct</p> <p>-Tom and Angela are still keen to have parent statements about the school. These can then be used on school publicity etc</p>	<p>-parents to e-mail short statements about their experience of Tynecastle.</p>
3. Enterprise Project grant application- Dragons Den Style	<p>The Parent Council is to start making small enterprise loans available to students. At this meeting the first student entrepreneurs presented the project that they wanted funding for. 2 boys from S5-Patryt and Frankie made a good tender for their Milkshake and Smoothie business. The Parent Council approved a loan of £60, which a contract will need to be drawn up for. Angela Bell will take this on further. Any surplus that they make after the loan is paid off will be invested in school groups</p>	

<p>4. Head Teacher's Report</p>	<p>The Full Headteacher's report is included at the foot of the minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staffing Update-See HT report -Learning and teaching-See HT report -Curriculum (including CfE update)-See HT report. -Management issues-Budget-the increased letting target which is over 20K per annum. There was a lot of discussion about this, and exactly how the system works. -The Business Manager will attend the next meeting to talk about a new website that translates information for parents into different languages. The school is also looking at a new newsletter format, which will be used at Christmas. <p>School Life Developments-for details see HT report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There was discussion about The Celebration of Learning Event. It was suggested that 5.30 to 7.30pm might be a better time. It was also suggested that if Primary Children performed at the event that it might encourage more parents to attend. - An aerial photo will be taken of the school as part of the Centenary Celebrations-The Parent Council will make a contribution to the cost of the photo 	<p>-Parents were asked to come and look at the website, as a kind of focus group. Please e-mail Mary if you would like to volunteer for this. A Friday morning might be a good time.</p>
<p>5. Draft proposal for change in school day 2013/14</p>	<p>A timetable with the proposed change to the school day structure was circulated. The aim of the change is to give 28 periods instead of 27. An extra period would be added on the Friday, and would give a later finish of 13.01. There was general agreement with this draft plan.</p>	<p>E-mail Tom or Angela about the timetable changes if you have any queries or points to make</p>

<p>6. Allocation of funds (including Treasurers' update)</p>	<p>There is £4460 in the bank -£1500 is reserved to fund The Burns Supper-this will be recouped. We have awarded 1 free family ticket at a cost of £50. -We will be buying a banner-cost £20-30 -Contribution towards display boards-£250. Check cost with Jacquie -Student choice award £10 Total left-£2600 Other outgoings -Enterprise Club-Loan of £60-70 -Contribution to be made to buying boards instead of hiring them -Contribution to aerial photo -Contribution to Angela's initiative for good attendance etc-possible cinema trip -Any other proposals?</p>	
<p>7.Events- Burns Supper 25 2013</p>	<p>-A specific events meeting will be planned for Thursday 25 7pm -Need to book a band -Marketing and publicity needs to be done early -Alternative to haggis at the Burns Supper- Tom to consult students</p>	<p>-All welcome to attend</p>
<p>8. A.O.B -CfE meeting 10th -short statements -Constitution subgroup -CCwP-job share?</p>	<p>If you would like to attend the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) meeting please e-mail Mary -Please send a short positive statement about the school-urgent Constitution sub group-discuss next meeting CCwP-Mary would like someone to share this responsibility with her. It is interesting to discuss issues with parents from other schools.</p>	<p>Please note date changed to 24th November 9.30-12.30</p>
<p>9. e-portfolios</p>	<p>Carried over to the next meeting</p>	
<p>Next meeting Monday 19 seeing you there Dates of meetings 14th Jan, 4</p>		

Staffing update

- Advert on Myjobscotland for maternity leave post in History

Attainment

- Good success rate in SQA appeals submitted for S5-6
- Currently completing attainment report with Quality Improvement Officer. Meetings with CLs all completed and individual action plans drawn up for each faculty
- Excellent Parent attendance at launch of S4 mentoring. Meeting shave now started.
- Mrs McGregor (qualified youth worker) taking up a new role four hours per week to support Parent Engagement. Initial focus on attendance in middle school.

Learning & Teaching

- Delays to City of Edinburgh refresh announced. Schools do not have new timescales yet
- Reaching final planning stage for purchase of enhanced ICT kit. On Curricular Leader agenda tomorrow with visit from CEC strategy team member.
- Staff CPD this term delivered on: Creativity, Bloom's Digital Taxonomy & Learning Rounds
- Senior team and two curricular leaders currently visiting senior classes and looking at area of active learning and student engagement

Curriculum (including CfE update)

- Consultation on senior phase nearing completion with staff. Ms Turnbull now planning some timetable models. We are having these scrutinised by SQA manager to get SQA feedback too.
- Consideration of modifications to school day structure required for a 28 period week. On agenda tonight.
- S1 planned garden furniture for rooftop garden delivered last week. Will enhance scope for Lets.

Management issues

- Budget - our letting target has been increased by over 20K per annum. New target based on average from last two sessions.
- School Improvement Plan completed and currently with QIO. Parent summary will go live on website by end of October.
- New Website under development. Allows instant translation to many world languages. New newsletter format also under development.
- New Business Manager has reviewed and re-structured Classroom Assistant and office staff practice in order to meet needs of new structures.

School Life Developments

- Sponsored Walk enjoyed by all. Weather kind to us. Money still coming in. Access difficulties mean new models need to be explored for future events like this
- Edinburgh Doors Open day on 22nd September 2012 went well. Busy afternoon. S6 students acted as guides and supported hospitality arrangements. Plan to participate again next year. Three Dux medallists visited.
- * Open Evening/Celebration of Learning on 27th September very impressive. Thanks for your support stall. Working hard with feeder primaries to ensure parents attend. S1 created a fantastic promotional leaflet to promote the school and have been attending visits and handing these out
- S1 Gaelic lessons for some in school started last month. This builds on student experience at Stenhouse Primary. Activities include participation in a Historic Scotland online project. This will be entered for a Gaelic Award at end of year.
- S6 team participating in a new University-linked Science & Engineering Project for the session.
- Plans to take an aerial school photo with centenary theme later this session. Working with photographer from Parent Fair. Angela requesting a contribution towards plane cost from Parent Council.
- Assemblies this month delivered by Student Council. Next rota built around Diversity, with lead - up to anti-bullying week in November. S2 students will once again complete CEC survey in November
- Lara Clyde in S6 once again one of 6 GADA Prize finalists
- Animals project in science going very well: Guinea pigs & degus
- Visits from industry/specialists to support work in Maths, Art