

Tynecastle Parent Council Meeting 15 September 2015

Attendance: Sue McKendrick-Chair, Hazel Kinnear-Head Teacher, Morag Thomas, Gail Fairgrieve, Caroline Astor, Beatrice Bryant, Jane-Anne Dodds, Karen Robertson-Minutes. Sarah Haywood (Items 1-2) and Jacqui Ramsay - Deputy Head (Items 1-4).

Apologies: Ali Grieve and Charlotte Wilson

Item	Discussion key points	Action by
1. Approval of minutes	Minutes approved.	
2. Visitor: Sarah Haywood, Place2Be	<p>Sarah outlined the role of the school counselling service - Place2Be. It offers support for children and for parents, through a variety of mechanisms. While the focus is on S1-3, no children or parents in need are turned away. It is estimated that around 30% of children accessed the service last year. Place2Be has links with a wide variety of associated agencies and are well placed to make referrals where this is deemed beneficial. Tynecastle HS is the only HS in Edinburgh with access to this service.</p> <p>Research evidence shows that early intervention in this fashion can help reduce mental health issues in later life.</p> <p>Place2Be is a medium sized charity. The cost to the school this year is £35K, so we are keen to look at innovative funding approaches so that the money doesn't need to come from the school's core budget.</p> <p>We discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal donations - these should be made directly to the school. • Donating money from parent council funds (see item 7) • Grant applications (see item 7) 	ALL
3. Visitor - Jacqui Ramsay - Parenting with confidence	<p>Jacqui gave a presentation on <i>Parenting with Confidence</i> - a training course for parents and carers. Ollie Cook and Jacqui Ramsay have now both been trained to deliver these courses. Tynecastle staff have had this training.</p> <p>A six week training course will be offered to parents/carers in the school - starting Monday 26 October (6-8pm). Ideally, the training groups will comprise 12-15 people, with children from mixed year groups. The focus will be on raising teens with confidence. It will be advertised on the school website. Those interested should note interest to Jacqui or via the school web-based pro-forma.</p>	Jacqui ALL

<p>4. HeadTeacher's Report</p>	<p>Hazel made the following observations from her first few weeks in post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus has been on getting to know staff. • After September weekend she will be running focus groups to meet the children. • Attainment - pleased to report a rise in positive Higher results. And 98% of all children got a qualification last year. Focus now is on next steps and building on these successes. • Staffing - there are several vacancies across the school. Consequently, there are several cover arrangements in place while vacancies are filled. Work is underway to recruit to the vacant posts. • Improvement Plan - this is due to be delivered to the Council at the end of September. Delivering against the strategic priorities are the main drivers for the improvement plan. Amongst other issues, the plan highlights activities and targets around attainment. An accessible summary is being prepared for publication on the school website. • Raising Attainment for All - this is an active initiative which explores ways of thinking about attainment and how little changes can make a difference. • School Improvement Groups - developing an approach to involve parents and carers. <p>Highlights in the last four weeks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zest (Seniors' work experience at the Zoo) • Polar Academy • Gold Duke of Edinburgh on Mull • Book festival trips • UCAS Conference - S6 • GeoBus - geography workshops • Wednesday lunch clubs - offering a wide variety of activities • Assembly programme - varied and good quality • Samba Band playing at St Brides. • Transition evening for new S1s - a great success • Pack up your Troubles - Project Kit Bag. 	
<p>5. Open Evening 24 September</p>	<p>Open evening for P5-7 and their families to be held 24 September 6-8pm.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All to put more Posters up in Balgreen, Stenhouse and Gorgie . • Hazel to contact local Primary schools to ask if they will promote the evening. (Note: Craiglockhart have issued letters to all children and sent via parent mail). • If you can volunteer to cover a PC stall on the open evening - please contact Sue. Karen can cover an early slot. 	<p>ALL Hazel Sue/ALL</p>
<p>6. Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>The balance as of 15 September 2015 is £4086.50. Treasurer's Report is attached at the end of these minutes.</p>	
<p>7. Funding Requests and Allocation to Place2Be</p>	<p>We discussed the funding bids received and agreed to fund the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £100 for Ukuleles - Tynie Music Rocks Lunch Time Club • £150 for spare PE kit for students turning up to class without a kit - PE Department. • £420 for new strips - Basketball Teams 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £200 for workshop equipment - Senior Mechanics Club (S4-6) • £30 for supplies - Beauty and Nail Wednesday club • £100 for supplies for Personal Development Award (PDSA S3/4) activities. We invite them to feedback on how the money is spent and to breakdown costs. • £59.40 for iPad tripod and mount - ICT to enhance learning. • £1,000 for school toward their contribution to Place2Be. <p>The request for £180 the PE Department sound system was not approved at this time. They are invited to explain how the previous award of £300 (27/8/13) for hoodies was spent.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazel will invite a council support worker to the next PC meeting to give us some ideas on how to successfully apply for grant funding and the most appropriate funding streams to pursue. • Hazel will feedback approved and not approved decisions to bidders. • Caroline will explore what we need to do to register the PC as a charity. 	Hazel Hazel Caroline
8. Burns Supper	<p>Friday 29 January 2016.</p> <p>Discussed the pros and cons of external vs internal caterers. Agreed to use external caterer this year.</p> <p>Hazel will check with Mighty to secure the school let and to confirm we can use external caterers.</p>	Sue Hazel
9.Meeting Dates for next year	<p>Tuesday 27 October 2015</p> <p>Tuesday 24 November 2015</p> <p>Monday 11 January 2016</p> <p>Tuesday 23 February 2016</p> <p>Monday 25 April 2016</p> <p>Tuesday 31 May 2016</p>	Sue
10.Invite to SPTC	<p>To discuss at a future meeting - Invite to SPTC to run a session at Tynecastle - Focus on Communication, Parent Council Essentials and helping to improve your school.</p>	Sue
11. AOB	<p>Sue recorded thanks to the North British Distillery who award the school £1,250 each year (paid to school for purchasing school homework diaries and so does not appear in PC account).</p>	
<p>Future Parent Council Meetings:</p> <p>Tuesday 27 October 2015</p> <p>Tuesday 24 November 2015 (post meeting note: clash with consultation evening - will be amended)</p> <p>Monday 11 January 2016</p> <p>Tuesday 23 February 2016</p> <p>Monday 25 April 2016</p> <p>Tuesday 31 May 2016</p>		
<p>Other Key Dates:</p> <p>24 September 2015 - open evening 6-8pm</p> <p>25 September 2015 - Take that Tribute Band - Prison Officer's Club</p> <p>29 January 2015 - Burns Supper</p> <p>11 June 2016 - School Fair 12.00 - 3.00pm</p>		