

# Tynecastle Parent Council Meeting

## 31 May 2016

**Attendance:** Sue McKendrick-Chair, Hazel Kinnear-Head Teacher, Jane-Anne Dodds, Morag Thomas, Gail Fairgrieve, Caroline Astor, Dave MacIntyre, Jenni Robertson, Ollie Cook, Suzanne Cummings, Karen Robertson, Catriona Robertson and Eueumy. Beatrice Bryant (Minutes).

**Special Guest Speaker - Laura Hird**

**Apologies:** Anne Ambler, Nicky Hall, Lesley Ramage and local councillors: Andy Burns, Cathy Fullerton, Denis Dixon and Gavin Corbett.

Item	Discussion key points	Action by
<b>1. Introduction, apologies and approval of minutes</b>	Sue made introductions and noted apologies.  Minutes of 25.04.16 meeting approved.	
<b>2. Special Guest Speaker</b>	Sue welcomed the author Laura Hird to the meeting. Laura is an ex Tynecastle High School pupil who has published a novel (Born Free) set in Gorgie, as well as two books of short stories and a non-fiction book based on her mother's early life in Edinburgh. Laura has been involved over many years in creative writing courses and retreats through the Arvon Foundation and is also working with the RLF (Royal Literary Fund) offering advice to prospective writers, and through the RLF Bridge Project to pupils in high schools. The Bridge Project programme is fully funded by the RLF and involves running a series of around five workshops with groups of up to twelve pupils covering core writing skills for those seeking to go onto higher education or in preparation for work. Tynecastle High School has been offered funding for Bridge Project Workshops with Laura and teaching staff will be discussing how best to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity with a view to starting in the Autumn term. The school are likely to be targeting 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> year students with a possibility of self-referral being available for pupils from lower years.	
<b>3. Ollie Cook Pupil Support Leader - Tips on Online Safety and Support</b>	Ollie explained the support offered to pupils from their arrival at the school in S1, focussed on getting to know the school and 'keeping yourself safe'. The importance of online safety/security is a main focus from S2. The school website supports the in school discussions with sections targeting students and there are similar pages for parents as well. Links are provided to NSPCC, CEOP and other websites which may be able to offer advice. The difficulty of controlling online cyber footprints was discussed and Ollie advised that the school is available to offer advice and support to pupils who may have got into difficult situations at any time. The school is very keen that students, parents and carers advise the school (in confidence) if they become aware of any inappropriate events/material online so that the school can address the matter. Any concerns of this type should be notified to the pupil support staff.	
<b>4. Bikes for All</b>	The £1000 grant has been received from the Council to be spent on repairing and replacing the school bikes. Ali Grieve has met with Kirsty Clark to progress the details and expenditure and will	Ali Grieve

	report to the Parent Council in due course. It was noted that the 4 <sup>th</sup> years carried out maintenance and used the bikes this week.	
<b>5. Performance Showcase Event</b>	<p><b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 6pm to 8:30 pm in school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music: keyboards, piano, flute, saxophone, clarinet and samba band, piping and drumming demonstration</li> <li>• Choirs from feeder Primary Schools</li> <li>• Drama, dance, gymnastics</li> <li>• Art work</li> <li>• PC run BBQ</li> <li>• PC run tuck shop</li> <li>• PC Raffle</li> <li>• School run Café</li> </ul> <p>Tickets are FREE and can be collected from the school office. The school is to ensure students and parents/carers are notified of the event and ticket availability. Volunteers would be welcome to help man the tuck shop and sell raffle tickets on the evening.</p>	All
<b>6. HeadTeacher's Report</b>	<p><b>Head Teacher's Report to Parent Council - May 2016</b></p> <p><b>Staffing</b> - There are a number of appointments currently being interviewed for. These include Craft, Design and Technology, Geography, Home Economics, and Music. We will also be welcoming probationers into Art, English and PE. Once appointments have been made further details will be shared.</p> <p><b>Improvement Planning</b> - A small number of parents engaged in the opportunities to meet and have their say about our Improvement Planning 2016 - 19. There was good quality discussion and the feedback received will be embedded in our planning where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Diaries</b> - The North British Distillery Company Ltd generously provide funding for the diaries each year, in response to an annual request from the Parent Council. The next request will be due now.</p> <p><b>Easy Fundraising</b> - The school are very keen to develop the use of Easy Fundraising in order to support initiatives with in the school for which funding is not currently allocated. Angela Bell (DHT) is to be Easy Fundraising Champion on the staff. This will be launched at August in-service day. Discussion took place regarding launch at Transition Evening too. Rag Bag also considered as another means of raising funds. All felt that having a focus for fundraising as well as champions would be helpful.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch at in-service day and Transition Evening.</li> <li>• Rag Bag to be investigated</li> <li>• Date for Transition Evening to be finalised and shared</li> </ul> <p><b>Place2Be</b> - A proposal was presented to the Parent Council</p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>Angela Bell</p>

	<p>regarding a new three year contract with Place2Be. The contract would be part of new contract for ten CEC schools and would be for a much reduced sum than previously envisaged. Parent Council felt that this would be extremely positive for the school and would also mean that they did not necessarily have to pursue charity status which has been proving extremely time-consuming and difficult. All agreed that they would like to fundraise for Place2Be and would meet half of the annual costs in this way. This was seen as a real success for the school, which greatly benefits from this service.</p> <p><b>Craigmount High Senior Students</b> - Hazel thanked the Parent Council and praised staff and students for the smooth and successful support provided to Craigmount senior students and staff during this period of school closures. Hazel also shared that she had been interviewed for BBC Scotland Investigates along with the Head Teacher from Craigmount. This was an opportunity to praise everyone for all their hard work and the support they have provided during this time. Craigmount will return for the new timetable on 6 June and remain until the end of term. It is anticipated that this will be as successful as the previous period due to the students, parents and staff we have, although we do not in any way underestimate the extra work and support being provided by everyone.</p>	
<p><b>7. AGM</b></p>	<p>It was agreed to confirm the date of the AGM (next meeting) following the finalisation of the date for the S1 transition evening which is likely to be around the end of August. The AGM will be arranged for the following week to enable new parents and carers to attend.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>8 AOB</b></p>	<p><b>Constitution</b> It was agreed to finalise the proposed new Constitution. It was agreed that at this time the Parent Council will not pursue the change to charitable status.</p> <p><b>IPads</b> The issue of iPads to all new S3's is planned but the means of funding (approximately £16,000 is required) is still to be resolved. Jenni Robertson explained that the Council fully promotes digital learning and the use of one to one iPads is in line with this. Jenni explained that there is strong evidence demonstrating the positive impact iPads have had on learning for students, and for teaching. It was also noted that teaching material has been developed by the staff for use through the iPads.</p> <p>Further discussion is required regarding the funding options and Council assistance/policy.</p>	<p>All Note</p> <p>All</p>

<p><b>Dates for diary</b> <b>7-8:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Key Dates:</b></p> <p>Wednesday 1st June John Muir Celebration Event for S3  Thursday 2nd June 2pm-3.30pm Digital Classroom Open Afternoon  1-3 June Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition.  Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June - new timetable begins  Monday 13th June - Awards Ceremony  Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June - Performance Showcase and BBQ 6-8:30 pm  Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June: World Challenge Expedition Leaves</p> <p>Summer Holidays -from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016</p> <p>Burns Supper 2017: Band booked for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017</p>	
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