



Minutes of the Tynecastle Parent & Carer Council Meeting

Monday 13th May 2024, 18:30

Attendees:	Alison Bell (Chair), Shelagh Stewart (Treasurer), Siti Ab Halim, Mariana Trussou, Hisham Abdel-Magid, Nuala Fahey, Nalam Dhokiya, Arun Gopinati, Olasunkanmi Babalola, Nicola Hall, Sharon McAree Thomas Hazel Kinnear (HT) Andy Bryce (DHT), Ewan Cameron (DYW lead) – until item 3
Apologies:	Gareth Oakley, Noha Yousif, Gillian Radford (Secretary), Esther Kuperij

1. Introduction and welcome	Attendees introduced themselves, apologies were noted
2. Minutes of previous meeting, actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actions for Shelagh – consider criteria for funding bids at other schools; look with Godwin at list of funding grants; process for recording funding requests made – ongoing or picked up under Treasurer’s update - More information on microscope costs and other options to fund – not covered – can address at next meeting if faculty requesting support - Action for Hazel to check where funding would be most helpful – ongoing - Action for Alison to go to next year’s P7 roadshows – ongoing - Action for Alison/Hisham/Hazel to consider parent input on careers - complete (covered below) - Request for parent volunteers on events and comms – ongoing. Sharon has been designing lovely poster, with thanks - Wifi connection – no update from council – roll forward to next meeting
3. Developing the Young Workforce	<p>Presentation from Ewan Cameron, who has been Developing Young Workforce lead in THS for last month. [Slides attached]. There are lots of ways in which employers and parents/carers can assist with supporting young people to consider their options for the world of work.</p> <p>Andy Bryce walked attendees through a proposed questionnaire aimed at parents and carers who might have knowledge and experience of the working world that they might be willing to share with pupils.</p>

	<p>Alison noted that this will be done as a collaboration between school and PCC, given our shared interest in this area.</p> <p>Some points raised in discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What can be done to get details of pupils who've left school and might want to share their experience? - MCR Pathways provides support for care experienced young people – THS currently not able to be part of this, but Hazel will ask again - Would be good to send this out before end of term, in case there are S6 families who might be willing to stay involved. And probably again next term - Hisham has been discussing with Alison the possibility of also engaging parents in some peer support – i.e. finding out what the parent group would find useful (e.g. ESOL for parents) and matching up parents with skills who can help. That is a longer term proposition but in similar territory - Various suggestions made to improve the questionnaire and Andy will take on board. - The questionnaire takes the opportunity to ask about excursions volunteering – this should either be made clear in the heading or we should (also?) ask about it separately as not everyone who can do excursions will fill out a careers support survey. Andy noted that any parents involved in excursions will need to be disclosure checked - Ewan has various plans coming up including involvement in Meaningful May, and a speed networking event. The output from the survey will be very helpful to his work with the school. <p>Alison thanked Ewan and Andy for the helpful update, and Ewan agreed to return to a future meeting to provide an update on the work (Action: Alison/Gillian to invite Ewan to meeting in next school year)</p>
<p>4. PCC Chair's update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have reached out to the PCCs at the four feeder primary schools, and look forward to working with them on areas of mutual interest such as P7/S1 transition, and road safety, as well as generally supporting each other - The most recent locality meeting (attended by Craiglockhart PCC and reported back to the wider group) covered Estates, and Active Schools. <p>Question raised of whether indices of deprivation used to assess access to Active Schools takes adequate account of families whose status is no recourse to public funds – Alison will follow up and ask the question (Action: Alison)</p>
<p>5. Head Teacher's update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - THS has won the Reading School Gold award - Place2Be – THS has lost this service from June and instead will have a new counsellor in place from August. <p>Discussion of this change. It's sad news as P2B has been a longstanding and valued service at THS. However more hours will be available under the new arrangement, along with additional support at feeder primaries. PCC would be interested to hear how the new arrangements</p>

	<p>are bedding in in due course – Action: Grace Burns to be invited to attend November meeting to update on pupil support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and Wellbeing Week has taken place for S1-3 - London trip took place to watch Newcastle - Hazel is still involved in review of Library Service. There’s a high level of student interest in this - Student Voice – have been working with Gorgie Farm and with People Know How on the old High School building. The redevelopment will include indoor and outdoor space so they are discussing that - Old school – in addition to above, Hazel noted that when the flats are ready, the school will be invited in to see it. Also there may be opportunities to benefit from having Edinburgh University students across the road in due course. - Participatory Budgeting – decisions made and will be announced soon - THS has won Raspberry Pi awards - S6s have had their last day. There was discussion about the young people’s bags being searched. This had impacted children in different ways, some finding it funny but others not appreciating it. Hazel took that on board, but said it hadn’t been intended to impact on young people. The atmosphere of the event was amazing and the young people behaved impeccably
<p>6. Treasurer’s Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shelagh reported that we have had our annual grant from the Council and now have a balance of around £3399. - We are making a push for EasyFundraising sign ups. Sharon has very kindly designed a poster with the link on it. Everyone was encouraged to take part – it doesn’t cost anything and can help raise funds for PCC - Pipe Band are considering making a funding bid
<p>7. AOB</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>8. Date of Next Meetings</p>	<p>Monday 10th June 2024 18:30 AGM will be on same evening as P1 parents evening (date tbc)</p>