



Tynecastle Parent & Carer Council Meeting

15th January 2024

Present: Alison Bell (AB) (PCC Chair), Gillian Radford (PCC Secretary), Shelagh Stewart (SS) (PCC Treasurer), Esther Kuperij, Olga Maksimova, Hisham Abdel-Magid, Noha Yousif, Aeneas Wilder, Adewuyi Moses

Hazel Kinnear (HK) (Head Teacher), Andy Bryce (ABr) (Deputy Head)

Apologies – Gareth Oakley

Agenda

Welcome, introductions and minutes of previous meeting

Chair's update

AB had attended SE/SW Locality meeting – she reported that:

- All P6-S6 now have ipads across the city. Council was looking into possibility of parents having Read Only version of the ipad.
- Council is working on a policy on vaping.
- Catering was also discussed – 25000 pupils now (significant increase post-covid) catered for – food waste a concern. HK shared that pupils are interested in this topic too and have met with Chartwells to discuss plans for growing own veg to eventually cook. Discussion re: allergies and availability of ingredient list.

Connect (previously National Parent Council Forum) training – office bearers are attending relevant training/ info sessions. Attended so far: constitution, treasury. Planned: communication for parents.

AB part of CEC group assessing equality impacts of new overseas visit approval process. First trip agreed under new arrangements by THS was to be a Battlefields trip to Belgium, in February half term.

AB had attended a CEC briefing on proposed changes to the SQA and exam process – consultation closed on 18/12/23. Connect had made a request for specific parent consultation on this.

Cancellation of external lets – this seems to be resolved.

Open invitation to all parents to attend online Connect session with SQA on 'Navigating Scottish Qualifications and assessments' – 23rd January 2024 at 8pm – link available via Alison.

NHS research on 'The Chat' - we have been offered the option to be involved. PCC asked to see the info to consider – *action - link to be shared with further information.*

Programme of future PCC meetings – AB invited any topics e.g. road safety, IT provision/wifi within the school, catering. *Action - all to respond to TynecastlePC@gmail.com*

Action: AB to bring schedule of proposed future meeting topics to next PCC meeting

Discussion with ABr about his lead role on senior phase course choices, a process about to get underway. Parents were interested to know how students are supported with course choices as they move up the school. There are various useful resources such as My World of Work which will help students consider what's important to them, what they're good at, and what their future direction might be.

PCC noted there is patchy wifi in various areas of the school (including conference room). This is affecting teacher/pupil experience. *Action – AB to write to the council on behalf of PCC regarding the patchy wifi within the school.*

Headteacher update

Staffing – Sarah Ellis / Rowan Duffy – new PSO for Flex (supporting students who may not get qualifications and need extra support). Jennifer Pollard – Geography Teacher started. XX Greer – PSO on attendance.

Upcoming – interview for Biology maternity leave cover and pupil support. Beginning staff planning now – will be advertising for Computing teacher.

Attainment – S3 parents evening and science faculty review completed. S3 exam experience week. Seen as very valuable. Senior phase parents evening. Prelims started.

Achievement – dance show, staff vs student basketball, Christmas concert, Tynie's Got Talent, senior school play & ceilidhs.

Ongoing improvement – attendance & timekeeping current priority. Still working on vision & values and curriculum review ongoing.

Upcoming – college support evening for parents; cluster ceilidh for P7s, battlefields trip.

Treasurer Update

SS outlined the role of the Treasurer of the PCC. Finances are everyone's responsibility – treasurer is a specific role but decisions rest with the whole parent body. Treasurer's role to keep accounts up to date and report to each meeting. The current accounts were shared and can be shared with any parent at any time throughout the year. Current balance – £2313.22

The bank account situation continues to be a complicating factor, but SS reported that we were making progress.

Current fundraising

PCC Burns Night Ceilidh – 26th January. Burns night tickets selling well – 91 sold

Easyfundraising - a straightforward way to raise money for the PCC so helpful if all can sign up.

Other opportunities – apply for grants / other ideas. Action: all to consider.

Requests for funding from the school

- Plan to develop criteria e.g. sustainability/wide range across depts

- Also need a mechanism for agreeing any bids that come outside of the PCC meeting

Action – SS to check whether there is a recommended minimum amount to retain in account ?£500

Action - office bearers to revert to next meeting with proposed criteria

Funding requests

Handball goals – current goals old and unsafe – request for £280 – agreed.

Chemistry – portable precision balances – request for £250 - agreed.

Physics – equipment – 172.99 - agreed.

Biology – Edinburgh Zoo trip S3 biodiversity workshop – asking for a donation – request for further information – bring back to next meeting.

Date of next meeting – Monday 11th March 2024 at 1830 in the school