



Tynecastle High School Parents & Carers Council

Minutes of Tynecastle High School Parents & Carers Council meeting held at Tynecastle High School on Tuesday 14 January 2025 at 18:30

Attendees in-person: Alison Bell (Chair), Sabina Pringle, Andy Bryce (Depute Head Teacher), Grace Burns (Depute Head Teacher), Jennifer Chave, Jane Brough, Arun Gopinath, Marianne van-de-l'Isle

Attendees on-line: Shelagh Stewart, Esther Kuperij, Gillian Radford, Olasunkanmi Babalola, Christopher Kelly, Faizah Bakenne-salami, Tanishq Dhokiya, Jamila Moore

Apologies: Hazel Kinnear (Head Teacher), Shannon Hersage, Sharon McAree Thomas, Hisham Abdel-Magid

1. Welcome	<p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and asked all attendees introduce themselves.</p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p>
2. School Self Evaluation	<p>School self-evaluation supported by the local authority takes place on 4th & 5th February. Ten head and depute teacher colleagues from across the city will attend to support the evaluation process. The evaluation will assess 4 quality indicators: leadership & change, communication, learning & teaching, equality & inclusion. It will also look at child protection & safeguarding provisions.</p> <p>Focus groups involving staff, pupils and parents/carers will take place as part of the evaluation. Two groups will meet for approximately 1 hour. Plan to split the groups over the two days and offer a morning and afternoon meeting. Will need 4 parent/carer representatives per group. It would be helpful if some PCC members could attend.</p> <p>Action: Grace to circulate MS forms survey to all parents/carers seeking parent engagement for the focus group.</p> <p>The outcome of the evaluation will inform short-, medium- and long-term improvement plans for the school.</p>
3. Minutes and actions from previous meetings	<p>The previous meeting minutes of 4th November 2024 were approved.</p>

<p>c. THS PCC Treasurer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement- multiple events celebrating student achievements this term including dance show, Christmas music concert, plus social events for pupils with the year group ceilidhs and end of term house assemblies. • Self-Evaluation- full details were given under agenda item 2. In addition, there are two upcoming in house THS faculty reviews for Languages and Technology departments. • Upcoming dates- event dates for the remainder of the term were shared. These are available on the school website. Of note on 6th Feb there is the Super Power Agency event at Queens Hall which THS pupils are attending. This is a literacy charity supporting young people with writing and publishing stories. <p>Shelagh reported that the school had updated quotes for some of the funding requests discussed at the November meeting. An amount of £770 has been calculated to cover the cost of the calculator and dictionaries.</p> <p>An application for £2000 has been submitted to the CEC Community Fund for lighting for the drama department and a book trolley for the library. Thanks to Arun and Alison for helping with completion of the submission. Feedback on outcome of the application is expected by the end of February.</p> <p>PCC bank balance is currently c.£3800. Income since last meeting includes £950 from CEC and £35 from Easy Fundraising.</p> <p>Shelagh asked attendees for suggestions on ways to better promote and manage the Easyfundraising platform. It was suggested that the PCC use parents' evenings to engage and promote the use of the resource. It was also suggested that Easyfundraising generates visuals that are good for sharing on social media. The PCC asked for a volunteer to help promote raising funds through easy fundraising.</p>
<p>6. Communications</p>	<p>Sabina has been active on social media promoting the work of the PCC and school events. Posters for the forthcoming Burns ceilidh on 24th January are ready to circulate.</p> <p>Action: Sabina to use social media to promote PCC Easy Fundraising webpage.</p>
<p>7. Fundraising event a. Burns Supper & Ceilidh</p>	<p>Tickets for the event went on sale this morning. Volunteers have been assigned to the tasks needed for running the event and are given first access to ticket</p>

<p>b. Halloween Disco</p>	<p>sales. Priority is then given to pupils/ families and teachers at THS. Running order for the event as follows: 6.30pm Doors open 7.00pm Burns supper (food, entertainment, addresses) 8.15pm Ceilidh 9.00pm Break for raffle 10.30pm Finish and clear up</p> <p>Probationer teachers have been assigned to give the toasts at the event. Communication has gone out requesting any donations for raffle prizes and home baking. Alison and Alex have met to start planning tasks for kitchen prep team and food requirements.</p> <p>To be added to March agenda for further discussion on how this could be supported.</p> <p>Action: Marianne to add to next PCC meeting agenda.</p> <p>Suggestion that organisation of an event could be done in conjunction with the S6 leadership skills group. Offers opportunity for S6 to raise funds for end of year prom through sale of soft drinks and home baking.</p>
<p>8. AOCB a. Online Safety</p> <p>b. PCC meeting format</p>	<p>Grace Burns highlighted continuing pressures from use of social media/ internet. Discussions taking place with pupils about use of specific sites. It was recognised that issues may increase with the reduction in moderation of content on social media sites.</p> <p>The school is seeking help from parents on delivering consistent messaging on social media use and online safety. The Police School Liaison Officer would also support discussions with pupils where safety issues are identified. Parents are keen to engage on this issue.</p> <p>Action: It was agreed that THS/PCC will co-plan an event for the summer term to address the issues of internet safety.</p> <p>Attendees were encouraged to send any feedback on the hybrid format of tonight's meeting to the PCC. It was noted that sound quality was good for those online. For future meetings the MS Teams link will be requested via the teaching staff.</p>
<p>9. Date of next meetings</p>	<p>Tuesday 11th March 2025, 6:30 pm Thursday 15th May 2025, 6:30 pm Monday 16th June 2025, 6:30 pm</p>
<p>The meeting ended at 19:30</p>	