



Tynecastle High School Parents & Carers Council

Minutes of Tynecastle High School Parents & Carers Council AGM meeting held at Tynecastle High School on Thursday 14 May 2026 at 18:30	
Attendees in-person: Alison Bell (Chair), Hazel Kinnear (Head Teacher), Marianne van-de-l'Isle (Secretary), Hisham Abdel-Magid (Treasurer), Seona Skulina (Parent), Seema Bhattacharya (Parent) Attendees on-line: Esther Kuperij (Parent), Sandy Bennett-Haber (Parent), Shannon Hersage (Parent) Apologies: Jennifer Chave, Shelagh Stewart, Tamsyn Wilson, Mhairi McDermott (Depute Head Teacher)	
1. Welcome	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and asked all attendees introduce themselves. Apologies were noted.
2. Presentations/ Topics for Discussion	Catering Provision Recent meetings have been held with CEC and Chartwell, the catering provider, to address concerns raised by the PCC including, menu display/ pricing, allergens, lunchtime queues. Progress has been made but it is very slow. The display screen was discovered not working and new have been ordered to improve visibility of menu and pricing for pupils. This will take time to implement. The THS Business manager has requested a new meeting to address ongoing issues. In addition a powerful statement was delivered at the recent meeting from Esther and Aluna regarding allergen needs. While a detailed folder of all allergens is kept in the kitchen this is not clearly displayed on menus or available for pupils. THS will deliver a session in September for all new and existing parents to discuss management of allergens in the cafeteria. Next meeting is on 4th June and the Chartwell Executive Chef will be present. A taster menu will be available for the P7 transition pupils that day, and there will be an opportunity to discuss allergies with staff. Information on P7 pupils is passed to THS when they join and allergens/ medication is a required section on the KIC form that all parents/ pupils must complete at the start of the school year. Chartwell so have an app available with menu information and the ability to pre order from the menu, however this is

	only available for phones and not iPads. Approval would be needed from Edinburgh Council to add this to pupil iPads, if available.
3. Minutes and action log	The previous minutes of 10th March 2026 were approved. Completed actions from previous meeting were noted on the updated PCC action log for 2025-26.
4. Matters arising from parent forum a. Funding opportunities	There were no new matters raised at the meeting. No new funding requests have been received from THS departments. It was highlighted that there is money in the account that can be used for any additional department needs.
5. Updates a. THS PCC Chair b. THS PCC Treasurer c. THS Head Teacher	Alison noted that the main input from the PCC in recent weeks has been in support of improvements to catering provision. There has been good communication and linkage across the cluster with the other Primary School PCCs, with learning support provision, school rolls, road safety and P7 transition. Hisham advised that the current PCC bank balance is £3562.04. There have been new funding bids received since the previous PC meeting. Outgoings include payments made to the music group and for the S3 Geography field trip. Income generation of £117.72 from Easy Fundraising. Hisham is attending a Community Grants Fund on 2nd June to find out more on how to access the grant. Hazel asked if the funding from NB Distilleries has been received. Alison advised that this is paid directly to the school. Action: Hazel to check with Tess Joyce, Business Manager Hazel Kinnear gave an update on activities since the last PCC meeting. Staffing: Tranche 1 & 2 interviews have been conducted for shortage subjects across CEC schools. Probationary teachers will be allocated within the next 2 weeks. There are vacancies in Art, Music, Drama, Chemistry & Modern Studies. Further update on new staffing at next PCC meeting. The Design faculty improvement plan is currently being drawn up to take forward suggestions. Parent events: An out of catchment visit to THS has been arranged for prospective new parents and for Craiglockhart parents who missed last year due to a clash with the P7 camp. Dates this year have been scheduled to avoid date clashes with cluster Primaries. As a result the THS Parents Open Evening has been moved to 2nd week of October.

	A SLWG will be set up with parents to help improve communications on opportunities at THS. Question: Alison asked if there could be other opportunities for PS pupils to visit the school before transition. Previously CPS pupils had the opportunity to undertake sports lessons at THS for a term. Hazel replied that primary schools are able to use the grounds for visits/classes as required and some lessons are provided on line e.g. science. Younger pupils also attend social events e.g. Burns Supper, Musicals and can see the school environment then. Pupil events included: ND assemblies, Spring term Music concert at Usher Hall (THS had the 3rd highest percentage of pupils at the event), Student Parliament (discussing leadership and what changes pupils want to see in 2026/27), Bendo Cup (S6 pupils won this year and were presented the cup by Mrs Bendo), SQA exams and Meaningful May week are currently running, with S2 classes spending the day at Portobello beach. THS Sports Day took place today (14th May). The annual THS Musical 'High School Musical' is being held on 10/11 June with tickets going on sale soon.
8. Fundraising Events 2026/27	To be taken forward by new committee after August AGM.
9. AOCB	a. Proposed future agenda items • School Trips at THS (June meeting) Hazel noted that CEC have improved their process for allowing school to undertake trips. As part of the Improvement plan for 2026/27 the school are asking parents what they would or could contribute toward costs of extracurricular trips, while ensuring equitable access. THS do provide after school activities as part of Health & Wellbeing programme but very few trips outwith the council area are undertaken and even fewer abroad. b. Edinburgh PCC summary paper (Mar-May 2026) A summary update of current Edinburgh wide PCC activity was shared at the meeting. Current topics of discussion include CEC traffic management schedule around schools, CEC consultation on term dates for future academic years, support for low income families. c. Dates for August AGM and 2026/7 The date for the AGM will be Thurs 27th Aug to coincide with the new S1 parents invitation and will follow on from the event at 19:30

	Action: Marianne to ask Tess to update PCC webpage with this information. Other AOB items raised were: <u>Curriculum resources</u> Seema asked if there was a list of books or resources that pupils needed for the academic term. It was highlighted that most teaching resources are now online and any academic books are provided in school. However a list of these can be provided by curriculum leaders if required. There is no expectation that parents should be providing books/resources for their child/children. Hazel advised that the Senior Phase S4-6 parents open evening is held in the Autumn term and this provides information on resources used to deliver the curriculum and SQA exams. It was suggested that a list of text books used within English would be helpful to enable pupils to access audiobook versions for those that prefer to learn using this format. Both the Scholar and Achieve websites are used by the department and the lead teachers can help pupils with access. Hisham noted that communication was key to managing expectations of parents new to the Scottish Education system, especially as almost everything is done on line via an iPad and parents don't have access to the resources, unless their child allows them. For the Senior Phase SQA exams, accessing the past papers is very helpful for revision however there is not as much practice with exam technique, outwith the prelim exams, and some pupils can struggle with timings for exams when reverting to pen and paper. <u>Use of paper forms</u> Sandy asked if it was possible for forms to be returned to a central point at the school to avoid pupils having to search for specific teachers by asset date/ time. This can be an additional challenge for ASN pupils. Hazel agreed that this could be possible via the school office and will discuss with staff. Action: Hazel to ask office to collate and distribute forms
10. Date of next meetings	Next meeting Monday 15th June 2026, 6:30 pm
The meeting ended at 19:45	