

Minutes Trinity Primary Parent Council

28th August 2018, 7:30

1. Introductions

Present: Helen Duncan (Chair), Ben Powell, Angela Robertson, Colette Molligan, Rebecca Dalmer, Kev Head, Jennifer Bird, Kirsty Wilkie, Kirsty Martin (DHT), Catriona Regan, Jacqueline Scott (HT), Councillor Jim Campbell (CEC), Kate Goodhall, Angela Davidson, Evan Wells

Apologies: Cllr Gordon Munro, Cllr Ellie Bird, Karen Stevenson, Christiaan Hofstra, Kath Kidd, Clare Sharp, Kristen Deeken

2. Minutes of the last meeting - Minutes of March meeting approved without changes.

3. Bike ability - Mike Syonds from Bike Scotland Website has been contacted by the school regarding funding for bike racks. Update to follow.

4. Social Media issue with P7 WhatsApp group - further conversations and meeting with concerned parents were instigated however issue fizzled out. Head Teacher commented that the school cannot prevent pupils using mobile phones and associated social media apps, on or off campus, however through various channels/activities the schools promotes safe and respectful use of mobile technology.

Action - Helen suggested internet safety resources and link sent again to P1 parents again for info. via Mrs Booth (sent on 30th August)

5. Correspondence - email received from Bryan Paterson Headteacher at Trinity Academy sharing exam results as they had seen much improvement against previous years.

Action - Helen to share Bryan Paterson blog to parents(still to do)

Email from a concerned parent about health and hygiene implications of chickens and coup. Headteacher updated that she had attended the food for thought initiative which asked schools to look outwards at other schools for innovative learning and teaching examples. A school in the west of the city had successfully managed chickens and the senior management team were able to witness first hand the benefits this brought to the children. The school has received funding for this project and as part of the exploration phase a full health and safety assessment was undertaken and it was deemed safe to keep chicken in the secret garden. Parents and pupils will be asked to support the settling in phase of the chickens over weekends and holidays until they become more comfortable with their new coup/home!

Actions - future communications to the parents regarding safety arrangements to follow - rota for chicken 'weekend and holiday cover' to be shared and as well as FAQ's on how school/children will interact with chickens. (number of emails sent in August/September)

Helen received invite to attend North West Locality Meetings organised by the City Council. Thanks to Angela, Colette and Kate who volunteered to represent us.

Actions - Update to follow

Angela to look at locality proposal, currently Trinity Primary School sits within the N/West cluster, although it is on the boundary edge, our catchment area is within the North East. Previously the school was in the N. East cluster. Headteacher updated that there are

challenges for partnership working if cluster location and catchment location differ. Agreed around the table this should be raised at Head Teacher Exec.

Action - Headteacher to respond after feedback from Angela

Invitation to attend Connect (formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council) event on how to better to engage parents on September 12th

Action - Helen looking for people to attend.

Received email from Bonington House Nursery Parent Council requesting support from School - a letter to council regarding road safety concerns on nearby roads Newhaven Rd. and Craighall Rd. Helen supported request and sent letter. Bonington House also sent letter of support for the proposed use of Victoria park.

Mrs Scott also updated that illegal road parking is on going on Newhaven rd. and that community police officers will start to patrol in a bid to stop this practice. Email also sent out to all parents.

6. Change in commercial 'Lets' situation from council - council changed facility management and the commercial letting process, schools now have facility management cover from 7.30am – 4.30pm and from 4.30pm onwards it is a roving janitor. No clear guidance from council on who is responsible for extra costs of cover during commercial lets. Noted that this will have an impact on after school clubs however PSA are looking into using Trinity Academy for afterschool clubs.

Action - Headteacher to update at next meeting

7. Head Teacher's Report

589 roll - heading to max of 600

Primary 1 roll - 92 pupils (was 90 but 2 parents won their appeal). School capacity for this year group is 100 but Edinburgh City Council cap it at 90.

Pupils Support Assistants update for new parents - PSA support all children and work closely with teachers. Some children will be allocated support hours - this process is ongoing and will depend on whole school need.

In total there are 16 PSAs (made up of full and part time roles). There are two new PSA who are looking to become teachers. Across the school PSA allocation is divided by children with specified needs however the schools also looks at year groups and if there are any group needs. Younger children need a higher ratio of PSA to group.

8. Staffing

- Mrs Berthinussen- promoted to Deputy Headteacher in addition to Mrs Martin
- Mrs Armstrong to go on maternity leave shortly
- 6 new members of staff
- Several staff taken one day per week for professional learning - other teachers stand in to ensure consistency for pupils
- 4 x new PSA's

9. Building update - Pavilion at back playground completed barring snagging – new building part of transforming Edinburgh Schools project. Very different lay out to traditional schools,

architect looked at environment and impact it has on skills development and individual learning.

10.Pupil equality funding - The Pupil Equity Fund is in its second year and is part of the Government's £750 million Attainment Scotland Fund.

The Pupil Equity Fund is allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. Schools are awarded funding based on the number of pupils living in SIMD1 and 2 - those who are living in disadvantaged areas.

At Trinity the fund will continue to help children living in adverse situations. This includes the Family Support worker (in school on a Tues & Wed) who supports pupils and their families with any issues that may have an impact on their learning.

Therapy through art for is also on offer for several children - Edinburgh Sculpture workshop delivering this.

11.Skill force running Prince William award - The Prince William Award is a pioneering character and resilience programme that draws on the expertise and skills of predominantly ex-Services personnel to help children from the age of six to dare to be their best.

P5 classes will receive a half-day session weekly to help build confidence and resilience. Headteacher commented that it is good to bring in different partners not just school staff. School must evaluate the performance and return a report. Performance measures include anecdotal feedback from parents and also a pupil survey. School will also look at engagement at parents' events.

12.MADD around the world. Flashmob at schools on Friday 14th Sept - children share their dancing from the countries they have been studying

13.New P6/7 model of teaching - some interest and concerns from parents about new model with both year groups co located in same space. Headteacher updated that after listening to the kids they have changed model and tweaked plans, senior team also noted too much time was lost due to moving rooms. Headteacher to share update with parents shortly.

Parent committee member (Angela Robertson) noted that as a P7 parent supportive of the new model, it would be reassuring to know that in amongst all the fluidity there was a teacher special to your child who understands their needs. Kirsty Martin (DHT) said that there will be one identified teacher for each class.

Children said they are enjoying mixed P6/7 PE and Art classes. But also enjoying being single P7 class group for other learning and teaching activity. Senior Management Team reiterated they will continue to monitor and evaluate situation - listening to kids and responding to them.

14. Update on building works – As a result of the rising roll of school, the chalet was built 5 years ago and more recently the Pavilion for P6 and P7. For the first time whole school assembly can't be accommodated, now split across different year groups. Pavilion is now 95% complete with some snagging outstanding

Action - To visit pavilion next meeting.

15. Capital building fund for Trinity Academy - Approval for redevelopment of Bangholm Playing Fields and community hub this would mean sports and gym facilities at Trinity Academy (TA) moved to Bangholm apart from one gym remaining at school. This would free up space for further redevelopment.

Cllr Jim Campbell looking to submit another bid for TA rebuild/redevelopment. Funding money earmarked for sports facility approx. 10m. Funding required to do master planning and consultation to investigate campus approach with Trinity Primary School. No money agreed for planning/consultation and its unlikely that the council will fund redevelopment - support from govt needed, but a good detailed plan/consultation is required to progress support from Govt.

Committee agreed a full business case review required for redevelopment of TA Helen also commented that the council never really consulted with parents about TA and that time would be required to consult with school community. This was despite parents raising TA's current redevelopment needs during the Trinity Primary School catchment consultation.

Questions from the group were asked regarding why TA wasn't considered for the last round of capital funding (Wave 4) despite the council being aware of large housing project happening in Western Harbour.

Concern from around the table on rising role situation at cluster primary school level and this not being considered by council when looking at funding for the redevelopment of TA

Action - Cllr Campbell to keep parent council informed

16. Use of Victoria Park - Helen updated on local consultation of Victoria park use by the school - due to the loss of outdoor space. Lots of local consultation undertaken with overall support for the school using Victoria park, CEC also supportive. However, over the summer we came up against a legal stumbling block restricting access until a full consultation can take place. An interim solution was put forward which would allow for temporary use with a fence around the area allowing access to the public out with school hours and term times.

Action - Helen to liaise with CEC planning department and update

17. Comms - Trinity Parents website closed. Moved everything back on to school website. Documents and minutes etc. For more general PC comms PSA happy to share on their social media platform (Facebook). Parent Council will also continue to use email and text via the school admin team.

18. AOB - Scottish Govt launched a 52-week parent engagement action plan for parental involvement, family learning and learning at home.

Action - Helen to look at it and feedback before next meeting.

AGM next week – can't vote unless you are a member.

Next Meetings

Wednesday, September 5, 2018 (AGM with the PSA – 7.00pm start time)

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

ENDS