



Minutes

Trinity Primary School Parent Council

Held on Tuesday 5th February 2018, 7:30pm

Present: Helen Duncan (Chair), Kate Goodall, Jakub Stojek, Dylan Mitchell, Kev Head, Angelica Lorenzo, Steven Dijkstra-Downie, Christiaan Hoffstra, Colette Woods, Jacqueline Scott, Cheryl Berthinussen, Cllr Jim Campbell

1. Apologies: Cath Kidd, Catriona Regan, Kristin Deeken, Angela Davidson, Jennifer Bird

2. Minutes of Meeting of 4th December, 2017

The minutes of 4th December were approved.

Action update on new fence to rear of school: This is now up and some signage intended to discourage dog fouling has been designed by P7s. As of Monday, 18th Feb the rear fence (directly accessing Victoria Park) will be used as the entry/exit point for the rear playground. In addition, the school had been informed of concerns about the school's front gate not working properly. These have been addressed.

3. Correspondence

Lets Policy: Useful communication received, especially for the PSA. There is an allocation of 32 hours/year at Trinity Primary School, with other activity intended to run at Trinity Academy (with associated cost). As they sit on the relevant committee, Cllr Bird is seeking clarification on where this rental goes, liability when the PSA and Trinity Academy are running activities at the same time, etc. This has also been discussed by the PSA and, increasingly, the advantages of using Trinity Academy (cleaning, wear and tear on building) are being recognised but developing greater transparency over time on what's covered by rental costs, relative responsibilities and storage of equipment will be helpful.

Term Dates: Information received. The current plans (two consecutive years involving a midweek finish on 23rd December in 2020/21 and 2021/22) has created concern from other parent councils. Cllr Campbell will contact council officers about this on our behalf.

Craighall Road Speed Limit: Holy Cross Primary School have approached us to support their application for the speed limit on Craighall Road to be reduced to 20mph. There were no objections to this and Cllr Campbell advised that the original intention was to review the 20mph rollout once this was complete city-wide. As this will happen soon, that could be a useful opportunity for review.

Secret Garden/Chicken Access on Weekends: K Head raised concerns about the Secret Garden being left unlocked across the weekend to facilitate parent/carer access to Egginburgh Castle. J Scott will explore more secure options.

4. Head Teacher's Report

J Scott ran through the Head Teacher's report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Additional points for noting:

- Class organisation for 2019/20 is becoming clearer. It appears there will be staffing for 21 classes, which would mean no requirement for a composite class. This is dependent on enrolment numbers staying the same.
- Decision yet to be made on whether or not to re-organise P3-P6 class composition

5. Meeting Updates: Locality/Trinity Community Council

Attendance at both groups continues. While concerns were expressed around the Locality Meeting's relevance (given that we are now in the North West Edinburgh locality) and low levels of parent/carer engagement, it was felt important that the Parent Council remains involved.

Becoming involved with Trinity Community Council has been very beneficial both in building relationships but also specifically with the discussions around both the fence and ongoing discussions about the future of Trinity Academy.

6. Council Budget Update

Specific concerns were raised around the level of support available for children with additional needs. J Scott conceded that there is insufficient resource to meet all presenting need across the school, but stressed that significant effort is put the most effective possible supports in place (e.g. nurture groups, staff mentoring). This is an issue being faced by all schools.

In response to the ongoing budget pressures on music tuition, D Mitchell raised the potential for linking up with facilities and under-utilised equipment at the Fort Community Centre. J Scott will follow this up outwith the meeting.

H Duncan raised that there were two key areas in which there is a lack of clarity currently. These are the proposals to make efficiency savings in Support for Learning (and whether this will affect schools directly) and to reduce/loosen teacher input at nursery level. H Duncan will draft an email on this issue and circulate around the Parent Council prior to sending to councillors.

7. Trinity Academy

As outlined by Cllr Campbell, there are a number of options currently being considered for the future of Trinity Academy. Essentially, these are a full renovation on the current site; a partial renovation on the current site with some facilities built at Bangholm; and a whole new school at Bangholm. The latter is Trinity Academy's favoured option, but this is subject to change and nothing is ruled out. Cllr Campbell's hope is that we will eventually have 2 or 3 options for community consultation. H Duncan continues to push for Trinity Primary School to be as involved as possible in this.

8. Edinburgh Learns

The Parent Council watched a video summarising the new Edinburgh Learns strategy from City of Edinburgh Council. There were some questions as to what was really new, but there was certainly nothing concerning coming from it. It was felt that the new frameworks offer some useful and supportive resources and that Trinity Primary School is in quite a strong place with much of this already.

9. Pupil Equity Funding

This has been used to fund the Family Support Worker position which continues to make a very positive contribution to the school. It is also funding our 'nurture' work which is proving very effective and J Scott is keen to continue with this. PEF money is also used to ensure the school can make good on its commitment to ensuring no child misses out on opportunities for reasons of affordability.

The money has previously been used to pay for Skills Force, but unsure if that will continue. New ideas are certainly welcome and this should be added as an item to the next Parent Council agenda.

10. Parent Council Communications

No update

11. Accounts

All in order

12. AOB

It was asked if parents/carers can 'attend' Parent Council meetings via Skype. Logistics/technology allowing, the answer was most definitely a yes.

13. Future dates

Tuesday, March 19th

Tuesday, May 21st