



Troqueer Parents and Friends Council



TPFC MEETING WEDNESDAY 22nd January 2020

MINUTE

Apologies – Fiona Mitchell, Liza Vinnie, Ian Blake

Present: Kelly Beaton, Davie Stitt, Kirsteen Macintyre, Laura Whitelaw, Jane Johnston, Lilli Irving, Lisa Muirhead, Joanne Russell, Mary Terrace, Martin Armstrong, Nancy Torbett, Kirsty Peden, Cathy Mackenzie

AGENDA

1. Matters arising from last minute

- re the standing order letter, Kirsteen provided copies for the school office and Cathy agreed to put the standing order letter on to school website
- meeting to decide what goes on school website re TPFC, meeting to be arranged. KM and LW to draft something initially and run past Jane and Cathy and be presented to a future meeting for approval.

2. Partnership with school and local community to create welcoming inclusive school

(a)Headteacher's Report

Speech making. Last night Martin advised he attended the P7 speech making competition in which the school did very well. Donald and Teagan got through to final. Olivia and Molly also involved – all did very well.

MUGA – Martin advised that it has been assessed that it would cost in the region of £20k to put the MUGA right as required. Martin advised he has

written to the school estates section in the Council and Councillor Stitt will also look into this.

Usborne Book Fayre – a parent has requested that we use this firm if we do another. Martin suggested looking at the commission offered before a decision is made. It had been agreed that we could do this every second year. Discussion followed re having this instead of an Easter Event. Noting the Usborne Agent agreeing to run the book shop facility rather than volunteers. World Book Day is 7th March. Martin to follow up this inquiry with a request for more information and come back to TPFC.

Breakfast Club numbers dropping. Considering dropping this. Only 4 children today. If numbers don't go up, we will have to pull this. Martin will promote this over the next few weeks and monitor.

Health Week. Mrs Law running a health week in May. She has asked if TPFC would give her a budget. (Following subsequent TPFC member agreement via What's App Group it was agreed that Mrs Law should give more information at the March meeting re how much she needs and what for?) It was agreed that information/request for help should be put on the School App re parents who work in the field of health/fitness and might be able to assist the school.

Trim trail repairs. Martin advised he has a report on the issues needing to be addressed which would cost around £300 to put right. Some of the work will be done in house and contractors will be considered for the parts that can't be done in-house.

Leavers gifts P 7– Tempest photographers have given costings for photos. 35 or more £9 each – less than 35, £16 each. TPFC will donate £12 per P7 pupil and they can choose how to spend it. Next year we can consider raising the sum given as has been £12 for a few years.

Staffing - There are a number of complications re staffing re maternity leave periods coming up and ending. Martin will update TPFC in due course

(b)Anti-bullying policy

Martin to send this to KM for circulation among TPFC members at first instance.

General discussion followed re definition of “bullying”. Comments to be directed back to Martin via KM. Further consultation with full parent body in due course.

(c) Reporting to Parents, new proposals

Martin has set out his proposed changes in writing. Targets which are sent home would be stopped and the time would be re-directed more constructively. Reports would be updated and amended as the child moves through the school. This new format would give extra time for face to face teacher /parent conferences.

This year, there will be a second open classroom in April (20th)

General feedback from TPFC members that the chance to speak to teachers in a conference about their child(ren) would be welcome. This information will be circulated to the parent body.

Noting that the school website is live and information about what is going on the school can be seen there.

3. Promote partnership with school, pupils, Parent Forum and community

(a) Purchase of Recorders for the school – A quote has been obtained from John Douglas (12 Recorders at the cost of £78) – agreed by TPFC members. Mr McKenzie will take this group and pupils may be able to work to Grade 1.

(b) Additions to the website re TPFC information. KM and LW to take this forward as discussed above.

4. Develop and engage in activities which support education and welfare of pupils and represent parents' views on education and welfare

(a) Child Protection Policy. Kirsteen advised that she and Laura had worked on this. It was relatively simple and straight forward for people to understand and remember. The policy was approved by all and passed around for signature by parent members which Kirsteen will retain as minute secretary. Kirsteen agreed to look into the purchase of an Accident/Incident book with removeable pages for each incident.

(b) D& G Parent Forum update. There are no further updates at present.

The forthcoming event dates were noted: Impact of Youth Work and Additional Support for Learning Parent Forum view – dates given for these events. Laura advising that there is a National Parent Forum Facebook page which people can like and follow.

5. Fundraising.

-Feedback from the Christmas Hamper Event/Treasure Map. Mary advised we raised £717.25 – total for both events. Noted to be much more straight forward that organising the Christmas Fayre. Only around £250 less than the Christmas Fayre last year. (After the meeting Mary confirmed that the current balance of the TPFC Account is £5,322.28)

It was noted that the following events are organised:-

-Ceilidh Event 7th Feb

-Valentines Disco 12th Feb

Both events are being organised via Whats App groups. Martin answered the various questions re capacity of hall/bar area etc.

Arrangements re social inclusion discussed and agreed.

Tuck tokens have been purchased and plastic re-useable cups purchased.

6. AOCB

1.Councillor Stitt asking about the effect of the road changes and the information evening about the crossing. Martin not expecting there to be any adverse effects.

2.Lisa was concerned about the crossing on Pleasance Avenue – Lisa reporting that cars are running red lights. Lisa referred to police if she witnesses such incidents. Kirsty noting the Beacons at the crossing work.

Laura advised there is still a plan for re-configuration of the road around the Toll Shop – not likely to happen before the Dumfries Show.

3.Mary Terrace – Council grant to Parent Council. This is currently held in a separate account. Note: Kirsty Peden subsequently clarified that this can be held in the same account as the General TPFC funds and does not require to be dealt with separately. TPFC members have agreed that this account can now be closed and the sum added to the main TPFC account.

4.Kirsty has applied for a playground furniture grant with “Groundworks – bags of help.” £2K applied for – she will keep us informed.

7. Date of the next meeting

11th March next meeting – next meeting at 5.30pm so teachers/management team can get away sooner.