



Troqueer Parents and Friends Council



TPFC MEETING WEDNESDAY 20 May 2020

Minute

Present: Kirsteen Macintyre, Laura Whitelaw, Nancy Torbett, Mary Terrace, Lilli Irving, Cathy Mackenzie, Lisa Muirhead, Joanne Russell, Fiona Mitchell, Jane Johnston

Apologies: Martin Armstrong, Davie Stitt, Ian Blake

1. Matters arising from last minute

- (a) Standing Order letter. Nancy advised that there was no movement on this yet. The matter will stay on the agenda. (Cathy will double check if Martin has any news on this matter) Agreeing that Laura can take this further on behalf of the TPFC if Martin can put her in touch with the relevant Education officer
- (b) MUGA. The position remains that the Education Authority will cover the cost of the works needed for the MUGA to be useable again. No further movement at present as lockdown has intervened. Kirsteen to prepare a TPFC letter voicing our concern that the works need to be undertaken asap and ideally when the children are not in school.
- (c) Trim Trail. The maintenance work required has not yet happened. Again, the lockdown has intervened and Mr McCall has not been able to undertake the in-house maintenance.
- (d) P7 photo. Noting this was not able to happen before the lockdown. Cathy advised that the P7s did have a live chat on the 18th May to discuss a virtual leavers event and another event will be organised in due course when the can attend in person.

- (e) Health Week. The money the TPFC had set aside for Mrs Law's plans will no longer be needed. Health week will be covered in the learning grids on the 3rd June week.
- (f) Laura suggested that some TPFC funds should be used at this time to provide the children at home with some kind of benefit or treat as funds would normally be spend on them via school trips or other events. Several suggestions were made including the purchase of a group licence for an educational game or a voucher for a treat which might also benefit a local business. No agreement was reached and the discussion continued after the meeting on the What's App Group. The next meeting will minute what was agreed and note the expenditure.

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

(a)Headteacher's Report given by Nancy Torbett;

i)School Reports have been completed and will be posted out shortly. There will also be a letter explaining how feedback will be received.

ii) Nancy advised that when the schools go back after the summer, students will return on a part time basis and will continue with some home schooling. This will be termed "blended learning". She advised that Microsoft Teams is likely to be used more and more and there would be less reliance on email as a form of keeping in touch.

iii) Nancy asked for feedback as regards how home schooling is operating. She advised that one concern had been that pupils did not want to share their work on Teams where everyone in their class could see it and this led to the introduction of the Glow Form which allowed only the pupil's teacher to see the work.

Feedback from parent members as follows:

-Pupils would like to speak to their own teachers, even if this was just a short 5 minute telephone call now and again.

-Nancy advised that the school were looking into the possibility of audio live chats, particularly for P1-3 in small groups.

-It was suggested that there should be advance notice of which teacher would be doing the 'live chat', as pupils were more keen if they could chat with their own teacher.

-There was a general opinion that the school had done a great job in providing the learning grids with lots of signposting to resources and various learning options. Some felt that the amount of online resources was a little overwhelming and that younger children in particular were not as interested in spending a lot of time in front of a screen.

-Nancy re-enforced that the learning grids are there to suggest learning options for your children and that the children are not expected to cover everything, but just to do what they are able to.

-Nancy advised that teachers are getting the information about schools going back and what shape that will take at the same time that parents are hearing it on the news updates from the Scottish Government. As soon as the school have information to share, they are trying to get it out to parents.

iv) Respect Me anti-bullying policy. Nancy advised that this is currently on hold. As the schools go back next term, there will be a greater emphasis on Health and Wellbeing and this will need to be reflected in the Respect Me policy. Laura shared that she had placed the current draft policy on the TPFC Teams file and comments can be fed back to Martin direct.

v) Nancy asked for a vote of thanks to the retiring TPFC Committee Members to be recorded (**Laura Whitelaw, Mary Terrace and Fiona Mitchell**). All the staff at Troqueer and other TPFC Members have really appreciated their hard work and dedication over the years!

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

No items

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

(a) D& G Parent Forum. Laura advised there was no update as there had been no meetings. She advised that whoever is taking on the role of chair next session should try to go to these meetings if they can as it is a good way of finding out what other parent councils are doing and to share ideas.

(b) Cyber Resilience and Safer Internet Course. Joanne advised this course was cancelled due to the lockdown and would be re-scheduled in due course.

(c) books for children with dyslexia

Jane had shared her research prior to the meeting on the What's App Group. Members were interested in the bulk buy options where a good discount was given. There was a vote on the purchase of the bundle of 20 books for £100. The vote was unanimous in favour of the purchase. Laura agreed to feedback this information to the parent who made the suggestion.

5. Fundraising.

There was a discussion as to whether we should try to have a fundraising event this term given that two of our biggest fundraising events (the sponsored run and the barbeque) could not take place. On balance it was decided that there should not be a fundraising event this term due to many families being in financial hardship at present. It was also noted that we have spent less than expected as many of the activities we usually support financially are not going ahead at present.

6. AOCB

The handover to the new committee next term was discussed. Laura agreed to pass over the details of the TPFC email address and password to Kirsteen.

Mary was dealing with getting the TPFC accounts audited.

The separate account which was administered by Pat Hanna has not been dealt with yet. Pat will need to be contacted about this issue. In the short term, Laura agreed to email Vanessa Morris to ensure that in future the Council grant goes into the main TPFC account. Mary Terrace is to pass Laura details of the main TPFC account.

7. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM and a provisional date of the 9th September 2020 at 5.30pm has been fixed. Office bearers will come to the AGM and Laura will chair until the new office bearers are elected at which point the retired members can leave the meeting. It was noted that Martin has offered to chair the meeting until a new Chairperson can be identified.

