



Troqueer Parents and Friends Council



TPFC MEETING WEDNESDAY 30 September 2020

Via Microsoft Teams 6.00pm

Present: Kirsteen Macintyre, Nancy Torbett, Lisa Muirhead, Joanne Russell, Lili Irving, Lisa Ashton, Martin Armstrong, Nikki Cameron, Elspeth Scade, Itziar Goiriena, Lesley Stevenson, Nicola Jardine, Lynn Wilson, Liliana Savin, Lisa Crosbie, Gillian Walker, Ian Blake, Lyn Gordon,

Apologies: Rose Owens, Nicola Kennan, Alistair Bloxham, Davie Stitt, Rob Davidson

1. Welcome and introductions.

Everyone had the opportunity to introduce themselves, say what stage their child(ren) were at in the school and where their particular interests or skills relating to TPFC lay.

2. Matters arising from last minute

(a)standing order letter. Martin confirmed that he had approval from the Education Authority re the use of the letter, however, he would like to re-launch this letter and time it with the school questionnaire to raise the profile of the letter.

(b)MUGA, timescale for works. Martin confirmed that the Council were not in a position to give a timescale for the works at present.

(c)Sponsored Run update. Martin confirmed that both Park Farm and the Show Committee were agreeable to the space

being used for the sponsored run. However, there is no access to the toilets at present at the show field which might cause a problem. A date for this event can be set at a future meeting.
(d)communication methods and any sub committees needed (dealt with later in the meeting as a substantive item)
(e)dates for future meetings: 11th November 2020
20th January, 17th March, 12th May 2021

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

(a)Headteacher's Report (Martin)

Martin expressed how delighted he was with the number of parents now on the TPFC. He commented that it was almost an entirely new Council, but still with some experience present which created a good blend.

- i) **Re-definition of vision of the school.** Martin advised that he would be looking for TPFC involvement in putting together a questionnaire which he intends to share with the full parent body in due course. This will be in respect of the future of the school, how things have changed since March 2020, and how parents would like to see the school develop in the future. If there are any particular questions that the TPFC would like to include, can they please email them to Martin. Martin confirmed that the Standing Order letter can be re-launched at the point when the questionnaire is sent out to raise its profile.
- ii) **SWEIC (South West Education Improvement Collaborative)** Martin spoke about this conference which he was asked to speak at. It involved Dumfries and Galloway and other Ayrshire Authorities. The Conference looked at the greater use of technology in learning and home learning. There was a discussion on lockdown experiences and in particular parity of learning and access to technology. Not every household has the same ready access to internet connectivity and tablets/laptops.
- iii) **Halloween Celebration.** Martin asked if TPFC would support a school Halloween Event on the 30th October. He proposed a non-uniform day and children could dress up in Halloween costume if they wished and pay a voluntary contribution. The school would be running Halloween themed activities in class that day. TPFC members

present were in general agreement that this was appropriate and made up for not being able to run a Disco this year due to Covid restrictions. (Mentimeter recorded 10 votes in favour)

- iv) School Photos. Martin asked whether parents would like Tempest Photography to be invited back to take pupil photographs. This would be done within school “bubbles” where possible and the school would consider if sibling pictures could be taken safely across bubbles with cleaning in between. There was general support from parents present that they would like school photos to be taken.**
- v) School Christmas Event. It was noted that the usual school Christmas Concert which all parents could attend, would not be possible this year and Martin asked for views on other options. It was suggested that a virtual Christmas Concert could be put together using class or other filmed performances, perhaps in the Form of a DVD which could be purchased. This could also be a fund raising event and an opportunity to consider pupil equity funding to provide a free DVD as appropriate. Nancy was aware of a company who could produce such a DVD and agreed to make enquiries for the next meeting.**
- vi) Grant funding. Martin confirmed that he had spent the grant as per the criteria. Martin would speak to Mary Terrace about cheques that needed to be issued. Martin would prepare a report for Kirsty Peden on how the money was spent.**
- vii) MUGA and Trim Trail. Martin advised that the Council could not give him a timescale for the work on the MUGA. Projects from before the lockdown were proceeding and covid restrictions/risk assessments meant that projects were taking longer than usual. Martin also confirmed, that contrary to what he had previously been told, the Trim Trail is the School’s responsibility to maintain and not the Education Authority’s responsibility. Martin estimates the cost to be around £200 to put the trim trail back into working order. It was noted that the TPFC would be willing to assist with the funding for the trim trail works if needed.**
- viii) Staff Absences. Martin advised that if any staff members or their families had symptoms of Covid, they have been able to get a quick test. The school is in a position to obtain teaching staff cover where necessary at present.**

- ix) **Pantomime.** The School have decided to cancel the pantomime next term. It is considered to high risk at present. The theatre company can be re-booked later in the school year if appropriate.
- x) **Engaging Children re views on playground equipment.** Martin advised that this had not been taken forward yet.
- xi) **Poly tunnel.** Martin would be looking for volunteers at a future date to work on this project. It can be added to a future agenda.

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

- (a) **communication methods for TPFC Committee and formation of any sub-committees needed.**

Lisa proposed using Microsoft Teams as a method of communication. This would allow files to be shared and small working groups to be set up. Lynn will assist Lisa in setting these up. Members were agreeable to trying this.

5. 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 update**

Lisa attended the D & G Parent Forum AGM online. The meeting recognised the challenge which Covid has posed, considered the lockdown and the transition back to school. It was noted that risk assessment is individual to each school and this is why there may be differing plans or rules at each school. It was noted that there is a focus by all schools at present on pupil wellbeing as everyone's experience of lockdown has been different. There was a discussion around parent consultation and the different ways of doing this. It was noted that Dumfries and Galloway is a rural region and that the Council is looking to enhance digital connectivity in all our schools.

6. Fundraising.

A number of suggestions were made:-

- a community event which was not primarily aimed at fundraising**
- recycling of clothing, bag deposit to earn money for the school**
- Non Halloween Disco, with Disco held in people's own homes and posting picture online**
- use of Easy Fundraising.org.uk – registering with this or a similar company and encouraging school families to go through this website when making online purchases. The school is then given a small sum for each purchase made.**
- Individual fundraising challenge using tubes to collect £1 coins**
- non uniform/crazy hair day – pay donation to take part**
- Halloween art/writing competition with prizes sponsored by TPFC – 4 prizes needed to each bubble**
- PJ day with hot chocolate/cookies in run up to Christmas**
- hamper raffle**
- Christmas tea towel with children each drawing their portrait for inclusion**
- Christmas Cards drawn by the children**

Following the use of a mentimeter and voting by the members it was agreed that the non-uniform Halloween dress up day would be on the 30th October. There would be a drawing/writing competition in school and Kirsteen would arrange for the 4 prizes to be delivered to the school. Joanne would create a flier.

In relation to Christmas fundraising, the most popular ideas were the hamper raffle, the tea towel and Christmas Cards. Lisa agreed to set up 2 sub-groups on teams. One for the raffle and one for the tea towel/cards. Members to indicate to Lisa which they wished to be on. There would also be a general Teams group for general communications. Other fund raising ideas can be used later in the school year.

In relation to a Virtual Christmas Concert/DVD. Information would be brought back to the next meeting by Nancy re the costs and what was involved.

Next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting should be on the 11th November to ensure we had enough time to prepare for Christmas events.

AOCB

Planters. It was noted that the school does intend that these are re-planted next year. It is hoped that the poly tunnel can be used and the school could grow its own plants. Gillian advised that she may be able to get a hold of a donation of bulbs to assist with planting. The possibility of a donation of compost was to be looked into by Nancy.

Meeting ends

