



Troqueer Parents and Friends Council



TPFC MEETING WEDNESDAY 11 November 2020

Via Microsoft Teams 6.00pm

Minute

Present: Kirsteen Macintyre, Councillor Ian Blake, Councillor Davie Stitt, Lili Irving, Martin Armstrong, Lisa Muirhead, Elspeth Scade, Jenny Law, Gillian Walker, Lisa Ashton, Joanne Russell, Itziar Goiriena, Nicola Jardine, Lisa Crosbie, Lynn Wilson, Kirsty Peden, Alistair Bloxham, Nikki Cameron, Nancy Torbet

Apologies: Lyn Gordon, Liliana Savin

- 1. As some members needed to leave the meeting early, Martin asked for two matters to be dealt with early to allow a vote to be taken:**

(a)The annual bill for the School App was due and amounted to £468. TPFC Members were asked if they would support this item of expenditure as they had last year. It was unanimously agreed that the TPFC would pay for this.

(b)Martin advised that a visiting Pantomime could not take place this year due to Covid restrictions, however, he had the offer of an online interactive pantomime for the children at the cost of £90 and asked if they TPFC would agree to fund this. Kirsty Peden referred to the previous parental engagement survey which noted that the previous cost of the visiting panto was seen as being very high (almost £1,000). It was agreed that the online version at £90

was good value and all agreed that this would be a good thing for the children to see in the run up to Christmas. Unanimous agreement to the TPFC funding this event.

2. Matters arising from last minute

- (a) Feedback re Halloween non uniform day and art competition. Gillian advised that she had banked £167.42 in voluntary donations. It was noted that the children enjoyed the event and Martin commented that the standard of the art was very high. It was noted that for similar future events, permission may be sought from the winning entrants and their art may be published online in some way. It was noted that some parents would have liked to have given donations but were not able to do so on the day and the TPFC should consider a means of electronic donation. (For future consideration)**
- (b) School Photos – date confirmed as 17th November. It was noted that it would be individual portraits only on this occasion. Class photos would be considered towards the end of the academic year. Online buying for the photos would be the default position if possible. Lisa was concerned at the cost for a family with several children and asked if Tempest would consider offering a mix and match photo pack for a sibling group. (Martin to speak to Tempest)**
- (c) School Christmas Event. Enquiries re the production of a DVD have been made. It was not likely to be successful and may have resulted in a loss. However, rehearsals are underway for a Christmas end of year assembly which can be broadcast to all classes. Parental permission will be sought for wider broadcast. Consent will have to be explicit and not the general consent previously signed. Access to view can be given to parents/guardians but not to download. If consent is not given that child/children will not be able to take part in the event. Martin asked for his appreciation of the work of Mrs Riddick to be minuted. He advised that she has managed to work wonders in the one day per week that she is in school with the children.**

The performance will have considerable variety, despite the current restrictions.

(d) MUGA update

Martin advised that some PE can now be delivered indoors, however, he is very conscious that the MUGA was really the only outdoor area for quality PE delivery at the school. Martin has again been in touch with the relevant Council Officer and will continue to push for a date for the works to the MUGA to commence. Councillor Stitt advised that he had brought this issue up at the Council Education Committee and with the relevant Council Officer. Councillor Blake advised that he is also aware that this issue is a high priority and he will also press for the works to be carried out timeously.

Trim train update

It was noted that two parents had contacted Martin upon reading the minutes of the previous meeting and Martin had received two donations, one of £200 and one of £100 towards the cost of repairing the trim trail. Many thanks from the TPFC to those who donated (and for reading the minutes!)

Compost – it was noted that a parent had made an offer of a quantity of compost to the school to assist with planting. Again, many thanks from the TPFC for this kind offer

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

Head Teacher's Report

(a) Covid

Martin advised that dealing with the impact of Covid has significantly increased the management workload and he wanted to make parents aware of this.

-Keeping everyone safe. Keeping risk assessments up to date when advice is changing and being updated is a challenge.

-Martin has been concerned about the anxiety levels amongst his staff, however, so far they have been very resilient and always willing to adapt and be helpful.

-Additional pressure has come from other Agencies or Council Departments in setting demands or changes to practice, often with very little time to implement the change.

-The bubble system has placed an increased demand on staff time over break periods, to ensure the additional playtimes are staffed.

-In relation to Winter, rooms must be kept at a minimum of 17 degrees centigrade, however rooms must also be kept well ventilated. Martin will be advising that children should wear additional layers in cold weather and at times, coats may be needed in the classroom

Lili Irving commented that the nursery Covid plans were in line with the school, but that some of the guidance for the nursery was quite different. In particular, there is a strong emphasis on cleaning which places a demand on her staff. Everything that has been used needs to be washed and sterilised after use. She is looking into the purchase of an electro static cleaning device and may approach the TPFC in the future regarding the cost of such a device.

(b)Grant spending

Martin has completed the purchase of the equipment and will provide receipts and a report to Kirsty Peden.

(c)SWIEC Conference

Following on from this event noted in previous minutes, Martin will be publishing an article on the Education Scotland website on the 20th November. In addition, he has been invited to speak at an Education Scotland numeracy conference on the 25th November.

(d)Pupil numbers

Martin advised that a number of new pupils have recently been enrolled at Troqueer and the school is now almost at capacity, with some classes being full.

(e)Staffing

One member of staff is off on long term absence at present and Mrs Fiona Collins is covering the absence. As part of the Covid recovery programme, Ewan McCall will be in school 2 days per week which will allow class teachers to spend individual time with pupils who have an identified educational need as a result of the lockdown period.

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

No items

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

(a)Planned parental questionnaire

The questions would broadly fall into the following areas:

-Lockdown, re the quality of communication and the quality of the learning tasks provided

-How settled children are since the return to school, the quality of communication at the start and since?

-Current curriculum. There would be an introduction and then questions regarding the priorities which should be set.

There was a discussion about the best way to collect and collate the questionnaire returns. It was noted that there was a 13% response in relation to the school report card comments and it was hoped that the response to the questionnaires would be much higher.

6. Fundraising.

(a) Feedback from Christmas Card/Tea Towel Fundraising Group

The Christmas Cards would not go ahead this year as submission dates were earlier than expected. The tea towel project would proceed. Art work re the children's faces (self portraits) was

underway. Further work would be done to decide which company to use and on numbers and pricing.

(b)Feedback from Christmas Hamper Raffle Group

A risk assessment has been carried out. This will proceed and the draw will be on the 11th December. Tickets were in the process of being finalised/printed and would be sent out to families soon. It was noted that there was no obligation to buy tickets. A drop off location would be marked out for prize donations. P7s would write to local businesses looking for prize donations. A plan was in place for the safe making up of the hampers. It was noted that the current Gambling Licence was valid till the end of 2020 and would need to be renewed shortly.

(c)Discussion regarding future fundraising ideas for next session

A Mentimeter was used to prioritise future fundraising or event ideas. The top three were:-

-a Troqueer School recipe book

-Sponsored Run

-Virtual Troqueer's Got Talent

These will be taken forward at future meetings.

6. AOCB

(a) Communication

It was noted that one of the sub groups were having issues using Microsoft Teams and that they would set up a Whats App Group to communicate instead.

(b) Lynn Wilson advised that October was Dyslexia Month and she asked if next year, TPFC would consider encouraging promotion of Dyslexia Month. She suggested inviting former pupils with Dyslexia being asked to return to the school to speak to pupils regarding career success. There was general support for this idea which would be taken forward as an agenda item at the next meeting.

6. Date of the next meeting – Wed 20th Jan 2021 at 6pm via Teams

