



Thomas Muir Primary School

Parent Council - Minutes

Date: 2nd September 2021

Time: 6.30pm – 8.00pm

Venue: Teams Online

Apologies: Councillor Alan Moir (CAM), Linda Lumsden (LL)

Present: Anna-Marie McIntosh (AMM, Head Teacher), Jennifer Law (JL, Depute Head), Maria McAllister (MMcA, Depute Head), Megan Jones (MJ, Teacher), Hannah Young (HY, soon to be Head Teacher), Darren Nichol (DN), Emma White (EW), Kirsty McEwan (KM), Laura McDonald (LM), Eman Jihani (EJ), Alasdair Tierney (AT), Natalie Simpson (NS), Nikolaj Bach (NB), Ryan McAllister (RM), Peter Tracy (PY), Susan Lunan (SL), Allison Lunan (AL), Marie Claire Cairns (MCC), Caroline Clucas (CC), Cllr Gordon Low (CGL), Eman Jihani (EJ)

Agenda Item	Details	Discussion/Action
1	Welcome to new members	LM welcomed the new PC members – CC, EJ, AT, MCC
2	Update on TMPS Staffing Changes	<u>New Head Teacher – HY</u> HY handover is progressing, met the PC tonight, will be meeting the wider staff body next week. HY will be in school across the coming weeks to meet the children and work with the leadership team. HY take up the new role after the Sept weekend. The role will be an interim post to begin with. HY has worked in Bishopbriggs previously and very happy to return.
3	COVID-19 Impact on TMPS including School Response	Government published updated guidance. Continue with physical distancing (1m) hand washing, enhanced cleaning, respiratory guidance all remain. Previously, if there was a COVID case in class then generally the whole class would have to isolate. New directive that students in the class will not be seen as close contact for a COVID case. Anyone with medical conditions or who would have been shielding previously would have to isolate. EDC continue to have a robust policy in tracing any COVID issues and liaise between the various bodies to ensure that any outbreaks are managed appropriately.
4	Highlights for school Improvement Plan/focus for the coming academic year	<u>Head Teacher Report - AMM</u> Welcome to all PC including new members etc. 1. Big thanks to the whole school for support after the last 5 years. Off to do quality improvement across all schools in EDC. Thank you to the PC for their support, very respectful and supportive in all endeavours. Incredible hard work from the staff at TMPS, especially the leadership team at the school. 2. School Improvement Plan priorities (i) Further developing universal whole school nurturing approaches as well as a targeted nurture room support. (ii) Refocusing core teaching and learning skills including assessment throughout the school. (iii) Continuation of focus on digital learning. 3. Reporting to parents- TMPS traditionally offer 2 face-to-face parents' meetings and a written report at the end of each session. Face to face not permitted currently due to COVID guidance. Proposal for 2021/22 is 1st face-to-

		<p>face meeting to be replaced with a phone call, followed by a face-to-face in June if restrictions allow, but if not then another phone call. End of session written report as normal. Cannot be a teams video call due to logistics. Parent council supported these proposals.</p> <p><u>Update from JL:</u> Nurture- Big deal, little deal approach introduced last year with one class will be rolled out across the whole school. Nurture group will start after the Oct break.</p> <p><u>Update MMcA:</u> Sparks councillor employed in school again for identified P6 & 7 students.</p> <p>Sway newsletter will continue to be produced monthly following positive feedback from families.</p> <p>School has been accepted into a Lego coding programme, 3 teachers across P6 will be running this. TMPS selected as one of a few schools from approximately 600 who applied. Thanks to CC for highlighting this opportunity.</p>
5	Parent Council plans for the coming year	Once the new head teacher is in place we will hopefully be able to discuss parents in working groups & policy areas the parent council can contribute to e.g. communication with parents and travel strategy.
6	Home Learning	<p>Parents reported to benefit from having all password information & login instructions resent.</p> <p>A number of parent council members highlighted concerns including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Short turn-around of infant homework (3 days) -Families with siblings & only 1 device to access -Families with no printer access & the amount of time copying -Pressure to fit in home learning due to parent work patterns or children's clubs/activities -Volume of work at some stages -Additional screen time (including online-only reading books in upper school) when work presented in this fashion- paper alternatives or a balance would be welcomed -Concern about workload for staff to set & monitor homework. Is this effective use of time? <p><u>AMM</u> – School surveyed parents & pupils 2 years ago on this issue. Mixed results with what families want. All homework is flexible and students can do as much as they can manage. There is an expectation that we should build on gains made in terms of home learning during the pandemic. Using digital learning means that parents/students are prepared for any eventuality.</p> <p><u>MJ</u> Weekly homework for infants ties in better with the learning that is occurring in class, a two weekly schedule would mean it was out of sync with the class learning.</p> <p>Parent views will be considered in next management meeting. Does a further survey need to be carried out given changed landscape & expectations since lock down?</p>
7	Dates of future meetings	18-Nov-2021, 17-Feb-2022, 19-May-2022
8	Any Other Business	<p><u>P1 Photos</u> – will there be any in the paper? Will there be a photographer in the school to take individual/sibling photos? AMM- cannot have external people in school due to covid restrictions but can review if restrictions lift further.</p> <p><u>School and packed lunches not able to sit together (P4-7)</u> This is a COVID directive and is purely operational due to distancing requirements in the hall. To include the packed lunch students would require 3 lunch time sittings & 3 staggered lunch breaks. When restrictions allow TMPS aim to return to a single lunchtime.</p>