



# Thomas Muir Primary School

## Parent Council - Minutes

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
Time: 6.30pm – 8.00pm  
Venue: Teams Online

Apologies: Marie McAllister (MMcA), Kirsty McEwan (KM), Nikolaj Bach (NB)

Present: Hannah Young (HY), Jennifer Law (JL), Miss Jones (MJ), Darren Nichol (DN), Emma White (EW), Laura McDonald (LM), Alasdair Tierney (AT), Natalie Simpson (NS), Ryan McAllister (RA), Peter Tracy (PT), Susan Lunan (SL), Allison Lunan (AL), Marie Claire Cairns (MCC), Caroline Clucas (CC), Cllr Gordon Low (CGL), Cllr Alan Moir (CAM), Linda Lumsden (LL), Sahana Noozeethullah (SN), Rhoda Lloyd (RL), Yan Stevenson (YS), Eman Jihani (EJ)

Minutes:

Agenda Item	Details	Discussion/Action
1	<p>Head Teacher Update</p> <p>Staffing update/Info sharing plan/Staff recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Travel Consultation/Traffic issues</li> <li>▪ Budget update/PEF funding</li> <li>▪ Digital Pedagogy Project</li> <li>▪ HMIe Thematic inspection visit</li> </ul>	<p>1. <b>Staffing change</b> – aware parents not able to meet teachers, staff video shared and great feedback on this.</p> <p>2. Kathleen Carr – long term supply P3c</p> <p>3. Krystal Anderson – newly qualified, temporary contract at TMPS, moving for permanent contract elsewhere</p> <p>4. Lisa Clarke – now covering for Krystal Anderson</p> <p>5. Miss Roberts &amp; Miss Anderson working a job share, both going on maternity leave, advertised this vacancy for full time permanent role</p> <p>6. Mrs Heidi Cochrane (HC) appointed as acting principal teacher before Christmas through to Aug/Sep 2022. HC is a very experienced teacher and a great addition</p> <p>7. Vacancies exist for support staff, 1 SLA post, 2 class assistant posts, 1 office staff post. Interviews begin next week further updates to follow</p> <p><b>Pupil equity fund (PEF)</b> – good funding levels due to size of the school. Recovery plan based on 3 areas; Nurture, Attainment (Literacy &amp; Numeracy) and Digital Learning. PEF is ring fenced for 2 new teachers as that is the best use of additional funds. 2 new teachers to start in Jan 2022 to work via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• small focused groups to help children with specific areas needing attention</li> <li>• additional teachers to help class teachers within class</li> </ul> <p><b>Digital Project</b> – Miss Jones (MJ) working on exciting new project which has focus at national level with the Education Scotland. Many schools involved but great that TMPS was selected to be included. The project is to focus on the Digital Learning within the schools to be based on the school recovery plan to raise attainment. New software being used to improve reading progress targeting learning gaps. A probationer teacher will be working alongside MJ allowing good experience for them too. There will be a presentation Mar 2022 to highlight the outcome of the project.</p> <p><b>HMI/Education Scotland Inspection</b> – Nominated for inspection due to good home learning feedback and recovery plan. Inspectors will be visiting Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2021. There will be a staff focus group for this and is validation of the hard work being done within the school.</p>
2	Travel consultation, traffic issues, safer	There was an unacceptable issue at the rear of school between parents and the safety warden where the warden was abused, in front of pupils, when trying to

	routes to school and school travel plan	<p>carry out her duties. Parking around the school is still a huge issue and concern for all. Moving cars on from the rear of the school seems to simply have shifted the issue to the front of the school.</p> <p><u>Laura McDonald</u> (LM) raised the point that the travel plan is possibly out of date as was created when the school opened and should be reviewed/updated. Issues across East Dunbartonshire but a real problem for TMPS due to the size of the school.</p> <p><u>Linda Lumsden</u> (LL) raised concerns about the Woodhill Rd (WR) crossing, the guard has retired and no evidence that he is being replaced. Can take 5/10 minutes to cross that area due to the volume and speed of cars.</p> <p><u>Susan Lunan</u> (SL) raised concerns about the Angus Avenue (AA) crossing, ideally should be a mechanical crossing as the lack of signage and paint on the road surface is not sufficient to indicate a crossing to the fast moving traffic. The crossing guard has mentioned that they have roughly 5 near misses with cars each day, very dangerous.</p> <p><u>Cllr Low</u> (CL) is aware that guards are being taken on in temp roles as they leave which is a change fro the previous approach. Parents should contact CL is the guards are not replaced. Council claims that AA has good enough signage, this needs a physical visit from the council to see the issues on AA &amp; WR.</p> <p><u>Cllr Moir</u> (CM) travel issue not unique to TMPS, would be good to have Thomas McMenemy at one of the PC meetings. Need to be aware that mechanical crossings may not fix issues with bad driving.</p>
3	Communication between School and Parents	<p>Feedback from parents on what is good/bad in communication between school &amp; parents:</p> <p><u>Natalie Simpson</u> (NS) increased twitter content has been very positively received especially the photos. Allows discussions to begin between parents/children on specific tasks they have been doing. The future tasks calendar was also very positive to allow parents to see the progress. Promotion of positive behaviour good too.</p> <p><u>Hannah Young</u> (HY) LM responsible for raising the issue with parental feedback, triggered the increased use of twitter. Meet the staff video was delayed by HY start date. Wil look to expand the communication via Head Teacher awards, online assemblies, online nativity, future dates for diary etc. Trying to get feedback from parents on what communication they would like. Confirmed that nativity will be online this year. Big thank you to JL for the work around organising the parents night phone calls, massive amounts of work and a logistical nightmare.</p> <p><u>Caroline Clucas</u> (CC) P1 parents need as much info as possible with extra help around the homework set up as the homework tools are all new to P1 parents.</p> <p><u>Jennifer Law</u> (JL) school got a reasonably good response to the nurture survey with overall very positive feedback. The survey was only sent to P4-P7 parents.</p> <p><u>Emma White</u> (EW) the parents night phone calls were very well received.</p>
4	Parent council communication/business	<p>PC minutes being added to Sway is a positive step and highlights what we are tackling in the PC meetings. PC have been asked to add a paragraph for each Sway that is sent to parents regardless of whether we have a meeting at that time.</p> <p>We have a good spread of age groups represented in the PC.</p>
5	Any Other Business	<p><u>PC Forum</u> – LM attended her first forum, this is at local authority level. Quite high level meeting across both primary &amp; secondary school.</p> <p><u>Bus Issues</u> – changed number of buses, some buses completely full, less space for additional child spaces. Some children now not able to get bus. Raised with EDC but they work to 1 mile distance when govt states 2 mile distance so no progress on that.</p> <p><u>P.E. Arrangements</u> – school working on indoor timetable, staggered lunch impacts availability of hall, partition in hall allows 2 classes at same time. Every class will have at least one indoor P.E. class. Scooter slots are still working well. Looking to work with bike ability after Christmas.</p>

		<p><u>Playground Bubbles</u> – the question was raised as to when we might expect the children to be able to play with their wider year group as other schools are allowing this mixing. HY confirmed that the bubbles remain in place at TMPS as 2 children having COVID in one group means enhanced impact (cleaning etc.) Due to the size of the school it is simpler to keep bubbles in place at this time, it will be reviewed in the new year.</p> <p><u>Photos</u> – the photographer will be in school next week, communication has gone out to the parents. Class photos can be done in the new year if there is demand.</p> <p><u>Christmas cards</u> – the Christmas cards designed by the children has been very positively received. Some children did not get their sample cards home and JL will investigate this.</p> <p><u>Future meetings</u> - 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 &amp; 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022</p>
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