



## Parent Council AGM– Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Time:** 6.00 – 7.00pm

**Venue:** Thomas Muir Primary School, Base 9

**Apologies** – Caroline Clucas, Eman Jihani, Gordan Low (councillor), Linda Lumsden, Laura McDonald, Alan Moir (councillor), Ben Rose (councillor), Liz Shepherd, Janine Wodzynska, Emma White.

**Teachers Present** – H Young (HT), M Jones (ADHT), M McAllister (DHT),

**Parents Present** – Marie Claire Cairns (secretary), Amy Livingstone, Susan Lunan, Thomas Moore, Ryan McAllister, James McDonald, Kirsty McEwan, Darren McNichol, Peter Tracey, Ana Trindade (chair), Iris Yang.

### Minutes:

Item	Decision/Discussion	Discussion/Action
1.	Welcome/Apologies	
2.	<i>Head Teacher Update - AGM</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ana Trindade confirmed as chair</li> <li>Darren McNichol confirmed as vice-chair</li> <li>Marie Claire Cairns confirmed as secretary</li> </ul>
3.	<i>Head Teacher Update - Staffing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 teachers on maternity leave</li> <li>2 more maternity leaves planned to start during this academic year</li> <li>Aiming to make some temporary staff permanent</li> <li>Megan Jones confirmed as permanent 3<sup>rd</sup> depute – dedicated to P6 and P7</li> <li>Heidi Cochrane acting PT</li> <li>Await backfill for Megan's role</li> <li>High turnover of support staff too – 3 retirements, with 2 replacements started already</li> </ul>
4.	<i>Head Teacher Update - Outdoor area/Playground update</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue was water collecting both in trim trail and grassed area. Latter was reseeded.</li> <li>Repair works were scheduled for start of summer holidays but didn't happen - now aiming for October week</li> <li>Aside - MUGA = Multi Use Games Area</li> </ul>
5.	<i>Head Teacher Update - Meet the teacher feedback</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent feedback was that sessions should/could be staggered for parents with multiple children in different</li> </ul>



		<p>classes. Alternative is to run 7x3=21 sessions on consecutive afternoons?...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Other feedback was the format was more geared towards seeing the child in their learning environment than meeting the teacher?</li><li>• Consider teacher introduction at the start of the session</li><li>• Rebrand for next year – less emphasis on the meet the teacher part</li><li>• Noted that there are other opportunities to meet the teacher too, e.g. come read with me sessions Request for more notice next time</li><li>• Suggestion to hold it in the same week of the year each year and include in dates for diary</li></ul>
6.	<i>Head Teacher Update - Parent/Carer Appointments</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only change – parent to book times via online Parent Portal</li><li>• Noted some parents are experiencing a delay in “verification”</li><li>• Follow up communication to be issued clarifying when the appointments booking will go live</li><li>• Aside - Appointments will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October</li></ul>
7.	<i>Head Teacher Update - Dogs in the playground</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complaints from parents that dogs are being observed frequently in the playground</li><li>• Not acceptable due to allergies and children simply being scared of dogs</li><li>• In addition, recent spate of dog attacks in the news</li></ul>
8.	<i>Head Teacher Update - Crossing patrol and general traffic issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Noted that parking is as bad as ever</li><li>• Total disregard for parking restrictions</li><li>• Repeat daily offenders noted</li><li>• Discussed repeating communication to parents</li><li>• Noted that St Dominic's car park is always available for use, despite them receiving abuse from parents</li><li>• Discussed other options such as additional signage</li><li>• Noted that this topic is discussed at every parent council meeting, yet the problem doesn't improve</li></ul>
9.	Air quality/filter systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parent James McDonald gave an overview of clean air in schools</li><li>• Compared the quality of air in most office environments to schools – essentially much cleaner, and with multiple benefits, both transmission of illnesses and improved cognitive performance</li><li>• Government discussions not scheduled until next year, which means the funding is even further away</li><li>• Ideal solution is to add HEPA filters to air conditioning system and increase ventilation – but it's expensive</li><li>• Alternative solution (~10% of the cost) is a standalone unit that is simply plugged in, filters on 4 sides, exceeds performance of HEPA filters in ceiling</li><li>• Noise output expected to be minimal</li></ul>



# Thomas Muir Primary School



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many options for funding. Filters have approximately a 12-month lifetime. Unit cost is around £100, approx. 1 per classroom would be required</li><li>• Noted that EDC would have to pursue an initiative like this</li><li>• Noted that the CO2 performance of the school is good, suggesting decent ventilation or at least circulation of air with the open plan layout</li><li>• Worth finding out if the school already has HEPA filters?</li><li>• Noted that this would not necessarily be a parent council topic, more a council or national initiative, however parent feedback worthwhile</li><li>• Darren will raise this at the joint parent councils meeting</li><li>• James could raise it with the councillors</li><li>• Agreed to revisit the topic at the next meeting</li></ul>
10.	Twitter update – Megan Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teething problems getting all parents back following the newly <b>private</b> page - Close to being resolved</li><li>• Exceptions highlighted – applications from grandparents, local community leaders, etc.</li><li>• Unanimous agreement that only parents and teachers should be granted access</li></ul>
11.	Window cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check with facilities management about frequency of cleaning (speculation that they've never been cleaned?)</li></ul>
12.	Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Noted that kids are wearing inappropriate clothing on PE days and not conforming to the uniform guidelines</li></ul>
13.	Timing of bells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Noted the ring is actually at 9:02am and 3:02pm</li><li>• Some teachers had also noticed – to be raised with facilities</li></ul>
14.	Date of Next Meetings	TBC