



Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 27th October 2025

Time: 6.00 – 7.00pm

Venue: Thomas Muir Primary School, Base 9

Attendance:

Position	First name	Second name	Attendance
Chairperson	Ana	Moran	Present
Vice-Chairperson	Susan	Lunan	Present
Secretary	Marie Claire	Cairns	Present
Teacher (HT)	Hannah	Young	Present
Teacher	Becky	Little	Present
Teacher (DHT)	Megan	Martin-Jones	Present
Teacher (DHT)	Maria	McAllister	Present
Teacher (DHT)	Ryan	O'Connell	Present
Parent Council Member	Ashley	Convery	Present
Parent Council Member	Chris	Convery	Apologies
Parent Council Member	Deborah	Convery	Apologies
Parent Council Member	Laura	McDonald	Present
Parent Council Member	Kirsty	McEwan	Present
Parent Council Member	Thomas	Moore	Apologies
Parent Council Member	Keith	Paterson	Apologies
Parent Council Member	Peter	Tracy	Present
Counsellor	Gordon	Low	Present
Parent	Julieanne	Ali	Present
Parent	Stephanie	Cheng	Present
Parent	Sharada	G.J.	Present
Parent	Sammy	Havell	Present
Parent	Balinder	Lalli	Present
Parent	Jennifer	Lee	Present
Parent	Amy	Livingstone	Present
Parent	Linda	Lumsden	Present
Parent	Vani	Pasukalingam	Present
Parent	Sharon	Patrick	Present
Parent	Karen	Sanders	Present
Parent	Michelle	Watson	Present



Minutes:

Item	Topic	Discussion/Action
1	Welcome/Apologies	Confirmed agenda - Chair asked that we try to stick to 5 minutes per item
2	PVGs	PVG clearance now needed for more school activities, such as PTA and supervising at discos. Clarified not actually required for parent council as no contact with children. Side note that there will be a fee for PVG clearance in future - date TBC, backlog about 6 weeks. Aside - TMPS PTA team and volunteers have the necessary clearance to cover all planned events in this academic year.
3	Primary 7 residential trip	Lots of background discussion with chair and vice chair discussing options as an alternative to the residential. Update is that the parent body have now escalated this to the local authority and MSPs, therefore it's not permissible to discuss at this meeting. Instead, Hannah will issue a statement summarising what's happened so far.

Attendance has decreased and cost has increased. Location requirements are that all children can be catered for - health, mobility, any additional needs. Costs have increased, both venues and more so buses. Staffing ratio is 1 adult to 10 kids. With the size of our P7 that means 10 staff. Extra support for medical needs could be over and above this number. Aside from requiring 11 volunteers, the school must continue to function in their absence. Supply teachers are around £300 a day. (Noted that last year, a key success factor was that one teacher helped cover the trip on kit days during maternity leave).

Questions around upcoming proposed legislation can't be addressed in this meeting due to the complaint process having been initiated. Hannah confirmed that she consulted the authority about the staffing challenges and other reasons for offering an alternative before the final decision was made, and they understood reasoning behind this. Parents expressed frustration that they feel they weren't fully consulted and they feel there was a lack of transparency. Noted contradiction in emails, followed the next day by communication directly to the children in assembly. Not yet clear who will respond to the complaint - it will go via Greg Bremner but possibly responded to by the QIO (Quality Improvement Officer). Some concern that this issue will continue in future years if the large headcount is an issue this year.

Regarding transparency, the parent body were reminded that a letter was issued explaining the reasons. Noted that day trips are easier to get volunteers for as there is no requirement to stay overnight. Noted that EDC have not had parent volunteers assist in overnight trips - that will be reviewed as part of the complaint.

Alternative options include sleepovers in the school, pizza parties, ice cream van, etc. with support from the PTA whose volunteers have PVG clearance. For outdoor day trips - it was stated by the parent body that Mugdock is considered too local, something like Loch Lomond or Largs would be preferred. Chair responded that with the additional journey time, the actual activity time would be very limited. Additionally, leaving the local authority has added complications.



Thomas Muir Primary School



Parent body added that they are concerned that only this year will be impacted if indeed the proposed legislation goes through.

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| 4 | School security & playground safety | Observation of adults walking through the school grounds during the school day - further concern due to some specific alarming events on the UK wide news recently. Noted some schools in England are doing security lockdown drills. Noted that the gates are locked for the majority of the day, despite one recent accidental leaving open of the gates (bike ability - won't happen again). Asked if there is a panic button system installed and does it go directly to the police - TBC. Item will stay on agenda for further discussion. |
| 5 | Traffic Free School (TRO) project | Observation of a reduction in cars in the street, despite some cars still coming in occasionally. Councillor input - Police need to deal with enforcement, parking wardens can only issue parking tickets specifically (decriminalised road traffic offences). Idea is that supervision doesn't need to be on an ongoing basis. Overall hope is that the radius of school traffic increases, and therefore less issues. If the new rules continue to be breached, then the police will have to be consulted regarding enforcement. Torr road noted as a hot spot. |
| 6 | LGBT School Award | Scottish government working with all local authorities to give recognition to schools that have made an exceptional effort in this area. TMPS (and 2 other EDC schools) nominated for a bronze award - 18-month period of consideration and to submit supporting evidence. Inclusion, school improvement plan, etc. |

Should only be for age range of 13-18 - not appropriate in primary school?
Concerns that it's too much information for children of primary school age - as well as what standard areas of the curriculum for excellence will be minimised to make time for this material. Other parents noted that with so much diversity in our school, that might be all the more reason to give this real consideration - particularly when the mental health of children can be so affected by topics such as these. **Agreed that the award will be put on hold until further information can be delivered. Would also like to understand the nomination process.**



Thomas Muir Primary School



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| 7 | Junior Duke Award | Duke of Edinburgh award for younger children. Format is 7 activities that can be performed at home/outside school - e.g. swimming, cooking. Aimed at P5. Doesn't have to be done within 1 academic year - could spread over 2 years. Previously ran it for 2 years, £10 per head - TMPS chose to fund it with PEF. Some kids fully took part and others didn't complete it. PTA might be able to support some of the activities with their group of volunteers. Parents are keen for the kids to get this opportunity, multiple benefits noted. |
| 8 | Homework consultation | Decline in return rate of homework - some as low as 5 in a class of 30. Outcome of parental consultation was that people wanted the spelling words and the maths worksheet format to continue. Most wanted to move away from Teams due to accessibility issues. Preference for printouts in jotters. Highlighted that for kids approaching high school years, it's good preparation. Suggestion that more incentive (positive feedback or fun stamps versus just a tick) is needed to encourage the kids, particularly if they are dependent on parental support to do it. |
| 9 | School lunches | Menu has changed - feedback that there is a decline in taste. Menu is EDC wide. Some options that were available every day have been reduced to only some days of the week. Councillor feedback is that the uptake has actually increased. Feedback from one parent that inclusion for children with allergies has improved. So, a mixed response. |
| 10 | Timing of school bell | Previous issue of bell ringing at 9:02am had been sorted but now it might be an issue again following the October week? TBC. |
| 11 | FM jobs completed/ongoing | Teepees have been refurbished.
Some flooding areas investigated with view to repairing.
New Promethean board in every classroom - upgraded due to pixelation and failure of the touchscreen function. (Questions about recycling of old screens couldn't be answered in the meeting) |
| 12 | Change date of next meeting (clash with EDC Christmas Concert) | Replan for Monday 8th December as opposed to Monday 1st December. |
| 13 | A.o.B.
Acknowledged items for next meeting agenda | Classroom connector feedback - ran out of time to cover this topic
Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) Spending
Staffing update
Overview of the School Improvement Plan for 25/26
Plan for school clubs this session |
| 14 | Date of Next Meeting(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday 8th December• Monday 23rd February? TBC |