

Tinto Parent Council Meeting

Monday 10th May 2021 – 7pm

Held remotely via Google Meet

Attendees: Lorna Christie (Chair), Pam Duncan (minutes), Al Reid (treasurer), Jean Lyon, Rebecca Lyon, Claire Thomson, Lorna Kilgallon, Alex Stark, Lynsey Miller, Mary Grant, Susan Lawrie

Apologies: Ailsa Forgie

Minutes: Minutes agreed – nothing outstanding (JL)

Treasurer's Report: (AR) £1086 in bank account. Easy Fundraising continues to do well. Cheque for Easter eggs to be debited £59.98. A.S reported that approx. £800 due for the school app and journals in August.

Fundraisers Update: J.L – cannot move fundraising forward at the moment due to restrictions. L.C to meet with J.L to look at grants that SLC have links with. R.L – looking at Christmas Cards this year, and possibly doing cards in September.

L.K – request on school app for donations of P.E equipment. (currently equipment is very sparse!) 8 responses received for buying equipment. L.C asked about any links to equipment or setting up an Amazon wishlist. L.K – happy with any equipment, old stuff from home, or Poundshop equipment. Did not want to be too prescriptive. P.D asked about any equipment that may be lacking. L.K – rugby balls – not many purchased. LK to collate and send a reminder out.

R.L – question over putting school bank details up for parents to donate money to school funds. C.W asked for the school bank details.

Head Teacher's Report: A.S - COVID – P4-7 pupils report that they are struggling and finding it hard being back in school. Many things unable to happen. Transition visits not happening. Sports Day will be just within school. P7 leavers will be a low key presentation which will be filmed. Calculators handed out. Current updated Scottish Government guidance states NO confectionary throughout the school day. L.C suggested a gazebo set up after school for cake? A.S – can still only have no more than 12 parents attending, but can perhaps ask parents to collect children later one day after school – 3.30pm, possibly.

L.K – Transitions – New tab on the website for transitions. Current P1s and Nursery have been meeting with Nursery asking questions about school (using a “show and tell” format) P6 Buddies in Pods have been having socially distanced meetings with Nursery Pods and sharing a Story of the Week. L.K is hopeful that by August the guidance will have changed and moved on to allow for better Buddy support this year. New nursery children have been sending in photos, videos and blurb so they can be put on SWAY and they can get to know each other (won't be able to come into school until August)

L.M – Nursery will have a celebration day in their pods. R.L – query over nursery pupils coming out of pods? A.S – no, SLC guidance is adamant that pods of 8 remain for this age group.

A.S – PEF Report – Not many families claim benefits in the school community. Also less now due to free school meals. This impacts on PEF money. Money for 2021-2022 is £5512. Last year's PEF allowed Mrs McNeill to work at Tinto and release Mrs Kilgallon to work with P1-3 to help close the attainment gap. SLC are requesting schools to take part in Participatory Budgeting with parents, to discuss how 5% (£250) is spent. A.S to attend training in August on how to work with parents on this. It is to empower parents to feel included in decisions made in school. Deadline is October. A.S suggested it be discussed at the AGM in September.

Improvement Plan: A.S – Staff evaluation of School Improvement Plan was positive. Looking at Health and Well Being, Continuity and Equity. Improvement plan on website since last year. HWB looks at emotionworks, counselling, attachment guidelines etc. Continuity looks at attainment gaps, standardised assessments etc. Equity – size of school, no major issues with equity. Mainly concerning devices and access. The school loaned out devices to pupils for remote learning, as did the community council. Hub children within school used MyFi as the internet struggled. L.K – working with support staff on the empowerment agenda. Google Classroom “How to” help guides available for parents to navigate Google Classroom better. GL and PM assessments will be used again. HWB – Counselling – unable to visit school at the moment. 20/20 – October and then should have happened in January. Now – approx. same. A few extra pupils for HWB and reading (fluency) Cost of School Day – school have not asked Parents for money due to impact of furlough due to covid. Concerns raised regarding furlough coming to an end and the drop from 80% to 60% and the impact on parents and families.

L.C - support for pupils has been good, and the loan of devices appreciated.

A discussion took place regarding lack of use of Google Classroom since pupils returned. A.S reported that many pupils felt “screened out”, and the focus had been to offer more reading, maths sheets etc, plus more activities out of school had opened up. However, the pupils are using Google Classroom independently in school, and all have upskilled their online learning.

Continual Learning – staff trained on Digital Classroom – all staff passed level 1 digital learning training. Mrs Andrews, Mrs Bowden and Mrs Rodger have passed level 2 training. A.S – plan to offer digital learning workshops next year for parents.

Class Assemblies – happening weekly, and they are being enjoyed!

HWB – emotionworks, resilience building, nurture principles and also looking at a grant to apply for support from S.O.E.C to work with pupils outdoors. A.S – more children on the radar as struggling with being away from home now that they are back to school full-time.

Recovery Plan – Lockdown Home Learning questionnaires – 70% return! C.T – felt that feedback from parents who completed the questionnaires was listened to. A.S – planned Wellness Wednesdays as a result.

A.S – New Curriculum Rationale needed – CfE provides what the children are learning, the curriculum rationale is what the learning looks like (the how) – focus on play based learning, modelling, outdoor learning (improved over lockdown – encouraged to do more) digital learning (continue with), Assessment is for Learning (2 stars and a wish self-assessment) A.S reports that HMIE are keen on seeing evidence of high level questioning.

Working Parties – teachers and parents can join any of the working parties! 2 or 3 meetings throughout school year. Suggestion from A.S to have a short life working party to create a glossary of terms used in school, for example explaining acronyms used and current maths terminology.

Class Configurations 2021-2022 – A.S – meeting with SLC on 17th May to look at placing requests. Currently looks like P1 – 14 pupils, P2/3/4 (2 joining P2 stage if placing request accepted) – 24, P4/5/6 – 25 (2 P4s joining, 1 P5 leaving?) P6/7 – 23 (1 pupil in, 1 leaving) 25 pupils max when a composite class, 30 when a straight class. Good practice to leave a space in each class where possible.

Staffing – A.S to find out. Requested to keep Miss Jenkins for continuity for pupils Mrs Bowden to be at Tinto until August. SLC are phasing out Nursery Teachers over the next 2 years, moving to peripatetic support. 12 teachers available for 17 nurseries. All other Nursery Teachers to have a primary post within 2 years. A.S – will confirm staffing at the June Parent Council meeting.

Homework – C.T – query over consistency of homework being provided. After home learning, and seeing the progress being made, feels homework is now the only way to see progress in learning now. C.T is keen to keep the momentum of learning going. A.S reported that all classes have focussed on reading for homework, with P4/5 also having some maths work. Parent questionnaire was 50/50 for Google Classroom homework or work sheet based homework! C.T agreed worksheet/jotter based learning has been great, but no continuity as some weeks there has been none set.

Discussion took place regarding marking of work for the teaching staff, and when homework should be set, A.R – suggestion that homework could be set on a Wednesday, and returned on the Monday. A.S – annual questionnaire coming this term. Will discuss Wednesday to Monday setting of homework. Will also look at current policy of no homework set in December or June (this has been the case for the last 3/4 years)

A.O.C.B – None.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 7th June 2021 via Google Meet