



Torphichen Parent Council

Torphichen Primary School
The Loan
Torphichen
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Minutes & Actions of Torphichen Primary School Parent Council Meeting, 30 January 2018 - 6.30pm

Attendees

Anna Thomson (Chair)	AT	Suzie McMorrow (Vice Chair)	SMcM
Louise Johnston (Principal Teacher)	GN	Stephen Fisher (Secretary)	SF
Greg Neave (Treasurer)	RA	Paul Barrowman (Deputy Head Teacher)	PB
Dan Rosenfeld	DR	Susan Campbell	SC
Susan McCartney	SMcC	Julia Miller	JM
Richard Barron	RB		

Apologies

Rita Angus	Clare Conchie
Karen Hendry	Alix McFarlane
Amy Fox Roberts	Lynn Turner
Liz Rosenfeld	Suzanne Wood

1. Introductions & Apologies

- Note this meeting was originally convened for 16 January but was postponed due to the weather.
- AT welcomed all attendees and apologies were stated as detailed above
- RB presented a session on options available to the school as a potential replacement of the services provided by Tempest Photography. RB was the photographer who covered the school Christmas shows.
- The Committee noted that TPS would get commission from sales made by RB of the school photos
- PB took an action to establish the terms and duration of the current Tempest contract to see whether switching to RB is an option. **Action 30/01-01**
- RB keen to know what parents want from their photos. Feedback included better communications around when the sessions would take place, flexibility around photos of siblings/ individuals, packages of options, more natural photos, maintain online purchasing options.
- Parent Council suggested that once we were clear on whether we could switch to RB a wider survey of the TPS parents should be undertaken to establish their needs.

2. Minutes & actions from last meeting

- Minutes and actions from the last meeting were approved.

3. Update from Chair re playground development

- Turf is being laid to the school garden and will take 7-8 weeks to sow together

- Installation of new play equipment is expected at the end of March
- WLC are paying Sutcliffe to install the play equipment following a failure to persuade Hadden to install it
- Hadden has planted new fruit trees as part of their funded community contribution

4. Extension status

- The Care Inspectorate are visiting the Nursery next Friday.
- New furniture for the nursery is being delivered next week
- The P1s are going to get a chance to use it first
- Staffing for the nursery is not yet agreed
- The nursery is not going to cover 4-6pm
- The issues with the safety of the new benches have now be remediated.

5. Headteacher Report

- PB and LJ jointly presented the Headteacher report in the absence of Mrs Angus.
- The report includes a response to comments passed to the School by AT on behalf of other parents and a discussion followed regarding the annual Scottish Curriculum fortnight and poetry recital, which some families find difficult to fully engage in.
- It was noted that more parent volunteers are needed for MUGA break time supervision
- There was a request for feedback on the performance of the current school leadership during this meeting. The feedback from parents present was of a general improvement across most areas, most importantly including communications. It was noted thought that the school should seek a wider consultation of the parents to ensure feedback was fully representative across the populace.
- PB presented to the Committee on the intention of the Scottish Government to introduce Regional Collaboratives to improve education in Scotland. The slides from this presentation are appended to these minutes but there is schedule to be a wider consultation process taking place following this introduction.
- The full Headteacher report should be available on the School's website. **Action 30/01-02 PB**

6. Fundraising Report

- The meeting noted that the jointly organised Burns' supper raised c£400 for the school. This is expected to be used to provide new library resources.

7. Financial Report

- No significant changes

8. Forthcoming events

- There will be a dress down day at the end of term
- The shorts and shades disco is still expected to happen this Summer.

9. AOB

- JM noted that Falkirk council are planning to close Polmont ski centre.
- There was a discussion around the time allowed for children to eat their lunch as some children don't believe they are allowed enough time.
- The request for parents to pay for the Lockerbie bus travel was made in error.
- The "brain coach" Mr Turnbull will be visiting the school again soon.
- Mrs Ferguson is providing support to Miss McGeachy and Mr Turnbull to facilitate Spanish tuition

10. Date of next meeting

- Next meeting, to be held on 16 January at 6.30pm.

Existing Actions

Action Ref	Action Details	Action update	Status	Owner
6/09-01	Follow up with Hadden/ Neil McIntyre as to where they were in respect of the community benefits scheme	AT followed up with Hadden and planters being installed	Closed	AT

New Actions

Action Ref	Action Details	Action update	Status	Owner
30/01-01	PB to establish the terms and duration of the current Tempest contract to see whether switching to RB is an option.			PB
30/01-02	The full Headteacher report should be available on the School's website			PB



Regional Collaboratives

January 2018



Education (Scotland) Bill

The Education (Scotland) Bill – to be introduced during this parliamentary year - will, amongst other things, introduce 6 Regional Collaboratives across Scotland.

This will support a school and teacher-led education system.



Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative

*We will be a part of the above collaborative,
which will include schools from:*

- *Clackmannanshire*
- *Falkirk*
- *Stirling*
- *West Lothian*



Developing Improvement Collaboratives - ICs

- *6 collaboratives are being established with a focus on supporting teachers and other school staff to improve educational attainment*
- *Advice to drive forward improvement;*
- *Make use of all available evidence and data;*
- *Ensure teachers access the practical improvement support they need, when they need it.*



The collaboratives are one of a number of provisions to reform how schools are run and put schools in charge of key decisions about a child's education, including:

- More freedom to make choices about curriculum, improvement, and funding at school level
- More freedom for headteachers to choose school staff and management structure
- Strengthened engagement with young people and parents in schools.

The new powers will be guaranteed in a statutory charter for headteachers, with provisions to ensure young people and parents also have a stronger voice in schools.

What does it mean for schools?

- *Schools to be able to access the support for the improvement they require*



The reforms to be taken forward through the bill are all based on the presumption that decisions about children's learning and school life should be taken at school level. This is built on strong international evidence that empowered schools and engaged parents lead to a better education.

These collaboratives will provide professional learning and leadership, sharing of good practice, and peer to peer collaboration, among other responsibilities. They will provide streamlined and strengthened support to teachers, drawing on experts from local authorities and Education Scotland so schools across Scotland will be able to draw on a range of expertise through these collaboratives.

Schools across Scotland will be able to use all available evidence, to provide targeted advice and support to drive improvement. The new Regional Improvement Collaboratives will help achieve this by sharing evidence of what works and providing expert and practical support for teachers and schools.

Consultation process

- *Headteachers*
- *Teachers*
- *Parent Councils*
- *Pupil Councils*
- *Communities*



Collaborative Priorities

- *Performance and improvement;*
- *Literacy;*
- *Numeracy;*
- *Early Learning and Childcare;*
- *Professional learning and leadership learning*

