

## Trinity Academy Parent Council Minutes – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Introduction

Mike Nicholson welcomed all joining the online meeting, in addition to one of our new councillors, Sanne Dijkstra-Downie.

### Headteacher Update

**Bangholm Sports centre** official 'handover' date to school 18<sup>th</sup> June 22.

**New timetable** – live as of this week, Mr Todd will be sorting out any changes/clashes in coming days

**Covid** – ongoing background disruption with staff absence – small numbers of staff off at any one time, some are not well enough to return to work after short absence of 5 days.

**Probationer Teachers** – TA been allocated computing and history probationer teachers to date (help cover Ms Cunningham's maternity leave in history). School has also asked for physics probationer.

**Vision and Values** – summary of this recent review will be released to school community end this week.

**'concept classroom'** for the future – some staff from across different faculties have been doing classroom observations in Trinity Primary to observe how classroom space used for self-led learning, to inform transition P7-S1 and thoughts on school designs for the future.

**P7 Transition** – info event this week w Mr Burge, Ms Stewart (DHT), Mr Ellis (PSL) – to cover curriculum, school life, typical school day etc. **Mike noted PC used to have stall at this event pre covid – d/w Kath Stewart re putting out a stall for PC and sign ups – Mike asked for volunteers to man the stall**

**Breakfast Club** – at present the club is managing immediate need for targeted children and families – making the provision more widely available would need additional staffing.

### Q and A

**Work Experience** – S4,5,6 used to have one week of work experience annually. School had list of opportunities to sign up to, an pupils could also find their own placement. Going forward there will not be the same approach (which was a CEC one). It's acknowledged that work experience doesn't work for every child and need to be clear about which child/where they go/rationale for this experience – in addition many workplaces have changed post-COVID and work experience options are different. Some parents who are employers noted that having a work experience placement for a week was a long time, but offering a day or two was more realistic. One parent noted both her children had benefited from work experience, as something to say at interview/put on cv, but agreed that a week could be took long. The school will re-visit this issue in the autumn and issue some guidance.

**Toilets** – parental query regarding toilets and noting concerns about vaping, unlockable doors, lack of toilets for S1-3, and questioning if there is a ratio of toilets:pupils that a school must provide? Mr Burge noted that there is a small grp suspected vaping (around 6-7 pupils), CCTV has been installed around (but not in) toilets, and they are exploring the removal if appropriate of 'privacy wall' which

helps pupils hide. More modern schools have different toilet layouts. Facilities management are inspecting toilets regularly. At TA, 5 toilets are currently not actively used as they are located in the basement along a dark hall and in an unsupervised area of school and this is felt to present an unsafe option. With new provision at Bangholm, the school has been informed that TA meets required standard for number of toilets. There is a further plan to remove the allocation of certain toilets for certain year groups, so that all pupils can use all toilets.

## **Bangholm and Phase 2**

Architects (Miller Homes) who built Victoria Primary are in charge. No hard detail on decant yet. Decant planning – mid September should see further information, covering how Bangholm/Victorian main building/science block/'learning village' – will flow during this time.

School newsletter from CeC design team about to be issued digitally, sharing info on timeline, disseminating info to cluster primary families, digitally.

It is proposed that after feasibility 'RIBA1' stage and first design concepts that there will be engagement and public input. Amanda Hatton (executive director of Children and Families, Edinburgh Council) will be attending Trinity Community meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June to present how Trinity Academy phase 2 fits with community schools and '20 minute neighbourhoods'.

## **Working Time Agreement**

Mike noted might help parents and carers to understand what this is, as often referred to regarding parent consultations etc. Mr Burge noted that a teacher by contract has maximum 22.5 hours face to face teaching, planning and preparation 5 hours per week, then additional time for e.g. one parent evening is 1 hour prep and 2 hour delivery on seeing 20 parents at an event.

Schools negotiating committee has 12 representatives from SLT, Curriculum Leads, classroom teachers etc look at use of these additional contracted hours every year.

About 65 hours of the 195 per year go on parent evenings and assessments. Other additional uses include professional development time, digital learning, tracking and monitoring, participation in open evenings. Notes that all staff at TA regularly exceed their nominal 35 hour week. Also that planning events across the year are constrained – for 7 weeks a year staffing required for parent evenings and therefore cannot schedule other things those wks.

## **P7 Parents**

Mike noted in past PC put together a handbook and arranged Welcome to S1 event, but that school communications have improved significantly removing the need for this. It would be helpful to hear from parents in S1-S3 what information they feel new S1 families would find most helpful.

## **S6, Study Periods, Common Room**

Change of policy last year - S6 pupils expected to stay on site for personal study at the start of the academic year. Mr Burge notes that the school offers ample study space, library has wifi for 1:1 devices, also some departments offer study rooms (science, social sciences, art). May look at some leeway with last 2 periods of the day post lunch for S6 to study from home after August.

Re common rooms, these are generally not being offered in schools now – generally schools have experienced social media issues, some issues with behaviour and mess. Also in Trinity Academy there is no available free space.

Mike thanked Mr Burge for coming to the meeting.

**Brief discussion on wider opportunities for parental involvement at school:**

Careers clinics, sports volunteers, DoE awards (already significant parents response to support this; parent 'bank' volunteers, communications, website and social media, Bangholm open day (end Aug), fundraising, TACT, admin for PC.

Having meeting on 14/6/22 for small group of people who are interested in helping with PC next year – if interested please email PC/Mike. (Ranald Swanson offered to be added to the parent bank – thank you).

**Funds in PC account:**

Around £2000 in PC account, some in 50:50 and TACT too.

**Welcome to Sanne Dijkstra-Downie, new Cllr (Lib Dem)**

Sanne introduced herself, is local to area with children at Wardie PS, and eldest will attend TA in 2 years. Has particular interest in transport and sustainability and will be involved in this at council. Happy to help and advise on school and education matters relating to TA.

End of meeting