

Trinity Academy Parent Council Meeting 27th March 2024 - Minutes

Present

In person:

Paul Jeffrey (Chair)
Nick Burge (Headteacher)
Colin Duncan
Helen Davey
Helena Lawrence
Clare Sharp
Lorna Morgan
+ others

Online:

Manuela Molendini McLeod
Tilly Sheridan
Bence Solymar
Helen Langan
Ebenezer and Ivie Olaghere
Ying, Salma, Iukmon (Names incomplete)

Apologies:

Morag Burnett

Welcome

Paul welcomed everyone to the second hybrid parent council meeting, with in-person and online attendees.

1. Headteacher update (Nick Burge):

New school update:

Mr Burge reported that some aspects of the build are ahead of schedule in preparation for the installation of the Learning Village.

Piling is to commence during the Easter break and is due for completion on 11th April before term resumes. The swimming pool is due to be dismantled by hand and broken up off site. Removal of the phone masts is behind schedule.

The schedule for the summer term will include installation of the learning village and completion of the swimming pool removal.

It was confirmed that there may be a need to utilize the Scout Hall adjacent to the school as an overflow space for breaks and lunches.

Noise Monitoring:

Mr Burge confirmed that noise levels are being monitored on a daily basis, specifically for additional needs spaces within the building and that contractors can be asked by the head teacher to close down activity on any given day if noise is a concern.

Impact on Exams:

As a result of the building works, S4, 5 & 6 exams will take place at Bangholm in the summer term.

Vaping:

Vaping within school continues to present an operational issue on a weekly basis. Mr Burge is liaising with staff at the Royal High School, on the preventative measures they are implementing, and which have been reported in the news recently. This includes installation of detectors in the toilets. Toilets in the new learning village will be designed in the same style as at Bangholm, with individual cubicles and open areas for handwashing which will reduce the opportunity for groups to congregate and vape in toilets.

Staffing:

There has been a continued high level of staff absence due to sickness. Actions to address this have included class rotas, ensuring the senior phase pupils are fully supported, and staff recruitment is underway.

Pupil Equity Fund Update:

Pupils in years S1-S3 with fee school meal entitlement will be involved in initiatives to help the most vulnerable children with attainment. Mr Burge reported that 4th year attainment had improved.

Support for Learning lead Pete Dawson is looking to recruit a Pupil Support Officer to work with those students on the edges of the inclusion agenda. The PSO post is being advertised.

2. Finance Committee Parent Representative

Judith Mackinlay has volunteered for the post of Finance Committee representative

3. Additional Support Needs (ASN) Parent Survey

We had 43 responses in 4 days to the ASN Parent Survey. Judith Mackinlay presented a summary of responses and this summary will be shared with the wider parent body. Interest in meeting together with other parents of young people with additional support needs was expressed and Judith agreed to facilitate this.

The full report has been shared with Kath Stewart (strategic lead for ASN in the school). The detailed comments and suggestions will be considered by the ASN team and, where appropriate, by the wider leadership team.

4. Constitution for TAPC Fundraising

Further to Colin Duncan's document outlining our approach to fundraising and allocation of funds raised during parent council activities, some amendments have been made to try and address some of the key questions and concerns that have arisen as minuted previously around-:

- how school departments can apply directly to the PC for funds for their department
- the need to keep parents informed about how the money is spent once an event has taken place

- the pressure to raise funds for trips so that they will meeting the council's requirement that they should be open to all pupils; poverty-proofing will be a key consideration.
- Updated constitution and fundraising addendum will be ratified at the next AGM.

5. Parent Council Award

TAPC sponsor 2 awards-:

S1-3 prize

S4-6 prize

Attendees discussed the idea of reframing the criteria for award of these prizes to reflect the Trinity Academy school values of ambition, inclusion and respect. The consensus was that the remit for these awards should focus on community service rather than academic or sporting achievement which is covered by TA awards.

Ideas included the Good Egg Award and others however for this year the award will be left as is. Nominees will be provided by Bryan Campbell and votes sought from the Parent Council.

The issue of the award and it's structure will be placed on next years agenda for term 2.

6. Any other business

TAPC Finances

It was confirmed that there is around 5.5K in the TAPC account which can be allocated.

Manuela Moledini noted that there is a need to promote fundraising efforts and develop clearer coms to provide more specific detail about what funds are being used for.

The Barcelona Sports Tour was cited as an example where advertising what the funds will be used for could be beneficial.

7. Next meetings – dates and formats

Planned dates for the next meetings are:

Wed 22nd May 2024

Meetings will be held in person, but parents will also be given an opportunity to join online.