

## Minutes 12.09.16

### Welcome to new parents:

What is PC? represents parent body of Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce

- supporting the school – development plan; interview new teachers
- Voice for parents
- Events and fund raising/community events
- Educational issue with local authority/GME issues – so lots re pre-school and primary and expanding and high school education

Cf What is CnP? national organisation which represents parents of children from preschool to 18 in GME

### Fundraising support:

Money is useful for the school – trips; equipment – e.g. bikes, ukuleles.

outgoing team of 3 worked very hard

seeking fundraising volunteers to run each event (to divide the work up more) -

parent from previous committee will run Halloween party again this year but needs helpers (1 volunteered but more needed)

2 volunteered for summer fair but needs others

2 doing tea towels

Xmas fair has 3 volunteers

but others needed for other fundraising e.g. monthly bake sales

Other discussion about fundraising e.g. requesting money from families (needs to be made easier - give bank details in begging email; direct debits), making the PC (or some other fundraising group for the school) a charity

### Small funds scheme:

The Taobh Na Pàirce Parent Council Small Sums Scheme (SSS) will invite pupils, parents, staff and anyone connected to the school to put in bids for funding, from the surplus funds of the profits made during the year, leaving a contingency fund of £500 in the bank to cover the up-front cost of Parent Council (PC) events.

Typically the awards will be between £50 - £1000.

The bids must include information on:

- (a) what the funding is for;
- (b) realistic costs; and
- (c) an explanation as to:
  - (i) why the funding is being sought; and
  - (ii) who will benefit from it.

To be dispensed by three members of the Parent Council - an office holder (the treasurer) and two others (fund raisers) and two teachers (one senior, one non-promoted) according to the criteria set out in the PC constitution (see Appendix 1 of SSSC document).

The school will still receive its usual c.£1200 p.a.

Surplus PC funds will be distributed twice a year (October and May) to support the aims and functions of the PC as set out in the Constitution.

## **Acoustics:**

Serious issues in dining hall, main hall, sports hall and (to a lesser extent) sgoil-àraich Council are not obliged to help although it is a council building and future schools will be required to conform

Much work done on this but no funding thus far

School thinks it is a priority

Need to clarify path forward

- survey then get estimates then get funding and get it done

One parent has provided over 100 ideas of places to apply for funding

- e.g. SUEZ Trust – for buildings close to Environmental sites – we would be eligible - up to £50,000. Can do part funding.

Building Better Communities Fund

Bulldog Trust

National Lottery Scheme – awards for all Scotland would fund community spaces, so perhaps only two rooms - the big hall (used for Gaelic community events) and the dining room (Croileagan).

Also could be more artistic which would be great for the space and would open up new funding sources.

- plus fund-raising in school - e.g. concert to be organised by one parent along with other volunteers (needed)

One parent can help writing grants

Discussed other options to finance the survey, but voted to finance the survey £500-700 plus VAT

Acoustics Working Group formed - let us know if you are interested in contributing

## **PC:**

new co-chair will be required in January

### **New PC meeting follow up debrief on Friday morning 11:30am**

We will be trialling a follow up debrief meeting the Friday after PC meetings. The intention is to give parents who struggle to get out in the evenings an opportunity to hear about what was discussed in the PC meetings. The chair will run over the agenda and any discussion or conclusion. This is a trial so may evolve and feedback is welcome, but in the first instance it will be from 11:30 - 12.20 in the dining room.

### **Christmas card scheme:**

Children produce a Christmas drawing and it is sent off (to Class Fundraising) and turned into a card to be sold in packs of 12 ordered before half term. The cards will cost about £3 - £3.70 (depending on how quickly we put in our order). Agreed we sell them at £5 and the profit goes into PC funds. Marianne will be organising this but may ask for a few volunteers to help process the orders and distribute the cards when they arrive.

### **Strategic review of GME in Edinburgh:**

As per the email that went out, Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant/Parent Council and Co-mann nam Pàrant are working with the City of Edinburgh Council and GME experts on the strategic review of GME in Edinburgh. It is important that parents' and carers' views are represented in this process and would encourage you to get involved.

Two engagement events have been planned for parents. The dates and times are:

Monday 26 September at Taobh na Pàirce from 19.30-21.00

Tuesday 4 October at James Gillespie's High School from 19.30-21.00

Related documents, included an early draft of the strategic review will be circulated, with details about where to send your comments.

### **Support with end of day arrangements for bussing:**

There are 8 buses and 6 taxis. Parent volunteers could make a difference.  
need each to help one day a week to get a group on a bus.  
Not onerous so hopefully we can get help.  
ParentMail will be sent. Please sign up.  
Currently children leave at 3pm – safe and quiet but losing school time

### **Headteacher's report:**

#### **Population:**

314 pupils  
8 places left in sgoil-àraich (up to 80)  
21 teachers (not all full time but we have a full cohort with support teachers)  
13 support staff - 10% reduction in admin time

#### **Attainment:**

professional judgement  
some summative assessments including standardised assessments  
guided by Significant Aspect of Learning (Education Scotland)  
(although we are not only interested in test results):  
Early Level (end of C1) - numeracy and maths 74%; Gaelic reading 87%; Gaelic writing 69%  
First Level (end of C4) - numeracy and maths 93%; Gaelic reading 87%; Gaelic writing 100%; English reading 90%; English writing 100%  
Second Level (end of C7) - numeracy and maths 88%; Gaelic reading 96%; Gaelic writing 96%;  
English reading 90% English writing 100%

**Budget** - significant carry-forward staff savings but fully staffed this year; education supplies budget £65 per child, £70 per nursery child - already spent

**Development Plan** - raising attainment (focussing on raising enjoyment of Gaelic reading), closing the gap (parents with Gaelic vs. those who don't; poverty), improving levels of health and wellbeing (acoustics, eating), work employability skills, numeracy and reading, moderation of a level, 1+2 languages - this is what is done at training sessions

**Playground** - new business manager, moving forward with current design but still need further detail (to curb risk) before being put out to tender; health & safety, Playground Steering Group to consolidate learning, guidelines need to be met, one parent has a group of children who meet to make small changes

**Staffing** - Farewell to 2 members of staff, 2 permanent PSA appointments, 2 new temporary appointments; 7 new teachers including one EME whom P7 have 4 days; C4 class-sharing including a Gaelic learner 2 afternoons a week. Policy of looking at each class's history to not disproportionately disadvantage particular children

**Sgoil-àraich** - city wide move towards greater flexibility including 4 hour and 8 hour sessions by 2020 - challenge! Recruitment implications; pilots in place across Edinburgh which have had positive feedback so far

**School events** - all classes 2-7 visited The Celts Exhibition (NMS), parent storytellers visited and university parents were involved; shinty competition; Meet the Teacher for all classes; British Irish Council working group on indigenous languages

**Coming soon** - pre-mod concert 23.9 Pilrig Church Hall, Forest kindergarten starting 26.9, GIG engagement events (see above), An t-Alltan 28-29.9 National Gaelic Teachers' Conference in Aviemore - deputy head presenting on coding, attending with another teacher

### **Questions to the Head and Answers**

Q - consultation about homework A - can be done through the reps (Action - Class reps coordinator)

Q - expert came to talk about technology - could we have more of that? A - perhaps something similar again, but also we could disseminate more information which is sent; one parent suggested maybe PC could organise something

Q - talk to people about not being allowed to park on Stanwell Street, and families should inform grandparents

Q - Gaelic singing on Friday mornings? A - Yes; good for tête-à-têtes

Q - Can children eat on way to bus? A Yes

Q - Has the lunch break been reduced? A No, but it is shorter from C3 onwards and they have a very short time if they are doing Active Schools, although children doing an activity are prioritised and get to queue up first

### **Wrap-Around Care Group:**

Need one or two new members

Meet twice a year to do biannual review with Óganán - 7.10 morning meeting probably

Need endorsement to start conversation about pressure on accommodation - PC agreed to endorse the following statement:

“The Review group discussed and agreed the need for all parties to come together to secure the long term future of an integrated, flexible, child-centred package of care and the importance of this being delivered in a Gaelic speaking environment.”

Headteacher pointed out that pressure on accommodation for the growing school means that the space cannot be guaranteed long-term