



Comhairle nam Pàrant - Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce

Meeting minutes - 11 March 2020

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by the Chairs

Apologies:

Angela Porteous, Orla Hobson, Anna Kinsella, Julie Gallagher, Rebecca Wober

2. Minutes of the previous meeting & matters arising:

Minutes were approved.

Plans to relaunch the work of Pupil Voice and connect with relevant Parental Working Groups	Iona Brown	Ongoing
Check with staff that all C4s have seen and signed the mobile phone agreement	Anne McPhail	Complete
New bin for the playground	Katie Wight	Complete
Playground consultation feedback to inform final submission to CEC	Katie Wight	Ongoing
Appeal for volunteers for traffic survey work	Andy May	Ongoing
Research a Just Giving alternative	Andy May	Complete
Investigate Gaelic evening classes for parents	Ann Patterson	Complete
Circulate more information on composite classing Consultation concluded from the Council	Anne McPhail	Complete



3. New Parent Council:

Since the AGM a number of parents had volunteered to undertake roles within the Parent Council. The Chairs welcomed the new Parent Council members, the secretary role will be undertaken jointly by Eleanor Smith and Benjamin Suarez and the new treasurer is Katarzyna Przybycien with Laura Irvine continuing to provide support.

4. Website

The new Parent Council website has now gone live, thanks to Padraic Kinsella for his support with this. It can be found at: <http://tnpparentcouncil.org.uk/> The intention is to use it to promote news, celebrate school and pupil achievements and promote GME. Along with parentmail and facebook it is envisaged this will be a primary channel for communication with the parent forum, with the potential to promote to the wider community and interested groups.

Action: Promote new website on Parentmail

5. Policy and Governance

There was discussion around the constitution of the Parent Council, which was created around the time the school was opened in 2013. It was felt timely to review the constitution and consult as required to ensure it remained effective and fit for purpose for the growing school.

6. Working Group Updates

6.1 Wraparound Group:

A term review meeting is scheduled for the end of March/ April and an update will be provided. Oganan are working with Sgoil Araich and the School Leadership to plan for expansion to 1140 hours early years provision. The intention is for Oganan to complement Sgoil Araich provision, especially if capacity of Sgoil Araich is to reduce to 40 due to increased hours for fewer children. Originally the Council had not included Oganan as a registered provider in options for 1140. Oganan are in the process of firming up their plans to offer increased hours. This will be critical if there is a reduction in spaces at Sgoil Araich.

Action Headteacher and Alistair (Oganan) to follow up - liaise with PC

6.2 Lost Property Group

A costume rail is to be installed, otherwise the new system was reported to be working effectively. Thanks to the parents leading on this.

6.3 Events & Fundraising Group

A volunteer is needed to lead on fundraising and to work with the School Funding Group. A parent representative already attends the School Funding Group. The intention is for the Group to identify priorities at the start of each AY and plan for resources and requirements through the year.

A volunteer is also needed to coordinate the Movie Night in August. There was discussion around other event ideas including a Silent Disco in summer and a Spring Fling Ceilidh. Concern was noted around the potential negative impact on fundraising potential from the Coronavirus crisis - it was uncertain at this time what the full impact of this would be on issues such as large gatherings and school operation.

Action - Call out for fundraising volunteer and event leads

6.4 School Transport and Buses

Frank Henderson was unable to attend on behalf of the Council. It was agreed to collect questions for the City Council and other Local Authority transport lead officers in advance of the next meeting.

Action - Collect questions in advance of next PC meeting on school transport

6.5 GME and Comann Nam Parant Dun Eideann Update

Barbie Lyon provided an update on the work of CnP in the ongoing planning with the City of Edinburgh Council for the new GME secondary school. Subsequent to the latest presentation to parents at TnP on the 22 January 2020, CEC Officials and Elected Members committed to set up a Short Life Working Group - including Officials, Chaired by Alison Dickie (Gaelic Champion), Bord Na Gaidhlig, Scottish Government, the Parent Council, the Headteacher and Teachers from James Gillespie High School. The SLWG will be tasked with reviewing the educational benefits for GME pupils and Gaelic of both a standalone and a co-located school options. This is planned in order to present parents with considered options and more information to make decisions and influence the statutory consultation on the future new GME secondary. It is planned that there will be no more than 3 meetings over the next 2 months - the group was meant to meet on the 6th March but this had to be re-scheduled due to Officials' availability.

Action - The PC and CnP will keep the Parent Forum updated on progress of the Group

6.6 Acoustics

Following a number of communications with Council Officials including the Director of Communities and Families, there has been progress with planning for the acoustics work in the C7 classroom. An acoustics test has been undertaken by the contractors and the work is scheduled for the Easter Holidays. The PC Chairs had asked that a follow up acoustic test is conducted after the work to gauge impact and support the case for acoustic treatment of the other 4 priority spaces, an issue that the Chairs continue to push with Senior Council officials. It was hoped that the looming Coronavirus would not negatively impact the completion of the overdue works.

The Chairs have assumed direct responsibility for liaison with Senior Officials in the council on this matter and with other stakeholders so it was decided to conclude the work of the Working Group. The Chairs gave thanks to parents who had been involved in the work of the group especially the tireless efforts of Rebecca and Julie. Updates on progress will be provided to the parent forum and the Chairs will consult with Rebecca and Julie in their professional capacities as required. The Chairs have also been liaising with other Parent Councils to understand whether they have been pursuing action on acoustics with the Council.

7 Treasurers' Report

Laura Irvine delivered the Finance Report which detailed money raised and spent this year.

8 Headteacher's Update

An update was provided on staffing, plans for new C1 and the planning for expansion to 1140 hours nursery provision (see above).

9. AOB

9.1 Coronavirus

There was a discussion around risk management and public health guidance in relation to Coronavirus and the School. The Headteacher advised that the school was following guidance issued to date from the Local Authority following directions provided by Public Health Scotland and NHS Inform. Until further notice is given we will monitor the situation, and the school remains open to pupils and staff. An increased cleaning regime has been put in place and teachers are regularly reminding pupils at set intervals of the importance of hygiene and hand washing.

9.2 CEC Schools funding for AY 20-21

The Chairs advised that the Educational Institute for Scotland (Teachers' union) had contacted Parent Councils in Edinburgh concerned about the impact on the quality of childrens' education of planned cuts to the City's education budget with the: of loss of nursery teachers from nursery classrooms; cuts to school budgets; cuts to instrumental music service and a reduction in the number of Quality Improvement Officers. There has been a recent increase in funding announced for local authorities and the Parent Council will work with partners in the city to push for that money to be used for schools.

10 Date of the next meeting:

The next meeting will be on **Monday 11th May 2020 at 19:15** with a follow-up meeting on **Friday 15th at 11.30** in the dining room for any who cannot attend..

Thank you!