



## **Comhairle nam Pàrant - Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce**

### **Parent Council Meeting Note**

### **Wednesday 18 November 2020**

This meeting was held using Microsoft Teams due to Covid-19 restrictions around use of the school building. Comments and questions from parents and carers could be added during the meeting using the chat function. The following is a note of the presenter names, agenda and action points of the meeting.

#### **Presenters:**

Anne MacPhail – AM (Head Teacher), Iona Brown – IB (Deputy Head), Karen Reid (Deputy Head), Beth MacPhail, Eilidh Stone, Amy Horne, Yvonne Bloomer  
Seamus Spencer – SS (Co-Chair), Natasha Lee-Walsh – NLW (Co-Chair), Laura Irvine (Co-Treasurer)

45 attendees total

#### **1. Welcome and note of last meeting (16 Sept 2020):**

SS welcomed everyone and thanked the school, parents and carers for all everyone was doing to support the school to operate safely and within guidelines. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Actions from the meeting were marked complete, with an ongoing action for the finalisation of the playground improvement plan submission to the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC).

#### **2. Matters arising**

**Communication** – the Parent Council (PC) and Class Reps are investigating Classlist - a new platform to communicate with parents. Connect information session on 24 Nov and further consideration to be given to this.

**PC Secretary** – the PC is in need of a new Secretary, please email the [chairs](#) if you are interested in volunteering – duties are light, include minute taking and liaising with the school, parents and stakeholders.

SS gave feedback on the work of the Parent Council including representation at the Edinburgh Council SE and NE **locality meetings** with representatives of other Parent Councils. The expansion of 1140 hours early years provision is now planned for August 2021, the Council has a new Digital Strategy which includes ambitions for devices for pupils and 2-way digital delivery in the event of home schooling. Extra-curricular activity and Active Schools is still to be approved to resume given Covid restrictions.

#### **Road Traffic Safety**

An assessment was conducted by CEC, unfortunately we do not meet the criteria for a lollipop person. There has been a very good response to the School's Travel Survey (250) noting: 2/3 take less than 20 mins to get to school; half use active travel; most who use car would give it up if there were better active travel options and 2/3 had experienced traffic



related incidents on way to/from school, under a third would use a Cycle Train or Walking Bus. The next stage is to create a School Travel Plan (AMay to lead).

Reminder that CEC are running a Road Safety Consultation, the deadline has been extended to 14 December. Your input is greatly appreciated, you can find the link here:

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/521dd8fa>

### **3. Overview – Headteacher & Senior Management (see attached Presentation)**

The School Leadership Team and teachers gave a presentation on progress with the School Renewal Plan and it's 6 workstreams: Gaelic Language Renewal; Digital Learning; Outdoor Learning; Health & Wellbeing; Equalities and Closing the Attainment gap.

**Staffing** – Mrs Reid was appointed as the new Depute Head, 2 staff are on maternity and our PSA team is now 10 which is important to providing support for learners. Advertising for a further part-time Depute Head and a Principal Teacher (the role vacated by Mrs Reid).

**Enrolment** for P1 has concluded. AM noted that due to the number of families that have moved out of Edinburgh since March, the number of classes (currently 17) will decrease next session.

**Nativity** – School is considering creative approaches to share class performances via technology.

### **4. Events and fundraising**

The Fundraising group have made significant progress to enable fundraising and community activity during this period of Covid restrictions. A new digital platform – Stripe, has been set up to enable payment; Paypal has offered a new donation option; Christmas Cards have been made possible (particular thanks to Caroline Daye) and the Summer Fair event ran.

As part of the online Feill Nollaig 2020 (28 November to 6 December 20), a Makers Market is planned to run online as a facebook event from 28<sup>th</sup> November (thanks to all the creative makers and parents volunteering to showcase items for sale and offering to donate %s of sales to the school). On the 5/6 December Feill Nollaig will include the usual stall action – Name the Bear, Sweets in a jar and more. Entry is free and can be done online.

### **5. Acoustics Update**

The PC continue to have dialogue and press the Council for acoustic treatment work for the school. There has been welcome progress in addressing the immediate priority of the large classrooms formerly for C7 – this is due to be completed at the weekend 21/22 November. Initial reports from the school are that sound clouds have improved the environment and acoustic.



The PC is also in dialogue with the Council to press for a commitment to the work on the four areas previously identified – prioritising Sgoil Araich, Halls lower and upper and the dining hall. We will keep the parent forum updated with progress on this.

## 6. Informal consultation on GME secondary school

Reminder of dates for consultation events 25 Nov and 30 Nov – and comments on Council's proposal required by 11 Dec to [gme@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:gme@edinburgh.gov.uk)

GME in Edinburgh has come a long way due to parents and their active advocacy with the Council. Your voice is important, and you are encouraged to engage and share views and questions. The Council are pressing for a decision about a GME secondary school and their preferred option is a shared campus in Liberton.

Barbie Lyon from CnP noted the key criteria for GME previously raised with the Council especially the importance of gaelic immersion for pupils. We don't yet know what the Gaelic curriculum will look like, how it will be staffed and how much will be delivered in Gaelic. Other questions include- how will it be delivered, supported and developed? What is the strategy for teacher recruitment and development? And planning to mitigate the potential for immersion dilution in a shared campus? And on a shared campus what facilities would be shared and to what extent? When submitting questions to the Council, parents were encouraged to CC their questions to the [Parent Council](#) to enable the collation of issues.

**Comman Nam Parant (CnP)** (the national parent body for GME, which has a local group for Edinburgh) are actively preparing for the events and will circulate a document to help families understand more about the background and key points to consider. Comments and questions are welcome, sign up to the mailing list and join the conversation on the website: <https://cnpduneideannblog.wordpress.com/> or email [cnpduneideann@gmail.com](mailto:cnpduneideann@gmail.com) for more info.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

A new small sums scheme will be publicised before the end of term.

Over £1,224 was raised by the Summer Fair.

There is £17,000 in the bank (£3,000 of this is for acoustics)

## 8. AOB

**Class Reps** - Thanks to all those who've stepped forward to volunteer as class reps, we still need parents to volunteer for C1P, C2C, C2O, C4B, C4S & C5R, to volunteer please email the chairs: [chairs@parantantaobhnairce.org.uk](mailto:chairs@parantantaobhnairce.org.uk)

**Council's general budget consultation** – this is online with a response deadline of 10 December 2020. <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/budget-finance/council-budget/1>. The Council are looking to make cuts of about £50m over the next three years, and this is the best opportunity to say that we value education. Qs 4 and 7 provide an opportunity to say



something about protecting funding for education over the coming years and maintaining staff levels.

**Instrumental tuition** – The school is working with the clarsach teacher to get online teaching started as soon as possible. Patsy Sneddon, our singing teacher, has been delivering online music sessions to the younger classes.

Playground improvement work – Angel Morales-Aguilar discussed potential benefit of involving expertise in landscape improvement with the School Playground work, resource dependent.

**Action** - Angel to contact PC, link to be made with Gardening Parent Group and school to progress

**9. Date of next Parent Council meeting – Wednesday 20 January 2020, 7.15 -8.15 pm**

**Thanks**