



## Comhairle nam Pàrant - Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce Clàr-gnothaich Coinneimh / Meeting Agenda 19 dhen Cèitean / May 2021, 19:15 – 20:15

### 1. Welcome and introduction from the Chairs

Apologies: Sausan Cameron

**27 attendees**

### 2. Matters arising from and approval of minutes of the previous meeting

- **4.1 Small Sums Scheme:** Small Sums Scheme to be promoted further including to school staff - This has happened, update to follow.
- **5.2 Classlist:** PC to proceed with Communications Proposal Implementation. Underway. Update to follow.
- **8 Fundraising & Events:** Some thought to be given to potential events. The school has taken the lead on this within class bubbles. Anne may talk a bit about this in her update.
- There has been no **AOB** brought forward by parents to add to this meeting, but there has been a change to the agenda and the GME update will be first, before the Head Teachers Update.

### 3. GME Secondary School update (Sharon May Comann nam Pàrant - CnP)

- 3.1** Brian & Barbie from CnP introduced themselves, CnP and the role of CnP – the national body representing families in GME.
- 3.2** The current timeline will see the council report about proceeding to Statutory Consultation on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May at the Education, Children and Families Committee, papers for the meeting should be published on 21<sup>st</sup> May. CnP has circulated a report to parents detailing the position to date. The meeting will be broadcast online and CnP are submitting a deputation and will seek feedback on this, CnP and the PC will be represented at the meeting.
- 3.3** CnP and parents have a concern about the timeline for the consultation but the Council has assured CnP that the 2025 deadline will be met.
- 3.4** Questions from Parents:  
Q: Has Darroch been removed as a primary option as a result of the council's new primaries pledge?  
A: Darroch being a primary will not be considered until it's no longer needed for JGHS. It's likely to be later than 2025. CnP has made the point that £4M of investment went direct to Darroch from GME funding and will need to be used for GME.  
Q: Would you say there is a consensus to move forward with Liberton?  
A: CnP will ensure that the results of the meetings are shared with parents for consideration. Though, the time for producing a written response from parents for the deputation is tight. There is no other proposal on the table and CnP has to operate from the best evidence it has - the last parent survey. As things stand, the evidence shows there is neither overwhelming support nor overwhelming opposition to Liberton. In answer to the question, "From the information you've been given do you feel that the current plan has the potential to achieve



the successful delivery of GME at Secondary level..." 41% of respondents said 'No', 41% said 'unsure' and 18% said 'yes'. CnP would welcome the opportunity to survey families again, but CnP cannot meaningfully survey parents in just one week. The council has been advised that they need to do more to galvanise support of their plans.

- 3.5** There are currently 10 people working in CnP to raise funds, liaise with others across the GME community, gather evidence and produce reports. Brian and Barbie made a call out for help and volunteers for the CnP committee. [cnpduneideann@gmail.com](mailto:cnpduneideann@gmail.com)

#### **4. Aithris a' cheannard / Headteacher's update (see presentation slides)**

- 4.1** Staff are finishing assessments and reports and carrying out evaluation and planning for the next session, and providing high levels of support in pupil learning and wellbeing, all with an eye on COVID.
- 4.2** Anti-bullying – Melissa Eisenberg – Introduced the organisation Respect Me. The school is consulting with them on a new anti-bullying policy. The pupils and parents have been consulted as part of the process. The draft will be shared for feedback. Thanks to Melissa Eisenberg, Sorcha Whelan and Sharon May for their work on this. The Team recommend parents explore the Respect Me website.
- 4.3** Staffing – Anne congratulated Iona Brown on her new role as Head. Iona has been an exceptional Deputy Head, Anne is pleased and proud that it is Iona she will hand over to. The Council will recruit for a new Deputy Head. Once probationer roles have been filled, the school will look to fill opportunities with those previously interviewed. The School and PC have been in dialogue with the Council to secure additional probation placements. Support staff interviews start next week.
- 4.4** Transition –Nursery – Transition will be digital – information video, online meeting, meet the teacher online. C7 Virtual transitions – Epic Day Out at Bonaly. Transitions for the current P2-P6 will virtual, on 16<sup>th</sup> June.
- 4.5** Active Schools – Anne – Active Schools is to follow a new model. It will be free at the point of contact, aiming to involve children with additional support needs and disadvantaged socioeconomic groups as part of the work undertaken to close the attainment gap and create opportunities. There are training opportunities in leadership and coaching for older pupils planned. More to follow.
- 4.6** Nursery – Karen Reid – 1140 hours will run from August 2021. There is a reduction in the number of places available to 40 full-time. Oganan is working as a partner provider, helping to bridge the gap with both parties looking to extend the provision in the future. The Nursery enrolment policy changed slightly; children are still enrolled according to age, but siblings of school pupils will now take priority on the waiting list. Two COVID bubbles will run in Nursery from August under current COVID guidance.
- 4.7** **Dates for the diary:**  
School photos **25 May** / **Sports Day 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – This will be filmed for parents  
Virtual school transitions – **P2-P6 16<sup>th</sup> June** / **25<sup>th</sup> June** – Virtual Leavers assembly



**4.8** Thank you from the Head – ‘What a pleasure and privilege it has been to be Head of BTnP for the last 8 yrs. It has not been without its challenges, at the beginning, there were times when we felt a bit isolated and we were not as well supported as we could have been, but this has improved. I am proud of the growth of the school. I benefited greatly from the support of Christine Macleod, Katie Wight and the entire staff team who’ve always gone the extra mile; and from you, the parent community who have worked closely and flexibly with me; and from CnP ‘the political wing’; and from working with a group of learners who go the extra mile learning Gaelic. I’ve been reading a book, “How to retire happy, wild and free” and I’m looking forward to pencilling in some plans!’

## **5. Aithris an Ionmhasair / Treasurer’s report**

**5.1** The Small Sums Scheme has been successfully managed by Kat. There has been very little other activity in the last few months for obvious reasons.

We have just over £12,500 in the bank account (£4,000 relates to the acoustics fund). Approx £2,000 will be allocated to SSS.

## **6. Small Sums Scheme Update (Kat):**

**6.1** Kat was delighted to share that there had been a 100% success rate in applications, with 3 submitted by school staff.

### **Projects funded are:**

- A one year subscription of National Geographic Kids, Beth MacPhail
- ‘Outdoor Fun Morning’ with Active Schools for C7S, S. MacIntyre & L. MacDougall
- Bird Watching, Anne McPhail
- STEM kits in Gaelic, Amanda W
- Minecraft, Petrea Cooney
- Sunflower growing competition, Lizzy Burges

**6.2** Kat suggested setting up a dedicated Small Sums group on Classlist and feeding back on the outcomes of the funded projects. Watch this space!

**Action:** Kat to set up SSS Classlist Group

## **7. Parent Council Communications: Classlist Proposal**

**7.1** We’ve had 142 sign-ups to the Classlist App. Thank you to the class reps for their support in making this happen.

**7.2** Following this meeting, we will issue a direct link via ParentMail that will allow for instant sign-ups. For any who are still wavering, it’s worth saying again that you choose how much information you share with the app and others. And you choose how you interact with the app, whether that is with a full profile or with no profile, choosing to receive a newsletter-style email only.

**7.3** For now, the PC is cross-posting between Facebook and Classlist. The timeline has slightly slipped, at the end of May, we will ‘Officially Launch’ Classlist and the new public-facing Facebook page - with limited interaction options. We will close down the Facebook group in Mid June. At the start of the new school session, all PC coms will be delivered to parents through Classlist.



**7.4** Currently the PC cross-post information from ParentMail to PC communication channels. Those dual-postings have been edited down with parents directed to ParentMail for all the info. There have been requests to review this practice as we move to the new platform as the volume of information on PC comms becomes rather large. We think that's a good idea. So, in the new school year, an important part of the role of the class rep will be to pass on key information from ParentMail directly to classes. It's appreciated that some do this already.

**7.5** We recommend that all parents check in with their ParentMail settings and keep an eye on it for school comms. You can choose how and how often you receive info and whether it's email or app, or both. The school is considering a move to Classlist, so this may become a moot point, but is important to note.

**Action:** PC to continue with Classlist Implementation

## **8. Acoustics update**

**8.1** The PC continues to liaise with the local authority about acoustic improvement in school and has been successful in getting the work in the nursery provisionally scheduled for October midterm 2021. The Council has stated that they are not in a position to prioritise the other large spaces, nor do they currently have the budget to progress the other work or to replace or upgrade existing school estate to meet all modern building standards. The Council advised that in the next 12 months they *'plan to undertake suitability assessments of all schools across their estate to allow them to prioritise within suitability criteria and focus any budgets that do become available for this type of project'*. The PC will ensure that the B TnP building features within any future assessments. Separately the PC has sought clarity from the Council on the comparative approach to Darroch refurbishment and as it is being done more in-line with modern building standards and whether there is any access to any other potential Gaelic specific funding sources. As such, the PC continues to engage with the LA around the prioritisation of the other spaces.

## **9. GISBE / AOB**

**9.1** Seamus welcomed Iona Brown as the new Head and invited her to say a few words.

## **10. Dèitichean nan Coinneamhan ri Thighinn / Date of Next Meeting**

There has been a request that we alternate meeting days in the next academic year. We propose Mondays and Wednesdays and will reinstate the Friday morning catch up meeting. The **next meeting** will be:

Mon 13th September (7.15-8.15 pm) - Parent Council Meeting (Microsoft TEAMS)

Fri 17th September (10.15-11.15am) - Catch Up Meeting (Microsoft TEAMS)

**Thanks** to Melissa / Anne / Iona / Karen for their input to the meeting.

**Thanks everyone for attending.**