



## 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: Susan Cameron

**27 attendees**

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

4.1 RE: Small Sums Scheme: Small Sums Scheme to be promoted further including to school staff - This has happened, update to follow.

5.2 RE: Classlist: PC to proceed with Communications Proposal Implementation. Underway. Update to follow.

8 RE: 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 council will publish the papers and report about proceeding to Statutory Consultation on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May. CnP has circulated a report to parents detailing the position to date. Then there will be a council meeting of the Education Children Families Committee in which the council makes the decision to proceed to Statutory Consultation or not on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. This meeting will be broadcast online. There will be a submission - CnP will seek parental feedback.

**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 can not meaningfully survey parents in just one week. The council has been advised that they need to do more to galvanise support.

- 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 an impassioned 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 - 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. Senior Management is recruiting for a new Depute teacher & Principal. Once probationer roles have been filled, the school will look to fill opportunities with those previously interviewed. Support staff interviews start next week.
- 4.4** Transition – Anne – Nursery – Transition will be digital – information video, online meeting, meet the teacher online. C7 Virtual transitions – Epic Day Out at banally. 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 in disenfranchised 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 - Anne - What a pleasure and privilege it has been to be Head of TnP for the last 8 yrs. It was not without its challenges at the beginning. We felt quite isolated and were not as supported as could have been, but 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 and superbly 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 but almost £4,000 relates to the acoustics fund. About £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 schedule has slipped and clearly, the Facebook group is still active! So! following this meeting, the direct link to join Classlist will be sent out across ParentMail. 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 comms will be delivered to parents through Classlist.



**7.4** There is an inherited legacy whereby the PC cross-post information from ParentMail to PC comms. Those cross-postings have been edited down with a call to action at the end of each directing the reader to ParentMail for all the info. There has been a request to review this practice as we move to the new platform as the volume of information on PC comms becomes rather enormous. 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. I appreciate 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 officially scheduled. The local authority has stated that they are not in a position to prioritise the other large space, nor do they currently have the budget to progress the other work. The Council plans to make an assessment of the needs of the entire school estate and the PC will work to ensure that the TnP building is a priority. The PC continues to engage with LA around the prioritisation of other spaces, is considering other options and avenues and has asked for a review of the decision.

## **9. GISBE / AOB**

**9.1** Seamus welcomed Iona as the new Head and invited her to address the parents.

## **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 Melissa / Anne / Iona / Karen**

**Thank everyone for attending**