

Comhairle nam Pàrant - Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce

Meeting Minutes

21 An t-Sultain / September 2021, 19:15 – 20:45

Apologies: None

Attendees: 50

1. Welcome and introduction from the Chairs

The Chairs thanked the school for all it continues to do to operate safely and within public health guidelines, and thanked parents and carers for their support with this.

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

- 3.2 City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) will publish the papers and report about proceeding to Statutory Consultation on Friday 21st May: It was decided not to proceed to Statutory Consultation, update to follow
- 4.2 The school's new anti-bullying policy: parents can explore the Respect Me website for information - <https://respectme.org.uk/>
- 4.5 Active Schools: is to follow a new model, this change has not been well received by other PCs, more to follow
- 6.2 Small Sums Scheme Classlist group- has been set up for discussion and feedback on the outcomes of funded projects, feel free to join!
- 7.5 PC to continue with Classlist implementation plan: ongoing, update to follow

3. Aithris a' cheannard / Headteacher's update

3.1 Active Schools

Jessica Lambson, our Active Schools (AS) coordinator updated us on the new system. AS is moving from a pay for use model to an alternative funding model, relying on school funds, Parent Council (PC) funding and volunteers. The suggestion is that as it's free more pupils can access it. The school are supportive and will explore how to make this work with a whole school offering, funding targeted activities and ensuring that every pupil can access something.

Parents asked a number of questions in the meeting. To save time those questions and any sent through the chat were collated and sent to JL to answer. JL's presentation and answers to the questions raised will be shared with the Chairs and with parents. JL commends us on the highest AS uptake by a school in Edinburgh (and for the past 5 years) and is keen to support continued high levels of participation.

Action - Active Schools Q&A to be shared

- Follow up meeting with HT, JL and PC Chairs

3.2 Headteacher update

Iona Brown (IB) noted it was wonderful seeing pupils return to school. The School Leadership team includes DHT Karen Reid (Sgoil Araich, C1-C3), Laura Young (C4-C6) and Iona Brown C7, contact can be made through the office.

COVID dynamic risk management is in place, the situation will change as COVID changes. School is grateful for ongoing parental support, New Warn & Inform Letters to be issued directly to the class. The school has support to ensure the H&S plan is working. Communication will continue. Home

Learning grids are available on the website & through ParentMail for children who are isolating and well or asymptomatic. Staff levels are low in some places and contingencies continue to be in use, parental support and understanding was much appreciated.

3.3 Staffing

- Clarsach Instructor – Live recruitment
- Gaelic Language Development (PT) – Live recruitment
- Early Years Practitioner - Interviews next week

3.4 Renewal Plan

Parents are not currently allowed on school grounds due to Covid19. IB advised that ‘Meet the Teacher & Termly Overviews’ and learning videos are available on the school website.

The School Renewal Plan focuses on the following areas: maths; digital learning; Edinburgh Learns for Life Teachers’ Charter (staff development); assessment and raising attainment; outdoor learning; Gaelic language recovery and development; health wellbeing and resilience; relationships and positive behaviour; school vision, aims and the BHAG, and equalities and inclusion. More collaboration with families is planned (pupils, parents & carers) to generate change.

Working on ambition and excellence - more celebration for pupil achievements and raising the profile of their achievements. A digital form will go out in which parents can share the wider achievements of pupils.

Please complete the feedback surveys on the renewal plan, homework and future aims.

Action - Complete parent surveys

3.5 Lost Property

Parents should label all pupils’ items. Whilst COVID keeps parents out of school property, labels allow staff to find the right owners quickly.

On Friday pick up the Lost Property Box (LPB) will be set out at the bottom of the main door ramp. Please follow the usual guidelines around the LPB including distancing, wear masks, and use sanitiser. If you can’t get to school, contact the office with a description of the item you are looking for and the school will do it’s best to reunite you with your items within the next week. Please include brand, colour, size etc admin@taobhnairce.edin.sch.uk

3.6 ParentPay

Recent issues appear to be solved, remember to scroll down to the bottom of the page and hit the confirm bookings button.

3.7 Potential for a Christmas Fair

Parents are not currently allowed on school grounds and mitigations are in place until October. The recommendation is that any event is digital.

3.8 Potential for playground and gardening group to restart

Parents are not currently allowed on school grounds and mitigations are in place until October. Comms remain open through Classlist and parents are invited to volunteer if interested.

4. GME Secondary School update (Sharon May Comann nam Pàrant - CnP):



Sharon May, Comman Nam Pàrant (CnP) Convenor, introduced CnP. They are the Lothians CnP of the national body representing families in GME. Sharon gave an update on the current position.

Parents were signposted to the written record on the CnP website so they can get up to speed: <https://cnpduneideannblog.wordpress.com/contact/>. The proposed Statutory Consultation has been paused as two new sites have been put forward by the Council for the planned GME Secondary (the former Victoria Hospital in Comely Bank and the Police Scotland HQ site in Fettes/Inverleith). The Council and CnP are waiting for the Cabinet Secretary's response to the Council's letter querying support for the NHS or Police Scotland owned sites and will update parents in due course.

Parents with any questions are invited to email CnP at cnpduneideann@gmail.com

5. Aithris an Ionmhasair / Treasurer's report:

Laura Irvine, Treasurer gave an update. There hasn't been a huge amount of activity but school lottery and PayPal donations have been steady.

There is approx £9K in the PC account, some allocated to the existing SSS scheme, some for the next SSS and about £4K of that set aside for acoustics improvement (which could be diverted to support other purposes, depending on progress with conversations and decisions with the Council on how to progress the school acoustics improvement plan).

LI asked for interested parents to volunteer to take on the role of Treasurer to volunteer their time as after 6 years she is due to be moving on. Interested parties can reach Laura on Classlist or email chairs@parantantaobhnairce.org.uk

Action – Request for volunteer for the PC Treasurer role

6. Small Sums Scheme Update:

The Small Sums Scheme (SSS) is a pot of funding available to anyone with a child at the school and teaching staff to fund an idea, project or equipment that improves or enhances school life. Awards are usually small, but larger asks can be considered depending on the benefit.

Recent SSS projects include:

- Gaelic STEM kit - Amanda Waite - invite to speak, full report attached
- Football Strips for new girls C4/5 TnP Primary School Football Team - full report attached
- A one-year subscription of National Geographic Kids, Beth MacPhail - full Report attached
- 'Outdoor Fun Morning' with Active Schools for C7S, S. MacIntyre & L. MacDougall
- Bird Watching, Anne McPhail

Ongoing projects include;

- Minecraft, Petrea Cooney
- Sunflower growing competition, Lizzy Burges

These reports will be made available as they come in. The next SSS will run after the October Break, with guidance to follow. There is now a dedicated SSS group on Classlist so people can discuss ideas, ask questions and feedback on activities.

Action - Chairs forward SSS reports as they come in / LI publicise new SSS October 25th

7. Parent Council Communications:

7.1 New PC Secretary

Welcome Eleanor Ryan-Saha to the PC committee in her new role as Secretary. Thanks to Eleanor! We'll settle her in and she'll be on your radar in due course.

7.2 Classlist Implementation

We've had 334 member sign-ups and 21 non-members (newsletters only) to Classlist to date. As of today, that number is 340 (approx. 90% of families).

Thank you for bearing with us as we moved things about for the start of the new school year. We are endeavouring to simplify and streamline communications. Any families who were still in their old classes have been moved to the 'Joiners' class in their new school year. The new and correct classes are now in each year, which should make moving into the correct class much easier. There are still a few parents who haven't moved out of the 'joiners class' and the aim is to delete these. So we invite you all to check you are in the right classes and move as necessary. Tash offered to move manually if preferred, drop Tash a message if that's your preference.

Action - Message Tash to be moved into the right class

For any who are still wavering, it's worth reiterating 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.

The cross-posting between Facebook and Classlist has stopped, the decision has been taken to keep the Facebook group active to facilitate the statutory discussion. In a nutshell, day to day school matters have moved to Classlist, the FB group is for statutory discussion and the School PC FB page is for external community news and profile raising.

Following a request – cross-posting from Parentmail to Classlist will be reviewed – to avoid duplication and excessive communications.

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. We appreciate that some do this already, but Classlist enables direct messaging to ensure parents/ carers do not miss key communications.

We recommend that all parents check their ParentMail and keep an eye on it for school communications. You can choose how often you receive info and whether it's email or app, or both. The school is considering a future move to Classlist and we are in partnership endeavouring to simplify and enhance arrangements for communications.

7.3 Class Rep Call Out (Tash)

We need Class reps for: C1G, C1P, C3R, C3S, C4G, C5A, C5R and C6/7H

As a Rep you are a vital point of contact between parents, the school and PC; parents will often approach other parents with issues, concerns (or compliments!) first. As a Rep, you help the PC speak for the entire parent forum by ensuring the views of the parents and carers of your child's class are known by the Parent Council and can be acted upon.

To volunteer, pop something in the chat, drop us a message on Classlist or email:

chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk

Action – Volunteers sought for Class Reps in classes listed above

7.4 Parent Groups - Gardening Group Update

Volunteer call out - more members needed. Lizzy, who has been leading the Gardening Group for some years will have less time this year. She's happy to meet with anyone keen to lead, to discuss possibilities and hand over the petty cash - there is some money from small sums allocated to improve the fencing, which remains a priority. Thanks to Lizzy and team for all they've achieved in the playground over the years. Interested parties can find Lizzy in the Classlist gardening group.

7.5 Parent Groups - TnP Anti-Bullying, Anti-Racism & Equality Group Update

The school is undertaking some joined-up work, led by Fiona MacKintosh, school equalities coordinator, including pupils and parents to make a clear plan for the school's equalities focus this session.

Parents in the Equalities group will help the school with this process, with things like Pride and Black History Month on the agenda. You can keep up to date with what's happening and keep the discussion going by joining the Equalities group on Classlist.

7.6 Parent Groups - TnP Events & Fundraising Group Update

Uniform stalls: Over £400 was raised across the two preloved uniform stalls, thanks to Becka, Annabel and all who helped on the day, it was a great community event.

Christmas cards: Caroline Daye: Pupils will draw their designs in class this week. Those not in school can download a blank template from the website, details to follow. Payment will be taken by card through an order form on the Parent Council website- details to follow. The deadline for orders is **15th October**. Caroline would appreciate help from anyone good with spreadsheets. If you'd prefer for the inside of the card to be blank, let Caroline know this week.

Halloween & Christmas: With 'School lets' currently limited and Covid case relatively high, the group would appreciate your ideas on how to produce events in a COVID safe way. The Events & Fundraising Group is an open one on Classlist.

7.7 Parent Groups - TnP ASN Group

It's been suggested that some in the parent body may appreciate a group for support and discussion around ASN in school. It's quite timely with the news today from the Council that they are to set up their own ASL group for Parents. It would be a group set up like the others in Classlist, and, we imagine there would be some two-way communications with the school. If anyone is willing to lead on this group, drop the Chairs a message on Classlist or to the Chairs email:

chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk and we'll get the ball rolling.



7.8 Parent Groups - TnP Active Travel Group

Gavin Fort: Promoted Bike to School Week. You can pledge your journey online, general intro to scheme. Link in the chat for more info: [Bike to School](#)

8. Acoustics update

SS provided an overview of the story so far to have acoustic improvements made to the school building. At the time of opening in 2013 the building refurbishment was not required to meet modern school (new build) acoustic standards. We know noise reverberation is not conducive to learning or language acquisition. Following committed work from a group of parents the Parent Council Chairs have led the engagement with the Council on this including submission of a School Acoustic Improvement Plan in December 2020. This has resulted in the following improvements - the large room formerly used for P7s has been treated and most recently the Council agreed to treat the Sgoil-àraich spaces. In addition there are plans to renovate and re-purpose the Taigh an Dorsair (Janitor's House) for greater community use. Discussions are ongoing and a meeting is planned with the Council, the PC will keep parents updated with developments.

9. Dèitichean nan Coinneamhan ri Thighinn / Date of Next Meeting

To enable attendance we are alternating meeting days and have reinstated the shorter Friday morning catch up meeting at 10.15am.

The next meeting will be:

Weds **10th November** (7.15-8.30 pm) Parent Council Meeting (Microsoft TEAMS)
Fri **12th November** (10.15-11.00am) Catch Up Meeting (Microsoft TEAMS)

Thanks to everyone for their contributions and for attending.