



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

### Meeting Minutes

10 dhen An t-Samhain / November 2021, 19:15 – 20:45

Apologies: Natasha Lee-Walsh, Heather McGibbon

Attendees: 81

#### 1. Welcome and introduction from the Chairs

Apologies shared. The Chair, Seamus Spencer, 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. SS outlined the structure of the meeting and input from JGHS on transition at 19:45 for parents/carers of C7 and JGHS S1s.

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

- 3.1 RE: Active Schools – Q&A from last meeting shared, update to follow in this meeting.
- 3.4 RE: The school's renewal plan. Parental feedback received
- 5 RE: Request for a volunteer for the PC Treasurer role. This went out, but so far no one has volunteered.
- 6 RE: Small Sums Scheme. The Chairs will forward SSS reports as they come in / Laura will publicise the new SSS on October 25th. Complete
- 7.2 RE: Classlist implementation, - Message Tash to be moved into the right class. There are still some parents in the right year group but not necessarily the right class.
- 7.3 RE: Class Rep Call out. Still short of Class Reps for C1G, C1P, C3R, C3S, C5A, C5R and C6/7H

#### 3. Chairs Update

Gaelic Implementation Group meeting held on 2 Nov: *Discussion of newly re-appointed Gaelic Development Officer, GME Secondary school update –* Council is awaiting a reply from the Scottish Government to their letter seeking confirmation of funding and site availability for the Fettes Police site and Royal Victoria site, their preferred option remains Liberton and they are hopeful a response will enable decisions on proceeding to statutory consultation to be taken at 7 December Education Children and Families meeting. The Parent Council and Comann nam Pàrant continue to push for greater clarity on the options, the Government's position, timescales, educational offer, strategy and need for parental engagement. In addition



**there was encouraging news about funding to improve the school building, in particular acoustics of B TnP (see later in meeting).**

**Active Schools:** The PC has been liaising with other Parent Councils, given the changes to the scheme and reduction in activities. A meeting has been organised by Connect to discuss and consider options.

**Playground update:** The PC have made contact with a landscape architect active in schools work. This work will be further discussed with School leadership and the Council.

**Christmas:** Thanks to Caroline Daye for all her work pulling together the pupils' Christmas Cards.

We are looking for online Christmas Fayre ideas .

**Parent Council:** We are still looking for a PC Treasurer and Class Reps (see above).

#### **4. Treasurer's report**

Call for application to the small sums scheme will go out this week, anyone connected to school with a proposal which will benefit pupils will be considered. Contact Laura Irvine for more information.

**Action – Small Sums Scheme to be launched - LI**

The Christmas Cards were a great revenue raiser this year. £2000 and possibly more of the Christmas Card money to be allocated to SSS (depending on how many applicants)

Laura re-states PC need for applications for the Treasurer position- a great role that makes a vital contribution to the PC, no Treasurer/accounting experience necessary.

#### **5. Headteacher's update**

**SLT:** HT Iona Brown (IB), highlights the school leadership team and their responsibilities, and stresses that parents/carers can contact the SLT as needed.

**Covid 19 update:** we are out of outbreak management guidance so certain mitigations have been dropped

**Staff recruitment update:** positions will be coming up, please share widely

DHT Karen Reid Numeracy and Maths update: identified as a training need so staff are focusing on that in professional learning, 8 PL sessions (7hrs training) on mastery approach, new concrete materials already used in classes and new online resources subscriptions including online sessions for parent/carers.



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Digital learning improvement update- Ms MacIntrye leading this focus, training available for staff on new software, learning Journals, Tete a Tete and Parent booking systems used.

New focus on assessment underway in response to parent/carer feedback showing strong interest in assessment

DHT Laura Young equity and inclusion update: Council training undergone, Laura Young liaises with pupil voice leadership. Excellent work by learners on Black History Month highlighted alongside successful 'Show Racism the Red Card' day. IB Returned to showcase COP26 work by learners. Thanks to staff for commitment to COP26 and new Gold Board

19:45 \*Chair welcomes parents joining for JGHS section of the meeting\*

6. **School Estate and Janitor's House Improvement Plan** - Bethan Owen (City of Edinburgh Council)

Funding secured from Government (Gaelic specific funds) for redevelopment of old Janitor's House. Provisional completion date of August 2022 (delays to be expected in current circumstances). Cròileagan/Early Years permanent space and additional space to be used flexibly, pedagogy-driven design embraced. There will be fantastic community learning potential and legacy in the new space.

Scottish Government funding has also been secured by the Council and School for acoustic improvements in the school. IB commented that learning space will be prioritised, Sgoil Àraich first, then large classrooms upstairs. Staff and pupils will be consulted, dining halls and transitory spaces etc will be addressed as a secondary phase. Thanks were given to the PC and involved parents who have campaigned for this over a long period and for Bethan's support to secure the funds.

7. **Transition: C7 Parents Information session on Darroch Campus at JGHS -**

Donald J MacDonald (HT JGHS) DM, Laura Stewart (DHT Rising Rolls) Donna MacIver (Gaelic Curriculum Leader) (From 7.45 pm)

DM, provided an introduction, JGHS wants to involve teachers in the move of GME pupils at JGHS to Darroch (Annex of JGHS currently being refurbished in advance of next school year 22-23). Staff are keen to involve parents and pupils in the planning stages.



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Will set up FAQ section on the website to deal with parents/carers queries.

The school has experience of using the building previously and is drawing on that to support planning (eg when JGHS was being refurbished in 2013).

Laura Stewart: Darroch Annex renovation is on schedule for May/June 2022. Current planned purpose includes nurture groups; P7 visits; English Medium overspill; Exam use. All GME subjects will be taught at Darroch except Food and Tech; some specific PE lessons; Design and Tech; Music; English medium S3-4 certificate. Timetable will be designed to limit travel between the sites, with 9 minute safe walk between sites. Catering- cold food servery but also hot meals cooked on other site and transported down.

GCL Donna MacIver: staff and learners very excited about new resources

Want to forward plan well and include everyone in the process.

Thanks for engaging in questionnaire- see Your Questions FAQ page on James Gillespie's website. Key themes in the FAQ and discussion via Teams chat were- quality of education; support for learning; movement between campuses; integration into the JGHS wider student body

Gaelic medium teaching and teachers introduced/overview provided

Feel free to add your questions to the form and they will update their FAQs accordingly

DM emphasised that this is the beginning of a process of consultation with parents and learners, the situation will evolve to best serve Gaelic education and the formation of a Gaelic community and future development of a new GME secondary school.

HT/JGHS looks forward to participating in future PC meetings

SS thanked DM and colleagues for their informative input and emphasised it is an important transition for pupils and development for the city in the journey towards new GME high school.

IB intends to liaise with staff and look to set up consultation between P7s and JGHS on these issues

## **8. GISBE / AOB**

SS thanks everyone for attending and all who presented and contributed to discussions.



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## 9. Date of Next Meeting

- 26 January 2022 – AGM/ Parent Council Meeting 7:15-8:30 (Microsoft TEAMS)