



Comhairle nam Pàrant - Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce Meeting Minutes

21 An t-Sultain / September 2022, 19:15 – 20:15

Apologies: None

Attendees: 32

1. Welcome and introduction from the Chairs

- Welcome all, especially to our P1 families, we hope you're settling in well.
- The minutes of this meeting will be available on the PC website

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

- Queens' Baton (Baton na Banrigh) on 21 June 22 as part of the Commonwealth Games was a huge success, well done to all involved.
- Sports' Day was a success, the model will be reviewed for next year
- The Summer Fèill was a fantastic event, many thanks to Becka and volunteers for organising and for the funds raised, the PC trialed the use of contactless payment - which we'll cover in the Treasurer's report.
- We had a very successful **C1-C3 Welcome Picnic** in person at Pilrig park on 28 August with a great turnout of over 60 children, parents and carers who got to meet other families and do the ice breaker bingo. We gave out info on the PC, GME and CnP.
- CnP wrote to introduce themselves to the newly elected local councillors, provide briefing on GME (Gaelic Medium Education) and the secondary school situation and pose specific questions about plans for the GME High School in Edinburgh.

3. Aithris a' cheannard / Headteacher's update and Input from Deputes

- We've had 5 newsletters to date. The school are using these in an effort to minimise ParentMail
- Please label EVERYTHING to make the lost property easier
- School starts at 8.55 am, please be on time
- Recruitment for Early Years' Practitioners and Pupil Support Assistants is underway, please spread the word.

- **School Development Plan**

Learning teaching & Assessment, Vision, values & aims - the school is keen for parents' views. The new term started with a focus on Gaelic culture and song. Classes have shared their efforts.

Digital learning developments are reported to be working well, including iPad roll out. The school plans to move to learning journals rather than the class blogs in order to give regular and individual feedback as requested by parents.

- **Health & wellbeing**

The school is working to create better links across the school community, including setting up school houses system to allow the children to work together and form small communities within our school community of over 400. The next consultation with parents will ask for feedback on the school



relationships and behaviour policy which is being refreshed. The Buddy system has been restarted and has been well received. Teachers' wellbeing is being prioritised too. Playground and outdoor learning spaces improvements will be progressed this year.

- **Equity and inclusion**

Funding is sought to support the school in its aim to get it right for every child.

- **Parent Consultations**

Feedback from parents suggests a preference for a hybrid model of in-person and digital. This will be trialed in November.

- **Janitor's House Update**

Progressing with GME-specific funding. It will be home to 0-3 GME provision but also available to the school. Some disruption is expected, plans for a sensory garden and learning space outside with a blend of furniture inside to support use as a general purpose space. Children will name the room and provide artwork.

4. Playground and School Estate Developments

- Pleased to report that over the summer, acoustic treatment work (suspended sound panels) was completed in all classrooms in use this session following an acoustic survey. This is the product of a significant undertaking by the Parent Council over the years working with the Council and school to lobby for improvements. We are hopeful now that the remaining large spaces including the Òganan room will be treated.
- Separately the PC Chairs convened a meeting with School management and landscape architects (Wardell Armstrong) to explore the potential to progress improvements in the playground, and utilise a modest (circa £20K) amount of capital funding which the school has been allocated for an extended period for this purpose. A constructive meeting and walk around the playground took place on 2nd September, noting a pilot approach at another Edinburgh school - the leadership team will follow up with CEC officials, the PC and the architects to progress options. Further progress will be reported to the parent forum. It is possible that additional GME capital funds could also support this work.

5. GME Secondary School update

- For the benefit of our P1 families, the role of Commun nam Parant was clarified. CnP is made up of GME parents, but where the Parent Council represents the views and needs of the families specific to TNP, CnP represents the view of parents and families in GME as a whole in the Lothians. Padraic updated the meeting on the current position of the GME secondary and the next steps.
- The Children and Families Committee met on Tuesday 20th Sept. The Gaelic Implementation Group (GIG) will be re-started and contribute to the next steps. Numbers and capacity issues have been flagged by the Council; and there has been reference to capping numbers as one response. The preference of CnP would be capacity building so that can be averted. CnP invites

all families to sign up for the mailing list and read the [blog](#) and there was a call out for people to volunteer and join the committee.

6. Aithris an Ionmhasair / Treasurer's Report

- £17.4K cash in the bank including 4K for acoustics, which we plan to repurpose, perhaps for the playground. £3K from Summer Feil will go direct to the school. School Funds are spent with the approval of a committee with a parent representative. Fundraising summary - Lottery, £485 PayPal donations, £318, Uniform Swap £140.
- Small Sums Scheme will open in October. More info on the website and look out for updates, it is open to teachers and parents to submit proposals.

7. Parent Council Update: Class Reps call out

- At TnP we invite parents to support the school and families in their child's class in a Class Rep Role. The Class Rep:
 - Shares information from the Parent Council and school with the parents and carers of your child's class.
 - Listens to the views and any suggestions of the parents and carers of your child's class and passes them on to the Parent Council or directs parents to contact the school directly in the instance of individual pupil matters.
- We will put a more detailed version of the Class Rep role on Classlist following this meeting.
- Navigate to the school profile page and scroll down to Class Admins to see who your Rep is and contact them, or to sign up.
- We've had some volunteers, but we still need reps for **all C1 classes, C2R, C3, C4, and We need Reps for C5A, C6F & C7**. This role is important to promote school communications and in relation the statutory consultation and GME secondary, however it is not intended as a substitute for parents/carers contacting the school with specific issues relating to their children.
- To put yourself forward for Class Rep email: chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk or sign up via Classlist: <https://app.classlist.com/parent/#/school/details>

- **Classlist**

We think we've found an efficient solution to maintaining Classlist up to date, particularly at the transition to new school years. Donna, the School Business Manager has been provided a staff account, which is separate to the parents' section. The School Business Manager will review that children are in the correct glass groups and remove any leavers.

The intention going forward, would be for this administrative step to take place in advance of new school years and once a term.

- **Events**

Halloween

The date proposed is Friday 28th October. Look out for the event and sign up list on Classlist shortly. Contact has been made with the DJ. As a back up if there is a parent who is a DJ that could deliver the Halloween Disco please alert the chairs.



Christmas Cards

Christmas Card planning is underway, look out for communication from Caroline Daye in the coming weeks.

Christmas Feil

The date proposed is December 3rd. The Events Group plan to use both halls and to make a real event of it. Look out for comms on this and ways to support/volunteer in the next few weeks.

- **The Chairs**

Seamus and I have reached the limit of our tenure as Co-Chairs. It's been our pleasure to be your Co-Chairs for the last 3 and a bit years, but the time has come, and at the AGM in January 2023 it'll be time for us to hand on the baton. It has been great working as a pair and it's an arrangement we would recommend. Partnership with the school is critical to the success of the PC. Drop us a message to find out more about what's involved, the time required etc.

8. GISBE / AOB

Individual matters raised relating to pupils and classes were directed to the School leadership team.

PC Meetings (7.15 - 8:30) this year:

Fri 23 Sept (Catch up 10:30-11:15)

Tues 22 November

Weds 25 January AGM

Weds 15 March

Tues 16 May

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

Tuesday 22 November 2022 7.15 - 8:30 (with a catch-up meeting on Friday 26th at 10:30am)