

Minutes of Parent Council meeting 18.5.16

Apologies: Four apologies

Attendance: 24 in attendance

Training session - Scottish Parent Teacher Council:

The chairs attended a parent council training session and shared some of the thoughts and ideas that came out of that:

- Continuity planning is important so that future PC members know how to carry on effectively. Chairs propose developing a handbook
- Ideas for reaching out to new parents
- Invitations to local councillors and / or sending minutes to them after meetings
- Finances so money spent is transparently redirected
- Socialisation of children - e.g. some schools offer playground buddy system or training older ones to look out for lonely younger ones
- More training for e.g. involving more parents; events (very useful previously); (requests on courses on) conflict resolution / decision-making

Secondary update

Following crisis over secondary places at James Gillespie's High School (JGHS), a short term working group was established on "GME and Capacity at JGHS" to try to resolve the issue collaboratively. The conclusion is that this group will recommend that JGHS and Boroughmuir will use the Darroch annex to help with short term capacity problems. You can find the reports here:

Summary

Full report

Changes to GIG (re-jigged - chair replaced by Lewis Ritchie who is local councillor and very supportive of GME; including Gaelic plan for the city should become a "co-production process" involving parents and various bodies throughout the city; should include other elements outwith GME.

Co-production group would work in parallel with GIG - to include CnP members; council will offer three people but to include those with GME expertise; consultation required with parents throughout the process; pressure from working group thought they should drive the strategic review of GME forward but group will take that over - needs to be finished within a year i.e. while Ritchie and co still in place).

Discussion: Darroch capacity = 300-500ish but requires investment and depends how it is to be used - offers breathing space to develop GME model; relations with primary feeders good; funding discussions with Scottish Government

Council talking about consulting on out-of-catchment issues but current pupils and their siblings are now safely in GME until 18 years old

Final draft now going to Education and Families

Co-production: users of services help to design the services; not just committing to writing a consultation paper - design, delivery, follow-up; the co-production meeting is a meeting about the future meetings so there will be various groups - primary, secondary

Engagement process will happen but it won't yet be at the Fair as it needs to be planned - not just secondary but also sgoil-àraich

Spending of PC funds

The chairs proposed operating a small sums fund to help spend PC money. JGHS have a similar scheme and have advised on how it operates.

Pupils, parents and carers, school or other party could put in a bid - as long as it would benefit the children.

Bids will have an limit e.g. from £50 to £1000, depending on the pot available.

The bids will be reviewed and approved by the PC committee, with PC approval

Criteria tbc

Some money needs to be ring-fenced for events and playground

School Fund also gets the money from the fairs directly (for school trips, xmas parties, books for library, gifts for volunteers, etc).

Request from shinty for equipment to keep at school - £700 approved

Request for 10 bikes, helmets and other equipment - £1500 approved

£1000 from Greggs (via parents) - for playground clothing.

Co-op also offers money. There used to be a fundraising group - so that could happen in the future.

Treasurer could do that - other volunteers required.

Update from Headteacher:

Self-evaluation - survey provided positive responses, and issues of staffing and communication were highlighted by parents (response level 93)

Health and well-being - autism awareness, bikability, swimming (limited across the city - just about 4 weeks in C5; need to complain to Lynn Crawford; could Edinburgh Leisure provide swimming options; one primary school offers all C5s a term), C7 transitions (Christine has been helping; C7 trip to Benmore - constant learning), P6 boys Cuach na Cloinne

Expressive Arts

2 drama groups visiting; Mòd; Glee; Mary Queen of Scots; Ukulele; guitar; street dance; Kim Edgar worked with the children to write a song about TnP

Engaging with parents - volunteer drive - 5 parents recruited and 2 from the wider community (for language, bikability, maths, buses); clarsach coffee morning; Leith Gala Day - all learning banana song, C7 pasta song, etc; expressive arts group; playground; reviewing draft Positive Behaviour Policy and Procedures

Changing picture at TnP

s-a full from August - met with Council to look for short-term and long-term solutions

P1s - 25 children with no previous experience of Gaelic; will be distributed across the classes - main problem is likely to be friendships

Building capacity update (all schools) - currently 420 capacity

Staffing

A' Bh-uas. NicAsgail - Return to Nursing

Sonya Carey-Psychological Services

One class teacher appointed, two probationers confirmed

Re-advertising for other teacher, considering temporary non-Gaelic

10% cut in Business Support

Awaiting confirmation re. PSA hours for 2016-17

National Improvement Framework

Drive improvement for children, with clear focus on raising attainment and closing gap

Set out the priorities, measures and support - literacy, numeracy, health & well-being, employability

Events team

Events team are standing down after three years - a massive thanks from the PC

PC will ask for volunteers in August for other people to help.

Recruitment in August when folk are fresh

Training session on offer in September

Upcoming events

Summer Fair 28th May

Ladies' Night 17th June

Cinema Night 9th September

23rd September Pre-Mòd Concert

Staffing group

See Headteacher's update - ideas have been accepted and acted upon

More ideas welcome

Social responsibility within big companies

New P1 intake gift

Karen Reid suggested the PC supply material book bags (more durable than pasgans) instead of jumper.

Sweatshirts are expensive but appreciated so PC decided to continue supplying sweatshirts.

Discussion of alternatives to pasgans

Sports Day - June 17th

PC to provide refreshments - in gazebo - volunteers required; ice cream van

Acoustics

(see Funding)

Discussions with Council (as it's a Council building)