

PARENT COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES 30th APRIL

- 1. Minutes from last meeting (and AGM).** There were no matters arising.
- 2. School update (taken later in meeting)**
- 3. Eco Schools (postponed)**
- 4. Working group reports**
 - Garden group – The consultant has recently delivered a report and it is currently with the head teacher and the business manager.
 - Events – Dates will be sent out via parent mail and put up on the Facebook page. The events team would like more people to become involved, perhaps through the class reps.
 - Fundraising – the movie night will be in the autumn.
 - Òganan – termly meeting on the 7th May. We are 1.5 years into a 3 year service agreement. Working group researching whether there is a set procedure/advice from Edinburgh Council for renewing. Parents said it would be better for an open ended agreement. 6 months termination on either side would be good.
- 5. World of Work week – 1st June –** would like to encourage parents to come into the school and talk about their work; all ages; men and women. Might also be a way of finding out about parents' skills for future.
- 6. New Gaelic Youth and Community Officer –** Ann Paterson, PC office chairs met with her last week. Note from Ann Paterson for parents. Keen to engage with parents and wider Gaelic community. She's based at the Janitor's house. Launching opening 10th June – cheese and wine. Request for musicians for that event. Would be good to have one website for Gaelic community in Edinburgh. Interested in having more access to janitor's house for events in the evening. There is also a common room at Edin Uni for Gaelic community to use too. Ann wanting to explore ways of bringing children and wider Gaelic community together. Would be good to offer ideas from the parent group on this? A focus group will be set up to discuss these issues.
- 7. Leith Decides –** scope for Gaelic-based events and bids. Bids go in before Christmas – interesting to explore that and think about community-engagement. Use the 10th June to gather people's ideas? Could a parent run an ideas-session? Ask for ideas/suggestion via parentmail/PC email?
- 8. School Update**

Ms McPhail – summary of events since March: parent consultations; Resonate (City of Edin Council); swimming gala; TnaP’s Got Talent – organised by C7 – great fun and will repeat; Barnardos visit to talk through supporting children; visits from 4 children who were with us last year and now at secondary school; staff session looking to tie up work on ‘confident staff/confident children’ to write own policy, in line with Edinburgh Council policy, on good relationships and better learning. Helpful information and Ms McPhail would appreciate a few parents to join short-term group to look at this. **Official thanks to all those who gave of their time to run The Local Mod.** Inter-authority numeracy conference – will look at this for next term. Also Gaelic Week in Edinburgh

Christine MacLeod – update re Gaelic Week – visit to Botanic Gardens and museum very successful. Pupils involved in castle-drama for all-schools throughout Scotland – Mary Queen of Scots. Very successful. Ceilidh at the school on Tuesday.

Anne McPhail – Other events/update - Support for children re bereavement. Folk and jazz in the city – musicians helping the children to write a school song. C4s involved with first Forest Schools event.

Events coming up - C7 going to Benmore for residential trip. Transition events for new C1 starting and C7 going to secondary and also every class will have one-day in new classroom. School reports out June. Teacher reviews this term.

Christine MacLeod update re review – GTC has changed the scheme to assist teachers with professional learning development (PLD) and training. 5 standards – student, registration, career-long learning, leadership and college-based teachers. Change from management-led to teacher-led. Individual teacher responsibility to engage in professional learning development. Teachers will have 5 year plan based on self-evaluation.

Anne McPhail – interscholastics coming up; school sports day on 11th June – whole school sports day. C7s taking leading role with teacher support. 13 teams with 13 events. Instead of Golden Time Fridays will be given to teams preparing for that. Would the Parent Council help organise refreshments for that? Fruity names for the teams. And pos refreshments for parents? And an ice-cream van? And then a lunch in the park. Looking for volunteers from parents for that. PC will contact parents to do that.

Development Plan – to assess priorities and progress. Focus on maths and numeracy; embed literacy; look at taking technology forward. Some of this planned at cluster-level. 1+2 languages.

Question re GME children and numeracy? – issue in secondary is that GME children have learned all concepts in Gaelic so have to translate at the start of secondary. Mrs McLeod works with the children to help them talk with teachers to explain the language issue and JGHS is aware of the issue and this has helped resolve any issues. Standardised testing C4-7 across the city so will check that over the years.

Draft Development Plan is shared with parents and the Parent Council.

Staffing – losing Miss O’Riordan; Mrs Grafton (business manager) leaving to CEC post; plan for Mrs McLeod to work with Miss O’Riordan’s class for the 6 weeks of term; leadership team will be stretched for this time period – recruitment, new classes to set up, playground project.

Q: Can the PC help support?

Yes

Draft classing as planned.

New appointments – Miss McIntyre and Ms Pyper secured permanent posts and a third – currently a probationer at Corstorphine. No direct input in the interviewing – shared across headteachers. Do submit references, after the event. Two new probationers will be coming. Advertising for 2 more teachers. When interviewing would look for PC input.

Q: re class sizes?

25 for C1. 30 is national policy for C2 and C3. 33 for above that.

Christine MacLeod – World of work week: going to send parentmail to ask who can come in and will ask classes what they are interested in. Nairns CEO coming in. Classes might send out questionnaires. Don’t often hear about the pathway to jobs – helpful for children to see the connection between studying mathematics to becoming an engineer. Also helpful to share what jobs parents haven’t enjoyed.

At headteachers’ meeting had rep from Primary Engineers project – about supporting children considering STEM (Science – Technology – Engineering and Maths) related careers. Very interesting. Competitions at primary level tend to be 50/50 gender split. Inventive children – a Calpol lollipop, a car that would not turn on if breathalysed over the limit. Very inspiring.

9. After School Club – want to encourage more parents to get involved in ASCs. Want to look into what kind of materials are available – Fiona runs Code Club. UK-wide organisation that produces all the materials so preparation-low-cost and light. What other resources are out there for other subjects? Good to get a list of resources which might encourage parents to get involved. JGHS drawing up list of skilled parents – link with parents at the TnaP and the work done by Ann Paterson. Helpful to look at what other schools do. Modern language resources?

Q: Any particular areas that the schools know about that the children would be interested in?

Dance. Chess. Cookery.

Local class for Irish dancing. But need to think about cost/profit/non-profit. If after 6pm in the school would have to get a let so there would be some cost implications. Worth considering the logistics. And need PVG checks.

10. **Jumpers for P1** – traditionally PC has paid for sweatshirts. Do we want to do that this year? Parents at the meeting agree that would be a good thing to do. Good welcome for the children. Agreed and passed at the meeting. Need a parent to talk to parents who

have children starting C1 – induction day is 22nd May. PC to ask parent with children in that cohort.

11. AOB –

Card from children to the company involved with the building site; look to organise site visits with a view to developing relationship with the company.

Paypal – ongoing work being done by parents to set up Paypal account. Might encourage parents to donate if for something specific e.g. story-telling corner? Musical instruments?

School needs to buy 2 computers and whiteboard and projector which through procurement will be expensive. School would like assistance with funds for this. Difficult to take donations of computers because needs to work with the internal system.

Suggestion for requests for voluntary donation per child per term to go out via class reps. Informal and voluntary but helpful for parents to be reminded.

Out-of-Catchment placements is an issue and looking for interest from parents; need to liaise closely with CnamP on these issues; working together on this. Could we engage language experts and people from the wider community on the importance of Gaelic in the home and siblings supporting each other with language-acquisition? CEC (City of Edinburgh) policy for years to actively encourage parents to take up opportunity of GME and should support those parents who acted on that invitation. Will be facing this issue re numbers/out-of-catchment in the nursery in August. Would be helpful to have numbers of families impacted by this. Is there potential to expand the size of the nursery? Is there potential for another GME nursery elsewhere in the city? Last two intakes of primary one were approx. 60 per year.

Religious Observance update by Anne McPhail – 6 times a year in the school should have religious observance from different religions; all religions including humanism; talking about values; is it possible to involve parents in this? Often we don't know the religious community in the school and Anne McPhail would be interested in having parental involvement in taking this forward.

Create PC meetings as a Facebook event.

