



Comhairle nam Pàrant Taobh na Pàirce - Parent Council

Parent Council AGM report

January 2017

Introduction

We are pleased to present to the Parent Council this AGM report summarising parent council activities in 2016. This report reviews key aspects of Parent Council activity for your information. The report covers

- Parent Council meetings
- Finance report
- Events
- Class reps
- Campaigns
- Playground group
- Wraparound group
- Acoustics

Meetings

We had five meetings in 2016:

- Wednesday 20th January (AGM)
- Wednesday 16th March
- Wednesday 18th May
- Monday, 12th September
- Wednesday, 9th November

Planned meetings for 2017 (others TBC):

- Monday 23rd January (AGM)

- Wednesday, 15th March
- Monday, 15th May

All Parent Council meetings took place at Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce at 19.15. The meeting attracted between 12 and 45 people. Minutes from our meetings can be accessed on the Parent Council website:

<http://www.parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk/documents--sgrigraveobhainnean.html>.

An initiative was proposed by one of the chairs to have a Friday daytime follow up meetings at the school. The intention of this meeting was to share a summary of the key points from the Parent Council meeting for those who weren't able to make it. This has run twice and has been positively received by parents and was well attended by parents who brought small children along. The follow up meeting has lasted about 45 minutes. These follow up meetings will continue through 2017.

Finance report

This year the income of the Parent Council was **£12,207.02**, with the majority of funds raised through events and the Christmas cards, plus £1,924 miscellaneous income from a grant for outdoor clothing, money from easyfundraising and money from the City of Edinburgh Council.

Expenditure until the end of 2016 was **£11,759.83**. This comprised £4,378 costs associated with hosting events and purchasing Christmas cards, £3,517 net profits from events paid to the school and £3,865 where the Parent Council directly funded expenses and equipment including: equipment for shinty; bikes and equipment; books; jumpers for C1 and funding for the acoustics survey; small sundry expenses such as stationery and gifts.

Our bank balance at the start of 2016 was £5,963.48 and at end of 2016 it was £4,269.32 (plus £400 held in cash). The movement in total during the year comprises the small surplus generated in 2016 less the money from the 2015 Christmas Fair (£1,794.75) which was paid to the school after the end of the last accounting year.

With respect to our cash balance at the end of the year, £3,000 of this is allocated to (1) outdoor clothing; (2) the small sums scheme (see below). This leaves approximately £1,300 available cash. We agreed a contingency of £500 and so we are maintaining that, with the balance (c£800) available to spend supplementing future activities.

Our accounts this year can be summarised as follows:

INCOME		EXPENDITURE		Events Profit to School
Spring Fair	£2,962.72	Costs associated with Spring Fair 2016	£805.27	£2,157.67
Christmas Fair	£1,789.44	Costs associated with Christmas Fair 2016	£429.7	£1,359.74
Halloween Party	£952.67	Costs associated with Halloween party	£383.88	
Cinema night	£876.43	Costs associated with cinema night	£353.15	
Christmas cards	£3,701.33	Costs associated with Christmas Cards	£2,405.14	
Miscellaneous	£1,924.43			
		Parent Council funding	£3,865.28	
		Events Profit to School	£3,517.41	
	£12,207.02		£11,759.83	

Small Sums Scheme

We set up the Small Sums Scheme this year and allocated £2,000 to spend based on retaining a target contingency of £500. As agreed by the Parent Council, a committee of parents and teaching staff was established and met to allocate the funds.

We received eight applications and we were able to provide funding for most of them. We decided to provide partial funding to football as we had already funded sporting activities and we decided not to fund camera and film making classes this time, as only a few children would benefit, although everyone was agreed that it was a good proposal and the teachers could see benefits in having the equipment and children with this skill.

Funding was provided for the following:

- Bike racks for the small playground
- Additional indoor winter training for football
- Partial funding for a winter celebration

- Additional resources for forest school
- Tools for the playground upkeep
- Funding for Sradagan
- Subscription for Sumdogs

All the applications are available if anyone wants to see them.

Events

The Parent Council events are now well established, important part of the school year. They are an important opportunity for our community to come together, enjoy themselves and to raise money for the school.

The Parent Council organised four events in 2016:

- Feill Samhraidh/Summer fair
- Film night
- Halloween party
- Feill Nollaig/Christmas fair

This year's events were really successful. It is important to acknowledge that running these events takes time and effort on behalf of the volunteers and the Parent Council is extremely grateful for this.

For the first three years of Taobh na Pairce Parent Council events were run by one small team. In June 2016 the events team stood down. We would like to extend our thanks again for all the enjoyment our school community has had at events and all the money that has been raised to support school activities.

The Parent Council would like to move towards a model of having a small group organising each event, rather than one group organising every event. This is also an opportunity to build on the success of the current format and add in new ideas.

Class reps

The Parent Council coordinates the class reps. The purpose of the class rep is to act as an informal point of contact between parents and the classroom, parent council and school.

- This will include sharing information from the school and PC with parents and also pass parent's views back in return.
- It is a complementary role and does not replace more formal communication channels; full details of the role are available from the PC.

This year each class has a class rep from August 2016. They are proving valuable to parent and the school. There have been some great social meeting and weekend trip organised that have been greatly enjoyed by parents.

Campaigns

S1 places at James Gillespies and 0-18 GME strategy review:

In March the Parent Council and Comman nam Pàrant worked with parents to challenge a report on Strategic Management of School Places: P1 and S1 Intakes for August 2016 for the Education, Children and Families Committee. In this report the Council proposed capping numbers at James Gillespie's High School (JGHS) in 2016, and allocating places based on a child's geographical proximity to the school. The report was then withdrawn and the focus then shifted to working with the Council to determine a suitable short and long term strategy for GME secondary, given the pressure on places at James Gillespie's. The results of this work were:

- Edinburgh Council propose to bring the Darroch Annexe into use as a permanent annexe to JGHS, to be shared with Boroughmuir High School. This solution should give adequate extra capacity for both schools until 2021. The proposal will require a public consultation before implementation, and the consultation is likely to be held later this year.
- In order to ensure a successful outcome to this consultation we will be asking parents to participate fully by responding and attending public meetings. Please take note of future emails on this subject from Comman nam Pàrant and the Parent Council.
- The Gaelic Implementation Steering Group (GIG or GISG) will lead the production of a long term strategy for GME in Edinburgh. Representatives from the Parent Council and Comman nam Pàrant sit on this group, along with a number of Councillors, Council officials and other Gaelic experts. GISG is an existing group, and a sub-group has been tasked with the production of a long term strategy for GME in Edinburgh. It is planned that a strategy should be in place by this time next year - which will involve some work by parents in thinking and discussing the best options for all stages of GME from early years through to secondary.

Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant/Parent Council and Comman nam Pàrant are working with the City of Edinburgh Council and GME experts on the strategic review of GME in Edinburgh to create the GME strategy in a "co-production" group, which includes representatives from the GME parent group. The co-production group is meeting regularly, is working well together and is making progress. The first parental engagement meetings (Sept 26th & Oct 4th) were well attended and the group thought that they had been successful and very useful with valuable information sharing and gathering. There was broad consensus and also many useful individual suggestions. Further research is still being undertaken and the group still intend to produce the report in the early part of 2017.

Playground group

The playground group was established to work with the school and pupils to work to create a design for our playground. The design was created and implementation of any development of the playground rests with the school and City of Edinburgh Council.

A verbal update will be delivered by the Head Teacher at the AGM.

Wraparound group

The wraparound group met twice in 2016 to review Òganan's service delivery, which continues to go from strength to strength with over 200 Taobh na Pàirce children now registered. The After-school club has continued to expand the range of activities offered, with 2016 seeing sessions offered on Horrible Histories, Taekwondo, Art, Drama and Dance. The Care Inspectorate approved an increase in capacity to the After-school club from 64 places to 96 and a successful summer holiday club programme delivered with children suggesting their favourite themes.

Looking ahead and recognising the increasing accommodation pressures at the school, the Parent Council proposes to lead a project in 2017 looking at best practice in the flexible use of space at other schools with wraparound provision, and will work with all parties with the objective of securing the long-term future of an integrated, flexible, child-centred package of care, recognising the importance of this being delivered in a Gaelic speaking environment.

Acoustics group

The Acoustics group was formed in September 2016 to address the feedback from parents, staff and children about certain spaces in the school that feel too noisy.

There are four spaces that have been identified as having the most need: assembly hall, upper hall for sports, dining hall and sgoil-àraich.

An acoustic test has taken place which gives us readings for the level of the echo in these spaces and compares this with the levels which these spaces should be achieving as set out in best practice documents. The test has specified how much acoustic treatment we need to add and where it should be added to bring the spaces into line with how they should be performing acoustically.

A summary of the test results and recommendations has been sent out in December to three suppliers of acoustic panels, along with sketch drawings of the spaces and a response is awaited.

Acoustics group will arrange by doodle poll a meeting, hopefully in early February or before, to confer about how to take this forward.

It has always been suggested that one element of this could include a school community craft project for some of the panels in the assembly hall.

Feedback

Any feedback on the content of this report is welcome at the AGM or via email to the Parent Council: parentcouncil@parantantaobhnairce.org.uk.

Mòran taing,

Comhairle nam Pàirce Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce