

## Committee Minutes

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# Consultative Committee with Parents

Edinburgh, 25 January 2011

**Elected Members Present:-** Councillor MacLaren (Convener)

**Parent/School Members Present:-** as detailed on the appendix to this minute

**Apologies:-** Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Godzik, Hussein Ezzedine and Kevin O'Donnell.

### 1 Minute of Meeting

The minute of meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 2 November 2010 was approved as a correct record.

### 2 Update by Convener and Director

The Director provided a progress update on some of the achievements of the Department recently in meeting its outcomes for children and families in Edinburgh.

Approval had been given at the Policy and Strategy Committee to progress the development of a new building for Seaview children's home which was to be built on the Lismore Primary School site. It was confirmed that the home was included in the financing of new build.

The Education Children and Families Committee had considered the Community Access to Schools report which proposed to increase community access to schools. Information on the outcome would follow.

The Group was updated on progress in improving outcomes and quality of services for children and young people.

With similar developments, Head Teachers and school staff had been fully involved in bring forward a design for their school and how they foresaw the delivery of education over the next 20 years. These design principles were then brought to architects to assist with the design of a suitable building. This was likely to be the position taken for the design of a new Boroughmuir High School.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

### **3 Literacy and numeracy strategies**

Karen Prophet, Head of Quality and Curriculum gave a presentation on literacy and numeracy as part of the Curriculum for Excellence.

She provided information on the following;

- the City of Edinburgh achievement in literacy programme;
- what literacy encompassed, being the responsibility of all staff;
- literacy qualifications
- additional support needs such as comprehensive literacy and dyslexia guidelines;
- what numeracy was and how ICT could be used to enhance numeracy understanding and skills;
- numeracy across learning being the responsibility of all staff;
- all schools had a Numeracy co-ordinator
- what numeracy qualifications were; and
- that additional information was produced centrally for parents to support learning in literacy and numeracy.

Following discussion she informed the Group that;

- a booklet for parents which explained the stages at which pupils were to be measured was to be produced;
- confirmed that teachers would continue to monitor their pupils and pick up on any areas where a pupil may be underachieving;
- confirmed that Curriculum for Excellence was inclusive for all schools, and included Special Schools;
- explained that the literacy outcome should pick up on any issues such as dyslexia;
- staff attended briefing sessions with a range of professionals to improve their skills on teaching learning and numeracy;
- explained the package of outcomes on a level which a teacher would be delivering with the Curriculum for Excellence;
- explained the levels at which a parent would get information on how their child was progressing in their schooling; and
- explained that standardised tests would not replace the function of the teacher, and that there would continue to be regular contact between teachers and parents where any concerns of underachievement would be identified

### **Decision**

To thank K Prophet for her comprehensive presentation.

## **4 Parental Engagement Development Group Update**

Moyra Wilson, Head of Inclusion and Pupil Support, provided an update on the new Parental Engagement Development Group.

The Group had met twice since November 2010, one of which had been a “travelling roadshow” held in Craigoyston. Special schools would be visited in February and March 2011.

From the meetings it had become apparent there was a general lack of awareness of the services provided by the Council.

The following five key areas for development had resulted from discussions held at these Group meetings;

- improve communication with parents;
- increase partnership working;
- increase training and development for parents;
- increase pupil involvement eg pupil councils; and
- discuss how to engage an increased number of parents

It was pointed out that the Scottish Government had recently held a meeting on Scotlands Parents from Involvement to Impact and a number of points had come out of this strategy which included;

- more parental engagement in City schools;
- move away from School Board issues and have more involvement of parents in teaching;
- more inter-agency working; and
- Improved communication with parents

Further travelling roadshows which would involve early years centres, staff and parents were to be held in addition to a whole city parental engagement evening to progress the points raised.

### **Decision**

To thank M Wilson for her presentation.

## **5 AOB – Parent Council Raised Issues**

The Convener confirmed that there would be a short life working group to look at the two options relating to Gaelic Medium Education provision.

### **Decision**

To note that the issue of Gaelic Medium Education at Primary level would be discussed at the next CCWP which would form part of the formal public consultation on this issue.

## **6 Dates of next meeting**

### **Decision**

To note that the next meeting of the CCwP was an all Parent Council Chairs to be held in Tynecastle High School on Tuesday 8 March 2011.

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**Appendix**

**Parent/School Members Present**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Mary Brownlee	Tynecastle High School
Donald Craigie	Dean Park Primary School
Willie French	Parsons Green Primary School
Julie-Ann Sime	Tollcross Primary School
Lesley Gibson-Eaglesham	Liberton Primary Cluster
Jane Watson	Greengables Nursery School
Tracy Rendall	Craigentenny Primary School
Susan Edwards	Victoria Primary School
Gordon Chrumka	Broughton Primary School
Janna Brady	Bruntsfield Primary School
Andrea Bracher	Kaimes Special School
Eileen Prior	SPTC
Karen Traill	Liberton High School
Lesley Broadwood	Bonaly Primary School
Anne McGowan	St. Peter's Primary School
Robert Baltler	Gracemount Primary School
Sally Smith	Currie Community High School
Rosie Wilson	SCYP, Children and Families
Graham Douglas	Children and Families
Moyra Wilson	Children and Families
David Wright	Children and Families
Christina Burnett	Children and Families
Gillian Tee	Director, Children and Families