

Committee Minutes

Consultative Committee with Parents

Edinburgh, 14 June 2011

Elected Members Present:- Councillors MacLaren (Convener), Beckett, Godzik

Parent/School Members Present:- Mary Brownlee (Tynecastle High School), Kevin O'Donnell (Trinity Academy), Donald Craigie (Dean Park Primary School) Rory Mackenzie (Balerno High School), Raymond Simpson (Queensferry High School), Karen Traill (Liberton High School/South Neighbourhood Secondary Schools), Sheena Purdon and Audrey Gilmour (James Gillespies High School), Bruce Sherry (East Craigs Primary School), Sally Smith (Currie Community High School), Andrea Bracher (Kaimes Special School), Kate Marks (Leith Primary School), Paul McLaughlin (James Gillespies Primary School), Iain McGillivray (Firhill High School).

In Attendance:- Gillian Tee (Director of Children and Families), David Wright, Karen Prophet, Mike Rosendale, Jack Hamilton, David Wright, David Dempster, Donald McDonald, Moyra Wilson, Rosie Wilson, Graham Douglas (Children and Families Department) and Shona Macarthur (Committee Services).

Apologies:- Ann Henderson (James Gillespies High School) and Susan Edwards (Victoria Primary School).

Apologies:-

1 Minute of Meeting

Decision

The minute of meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 10 May 2011 was approved as a correct record.

2 Matters Arising from Minute

None.

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3 Update by Convener and Director

The Committee considered a progress report on recent developments within the Children and Families Department, some of which would form the Agenda for the Education, Children and Families Committee to be held on 21 June 2011.

The areas covered included;

- Appointments
- Psychological Services HMIE Inspection Report
- Capital Investment Programme – Update on Major Projects
- Summer Works Programme
- Energy Use in Schools
- Family and Community Support Service
- Child Protection Performance Improvement
- Early Years Strategy; and
- Community Access to Schools – The Way Forward.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.

4 Curriculum Senior Phase

Karen Prophet, Head of Quality and Curriculum gave a presentation on the Curriculum for Excellence – The Senior Phase and covered the following areas:-

- Raising Achievement
- Closing the gap
- Preparing for the future
- S1 – S3 Broad general educations
- Senior Phase – Key Planning Features
- Senior Phase – Timetabling
- Senior Phase – Issues
- School Planning
- Partnership Working
- Qualifications; and
- Edinburgh Secondary Schools.

In response to questions from members, Karen Prophet advised as follows:-

- The Senior Phase of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) would concentrate on more active learning. Using ICT the focus would be on positive destinations and delivery for disengaged youngsters through eg motivating children, availability of a broader spectrum and job learning/placements.

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- Taking O level examinations encouraged exam technique, but CfE would also provide the opportunity for test revision and learning to perform under pressure.
- The SQA was currently designing the qualification for the 2013/14 fourth year exams.
- Provisions would be made for S1 examinations in the event that CfE qualifications were delayed.
- Universities would have to be encouraged to recognise that National 5, Higher and Advanced Highers would be taken over two years.
- Partnership plans were underway to enable a pupil to take an advanced higher which was not on offer at their school at a neighbouring school or college.
- The Council would assess and provide feedback to teachers on how they were progressing with CfE.

Decision

To thank Karen Prophet for her presentation.

5 Secondary Management Structures

Jack Hamilton, Head Teacher Boroughmuir High School, gave an update on the review and implementation of changes to the management structures in secondary schools in the City of Edinburgh as requested following the last meeting of the CCWP.

He outlined the key principles for change and advised the Committee on the following;

- The implementation arrangements for the Secondary Management Model
- Which groups had been consulted in the formation of the Model plans
- That Curricular leaders would be trained to lead the change
- Structure would vary according to the size of the school roll
- There would be minimal impact to pupils learning and teaching.
- Support would be given to staff at all stages and levels
- There would be no cuts to teaching staff
- There would be opportunities for Voluntary Early Release Arrangement (VERA); and
- The financial savings which would be achieved from the review.

He then introduced David Dempster, Acting Head Teacher Boroughmuir High School and Donald McDonald, Head Teacher Liberton High School. Each gave a presentation on how the Secondary Management Structure would be implemented in their particular school as they differed in size.

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In response to questions from the Group, the Convener, Gillian Tee, Jack Hamilton and David Wright advised as follows;

- The Council was aware of the concerns raised regarding the timescale for the implementation of the structure and agreed to discuss this with each Head Teacher
- Savings would have to be realised within a two year period
- There would be training and support for the curriculum leaders and also teachers of guidance
- There was an improvement plan prioritisation
- All 23 Secondary schools had been consulted on a number of occasions about their issues and concerns
- Variations of the secondary management structure was being implemented in schools throughout Scotland
- Concerns about the possibility of some staff remaining on conserved salaries, which in addition to the restructuring process and the introduction of CfE having potential cost implications were noted
- A meeting with parent Councils had been arranged to update them on the new structure
- Guidance and pupil support would be reviewed nationally by the McCormac Committee. Guidance facilities would still be in place until the end of the year; and
- Attainment levels had been raised over the past four years.

Decision

- 1) To note the update given.
- 2) To note that a report on the Review of Secondary Schools Management Structures would be going to the Education, Children and Families Committee in June 2011; and
- 3) That a progress report would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

6 Parental Engagement Development Group

Moyra Wilson gave an update on the Parental Engagement Development Group and explained that research was to be conducted on how best to engage parents. The ongoing roadshows were being held to look at best practice and elicit parent comment on future needs.

The Roadshow had recently been held at St Augustines High School.

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Decision

To thank Moyra Wilson for her update.

7 AOB – Parent Council Raised Issues

Progress of Janitorial Review

Decision

To note the recent completion of the consultation period and the on going discussions with HR.

The Committee also noted that Rory Mackenzie was to be retiring, and thanked him for his contribution to the meetings over the past five years.

8 Dates of Meetings – Session 2011/12

To be circulated to members by Graham Douglas.