

Note of meeting

Item No. 3.1

Consultative Committee with Parents

6.30pm, Thursday, 15 May 2014, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Present:

Elected Members

Councillors Godzik (Convener) and Corbett.

Neighbourhood Groups - Parent Representatives

Alexandra Black, Broughton High School

Alison Bowyer, Craigmount High School

Sally Cavers, Dean Park Primary School

Simon Collins, Holyrood High School

Lesley Gibson-Eaglesham, Gracemount High School

Gareth Oakley, Craiglockhart Primary School

Liz Power, Woodlands School

Alexander Ramage, Prestonfield Primary School

Head Teacher Representatives

Willie French, Parsons Green Primary School

Ellen Muir, Pilrig Park School

National Parent Forum

Eileen Prior

Scottish Parent Teacher Council

Tina Woolnough

Also present:

Officers in Attendance

Gillian Tee, Director, Children and Families

Moyra Wilson, Inclusion and Pupil/Parent Support, Children and Families

Rosie Wilson, Special Schools and Specialist Provision, Children and Families

Andy Gray, Head of Schools and Community Services

Diana Dodd, Equalities, Children and Families

Mike Rosendale, Better Outcomes Learner Delivery (BOLD) Team

Alan Coyle, Better Outcomes Learner Delivery (BOLD) Team

Maria Lloyd, Departmental Adviser to the Convener

Susan Weir, Committee Services, Corporate Governance

Apologies

Councillors Fullerton and Redpath, Alistair Gaw, Lindsay Law, Norma Prentice and Stephen Preston.

1. Minutes

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 27 February 2014 was approved as a correct record.

2. Director's Update

The Director referred to her report dated April 2014 which had been circulated to Parent Council Neighbourhood Groups. The Director highlighted the following:

2.1 Liberton High School tragedy

Following the tragic incident at Liberton High School, the Director expressed her deepest sympathies to family and friends of Keane Wallis-Bennett and to the whole school community.

Action taken in response to the incident was outlined. All Council primary, secondary and nursery schools had been inspected, focusing on free-standing walls. No concerns had been identified with the structure of any walls as a result of the inspections. Various precautionary works had been carried out over the Easter holidays.

Discussions had been held with all Head Teachers to ensure they reported any concerns on health and safety issues to the Facilities Management helpdesk.

The Director also advised that information was available within published reports on condition surveys for the wider school estate.

2.2. BT Connectivity in Schools

Feedback indicated that ongoing work had improved issues relating to connectivity in schools.

2.3 Modern Foreign Languages - Edinburgh's "Sector Leading" Model

The Director had attended the Association of Directors of Education Scotland (ADES) meeting on the national 1 plus 2 languages policy, and was delighted to hear Edinburgh's approach to taking the policy forward described as a "Sector Leading" Model by those who attended.

2.4 School website audit update

In October 2013, it had been announced on the Bright Futures blog, that an audit of all school websites would be undertaken with the aim of ensuring that sites complied with legislation and provided information that parents/carers and visitors expected.

The end of the audit was approaching and each school would receive their own tailored report on their website by the summer. The audit report would feature findings from all schools and share examples of good practice.

Schools would be encouraged to link websites to the Children and Families Bright Futures blog brightfutures@edinburgh.gov.uk where staff, parents and pupils could discuss stories and promote the good work being done in their schools.

2.5 Edinburgh University link with Special Schools

The Director highlighted the positive feedback from Edinburgh University about Edinburgh's Special Schools.

Decision

- 1) To note the update report by the Director.
- 2) To note the work being undertaken on the audit of school websites, and request that consideration be given to the inclusion of links on school websites to the National Parent Forum and the Scottish Parent Teacher Council.
- 3) To request that the good work in taking forward the national policy for modern foreign languages be highlighted as much as possible to all interested parties.

3. Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice in CEC Schools

Diana Dodd, Principal Officer Equalities, provided details of measures to prevent and respond to bullying and prejudice in City of Edinburgh schools.

Arising from the presentation, a number of areas were raised and discussed, including:

- Mentor/violence programme.
- Question of whether staff bullying pupils was an issue. The Growing Confidence development programme was highlighted which required staff to realise the potential of the whole pupil. It was emphasised that schools' behaviour policy encouraged mutual respect.
- A suggestion that the policy on prevention of bullying should also let children know who to approach if they experienced bullying from people outwith school.
- Question on how school parent councils could be involved in supporting work in this area.
- The SPTC had recently published an information pack for parents on how they could become more widely involved and engaged with their children's education and their schools.

Decision

To note the points raised during discussion of the presentation.

(Reference - [Presentation - Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice in CEC Schools](#))

4. Better Outcomes Leaner Delivery (BOLD)

The Council's BOLD (Better Outcomes Leaner Delivery) programme had been set up to make sure the Council delivered on existing budget savings and to create opportunities to invest in priorities. Consultation and work with staff was being undertaken to understand services and to work towards a clear vision for the future shape of the Council. Members of the BOLD team were meeting with staff to hear their thoughts on how best to address the pressures faced.

Alan Coyle and Mike Rosendale presented an update on BOLD, including the timeline for the programme, the financial position and themes/ideas as the programme progressed.

In terms of education transformation, some ideas currently under consideration included:-

- Enhanced neighbourhood delivery. Head Teachers and Senior Officers had discussed ideas in detail. Neighbourhood based services were being tried in Wester Hailes.
- Discussions with Scottish Government were underway on procurement to roll out automated services (Wisepay) to all schools.
- A national working group was looking at deployment of non-teaching staff in schools.
- Maximising use of schools through the Community Access to Schools (CATS) programme.
- Development of 0-18 campuses.

Decision

- 1) To note progress of the BOLD programme.
- 2) To note that development of Wisepay would be welcomed by many parents.
- 3) To note the suggestion for further involvement/ ideas from the general public such as placing suggestion boxes in libraries.
- 4) To note that any ideas or suggestions could be forwarded to members of the BOLD team.

(Reference – [BOLD Presentation](#))

5. Committee Reports – Education, Children and Families Committee 20 May 2014

The Director highlighted reports being presented to the Education Children and Families Committee on 20 May 2014 as follows:-

1. Early Years Change Fund – Progress Update on Year Two

An update on progress and performance during year two of the Early Years Change Fund together with details of progress on the Early Years Collaborative.

2. Early Years Strategy Progress Report

Details of the key achievements and future priorities for the development of the Early Years service. Actions to deliver the entitlement of 600 hours of early learning and childcare also outlined.

3. Primary School Estate Rising Rolls

An update on potential accommodation pressures which may arise in August 2015 and beyond at Bruntsfield, Clermiston, East Craigs, Flora Stevenson, Gilmerton, James Gillespie's, Pentland, Ratho, South Morningside and Wardie Primary Schools. Also, an update on measures to increase uptake at Tollcross Primary School.

4. Community Access to Schools (CATS)

An update on progress on the review of Community Access to Schools (CATS) including proposals for:

- A revised CATS management/staffing structure
- The implementation of a consistent scale of charges for use of school premises
- The development of an online booking system
- Adult Education Programmes
- A Communication Strategy
- Finances.

During discussion, the Convener noted that a paper had been forwarded from the Chair of Balerno Community High School Parent Council providing a response on the Community Access to Schools review.

Decision

To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee.

(Reference - [Education, Children and Families - Full Meeting Papers - 20-05-14](#))

6. Neighbourhood Issues

6.1 Parking and Transport

The Director advised that Moyra Wilson would put a group together to look at the issues of parking and transport at schools.

6.2 Term Session Dates

Parents noted their support for consultation on term session dates.

6.3 Local Development Plan

The Convener advised that there would be scope for each of the Neighbourhood Groups to discuss the Local Development Plan.

Decision

- 1) To note comments from parents on the neighbourhood issues.
- 2) To note that the Local Development Plan would be discussed by the Neighbourhood Groups.

7. Neighbourhood Updates

Issues recently discussed by the individual School Neighbourhood Groups were as follows:

South Neighbourhood Group (Lesley Gibson-Eaglesham and Alexander Ramage)

- Communication problem between schools and Facilities Management.
- South Morningside annexe – there was an escort for children attending the annexe but no road signs at the annexe warning drivers to be careful.
- Out of hours security.
- Funding for Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs.

North Neighbourhood Group (Alexandra Black)

- Ongoing parking/traffic issues.
- Outdoor space at schools – a particular problem at Flora Stevenson Primary.
- Quality of school meals and whether inhouse cooks could have flexibility on who they could purchase from.

South West Neighbourhood Group (Sally Cavers)

- Community Access to Schools.
- Supply teachers.

Special Schools Group (Liz Power)

- Sports and Healthy Living Working Group to look at sport opportunities for children with ASN under 8 years old.
- School dinners – pupil council feedback worked well.
- Parent training sessions being organised for all special school parents.

East Neighbourhood Group (Simon Collins)

- Parking was still the main issue in the East Neighbourhood.
- St John's Primary had asked for feedback on the new school.

West Neighbourhood Group (Alison Bowyer and Gareth Oakley)

- Noted parents' appetite for Wisepay to be rolled out to all schools.
- BT communications were welcomed.
- Parent Councils sought the opportunity to share information city-wide.

Decision

- 1) To note the issues raised by the Groups.
- 2) To note that issues would be followed up through the Issues Log where appropriate.
- 3) To note that Head Teachers had been asked to monitor FM issues and that this would be discussed at HT meetings.
- 4) To note that Breakfast Clubs were currently being looked at.
- 5) To note that creative solutions were being looked at for outdoor space for schools.
- 6) To note that a further report would be presented on school meals for P1-3.
- 7) To note that Karen Prophet was leading work on the issue of supply teachers and that an update would be provided to the next meeting.
- 8) To note the ongoing discussions on CATS and that proposals to take this forward would hopefully be confirmed soon.
- 9) To note the good practice of obtaining feedback from School Pupil Councils on school meals.
- 10) To note that Billy MacIntyre had provided feedback to St John's Primary.

8. Report from National Parent Forum Representative

Tina Woolnough provided an update on the latest issues from the National Parent Forum.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To note that a Depute parent representative was needed for the NPF.

(Reference - [National Parent Forum Report May 2014](#).)

9. Report from Scottish Parent Teacher Council

Eileen Prior provided an update on the latest issues from the Scottish Parent Teacher Council.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To note thanks from the SPTC to Gillian Tee for speaking at its Conference in March.

(Reference - [Scottish Parent Teacher Council Report April 2014](#))

10. Dates of Future Meetings – Session 2014-15

Decision

To note the dates for future meetings of the Consultative Committee as follows:-

- Monday 8 September 2014 (6.30-8.30pm)
- Thursday 4 December 2014 (6.30-8.30pm)
- Thursday 26 February 2015 (6.30-8.30pm)
- Thursday 14 May 2015 (6.30-8.30pm)