

South Neighbourhood Group Meeting

St Thomas of Aquins High School

09 February 2015

Item 7.4

Chair: Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Officer

Minutes: Liz Leslie, Queensferry High School

Attendees:

Alex Ramage, Parent Council Rep, Prestonfield PS/Liberton HS
 Bryan Heaney, Parent Council Rep, St Peters RC Primary School
 Ed McCabe, Parent Council Rep, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Páirce
 Nicola Kehoe, HT St Marys RC PS
 Carol Cerdan, Parent Council Rep, James Gillespies PS
 Fiona Bradley, Parent Council Rep, St Mary's RC PS
 Craig Hilton, Parent Council Chair, South Morningside PS
 Charles Warlow, Parent Council Rep, Preston Street PS
 Amanda Bissett, Parent Council Rep, Gilmerton PS
 Cath Downie, Parent Council Chair, James Gillespie's HS
 Stephen Harrold, Parent Council Rep, Gracemount HS
 Claire Wheeler, Parent Council Rep, Sciennes PS
 Colin Duncan, Parent Council Rep, Tollcross PS
 Louise McSorley, Parent Council Chair, Prestonfield PS
 Lucy Blackburn, Parent Council Rep, Liberton Primary School

1.	<u>Apologies:</u>	Action
	Joanne Thin, PC Rep, St Thomas of Aquins RC HS Samantha Anderson, PC Rep, St Thomas of Aquins RC HS Paul Preacher, PC Chair, Holy Cross Primary School	
2.	<u>Minutes of Previous Meeting/Matters Arising</u>	
	Page 1 Agreed Page 2 Graeme Smith has produced School Website Guidelines (access at http://orb.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolsontheweb . Parents can have access to this if they are involved in producing or updating the website but there must be a school administrator. Graeme has audited all school websites and produced red, amber and green information on their compliance with council policy and legislation. All HTs will get a report about their website. In answer to a query about Microsoft Student Advantage Scheme, it was confirmed that primary school pupils can be given email addresses for access (a school decision). Page 3 Agreed Page 4 Academic Service dates are sent to HTs	MW to send out guidelines
3.	<u>Directors Report – Moyra Highlighted Key Points from the Report</u>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Budget</u> – Lots of feedback was received about the budget proposals and there were many visits to the website and the budget planner. All feedback will be collated and used in the council budget meeting on 12th February. The intention is still to protect schools from any significant budget cuts. Alex reported back from CCwP – Karen Prophet gave a presentation on supply teachers availability and there was a presentation 1 plus 2 in primaries. Good feedback on the rollout of this and it is felt that it is helping raise attainment in English. Next CCwP will focus on School Meals/Property and Attainment. Peter Watten will attend. 2. <u>Child Protection Report</u> – the National Report on the Effectiveness of Child Protection Arrangements across Scotland (Nov 2014) highlighted three areas of good practice currently being used in 	

	<p>Edinburgh i.e. the Speak Up, Speak Out Campaign, the Electronic Inter-Agency Referrals and the Keeping Safe Booklets.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <u>Education Scotland Feedback about Education Services in Edinburgh</u> – The report was very positive about highlighted areas of commendation and areas for development. An additional sheet was handed out with the full details from the report for parent council chairs to share with parents. This can be sent electronically by contacting Moyra. 4. <u>Community Access to Schools</u> – now being managed on a neighbourhood basis and five hubs have been created. New CATS managers in place looking at both community access and the development of adult education. There is a useful policy document online. Moyra to ask for FAQ sheet to be resent. 5. <u>Free School Meals</u> – funding was received from the Scottish Government to accommodate all the building changes required to ensure all P1 – P3 receive FSM. Local feedback from South as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Introduction of new system has gone quite smoothly re the ordering o Timescales for lunch can be a bit disruptive o Issue of wastage o Some concerns over quality, process and healthiness of food from Preston Street PS 6. <u>First Minister Visits</u> – very successful 7. <u>Special Schools Partnership Working</u> trip to panto was an incredible undertaking but very well enjoyed and appreciated and funded. May become a regular event. 8. <u>Teen Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme)</u> – the availability of these courses is now increasing across the city. Details can be found on www.joininedinburgh.org. These complement the work done by Patti Santilices. 9. <u>Education, Children and Families Committee</u> – next meeting on 3rd March. Committee papers available online on 25th. 10. <u>Improving School Websites</u> – see above. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Vision For Schools</u></p> <p>This is a regular item of reporting to the council</p> <p>Moyra distributed a sheet outlining what is currently being done under each vision heading and asked for feedback from parent councils on what they feel is working well and what areas need development.</p> <p>Initial comments from around the table were as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years 600 hours now in place • Early years collaborative has additional funding available • Schools are very good at increasing pupil confidence • Basic literacy is good and works effectively – a report on literacy will be going to committee in March • Sciennes PS highlighted that they had been trying to get parents trained as facilitators on the Growing Confidence programme but the courses were cancelled • More meaningful consultation with pupils taking place • Gillespie's PS are recruiting a new HT and have asked P7 pupils for their input. Their feedback will be used to inform a questionnaire for parents. Carol will share survey details with group. Other schools involve the pupil council and seek the views of the wider school community • More joined up approach to leadership is needed • Achieving 2 hours of PE is good • Lack of consistency in funding and resource both capital and revenue. Liberton HS and PS feel there has been a lack of investment and they have been abandoned in terms of funding. 	

	<p>Waiting to hear if wave 4 funding will be available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicola shared current best practice amongst HTs where they meet to discuss issues as a cluster but also in quality improvement groups which have proved very useful. There is also a "Chewing the Fat" session where HTs choose a theme to discuss and go along after school if they so wish. Schools are more focussed on making pupils more prepared for work. Prestonfield PS held a careers fair which was put on the council website as an example of good practice. 	
5.	<p><u>Property and Facilities Management/School Meals</u> Property and Meal issues have been sent to Peter Watten</p>	
6.	<p><u>Better Relationships Policy</u> The policy was sent out to schools and parent councils for feedback. Moyra thanked all the parent councils for their responses. All the information is being collated and any changes required being made to provide an updated version in the Spring. It was felt that a leaflet by parents would be useful and a working group of parents has been set up to look at this.</p> <p>Carol Cerdan at Gillespie's PS is a member of Parents park who run workshops for parents on topics such as emotional wellbeing and restorative practice. She thanked Moyra for helping move this venture forward and will keep the group informed of events.</p>	<p>MW will send out updated copy when complete</p> <p>CC will keep group informed</p>
7.	<p><u>Budget Cuts</u> JGPS PC Chair asked for this to be raised as he felt that there was a lack of transparency but of those who attended the budget planning process thought that it worked very well and was very informative.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Rising Rolls</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the last presentation by Crawford McGhie, he stated that there would be a follow up meeting in February. MW will ask for more information. Would like to see Rising Rolls and LDP reporting working together for better forward planning Moyra will circulate the Educational Benefits Statement which links Rising Rolls and LDP The group were very happy liaising with Crawford and Robbie as they felt that they listened and consulted with the group very well. 	<p>MW to get info from CM.</p> <p>MW to circulate</p>
9.	<p><u>Recruitment</u> Query re recruiting part time HTs. Would need to look at operational issues. Also a query as to why teaching staff can include holidays in their notice period and could they be tied in to an academic term. Moyra will refer both of these issues to HR.</p>	<p>MW to refer to HR</p>
10.	<p><u>Playground Developments</u> Margaret Westwood has already been meeting with a number of schools about playground development. It was agreed to organise a meeting specifically about playgrounds to which Margaret will be invited. Moyra will ask her to get in touch with the group to arrange a date.</p>	<p>MW to contact MW</p>
11.	<p><u>Localities</u> Sue Bruce presented a report to council called Organise to Deliver which proposed dividing the council area into 4 localities which would all have hubs which would provide local services. Parent Councils will be involved in the consultation process. Proposals are on the website.</p>	<p>PC Chairs to update parents on proposals and respond to</p>

		consultation
12.	<p><u>Appointment of Parent Rep to Education, Children and Families Committee</u></p> <p>New appointee required for session 2015/16 CCwP members will be asked to nominate candidates and there will be a ballot at CCwP should there be more than one nomination. Alex Ramage agreed to attend CCwP as primary rep and Stephen Harrold will attend for secondaries.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Issues</u></p> <p><u>Named Person</u> Following media reports – parents would like to know who the Named Person is for Edinburgh Pupils. Moyra advised that the process for children in Edinburgh has always had a named person i.e. Midwife – Heath Visitor, Primary HT and Secondary HT. There is already a lot of good work going on between HTs and GIRFEC. In any child planning meeting the HT would be the named person or someone that they have delegated. Moyra will ask for an information sheet on this to be sent to parent councils.</p> <p><u>School Streets Pilot</u> Sciennes PS have concerns over the effectiveness of the project as certain vehicles are to be exempt and no barriers or cones will be put up across the road. Alex Ramage asked for information to be provided on how schools can get on to the next phase of the project. Moyra will report back to the next meeting. The rollout of the 20mph zone across the city should make a big difference.</p> <p>Gilmerton PS are working with the community policeman and Parksmart to deal with parking problems and planning of running as a cluster. Lots of good information on line on parking initiatives.</p>	<p>MW to action</p> <p>MW to discuss with C Burnett</p>
14.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Tollcross PS asked about placements in relation to out of catchment additional support needs and getting a place in an inclusion unit. Moyra explained the process i.e. a twin track process of out of catchment application and applying for the inclusion unit separately.</p> <p>School Term Dates – surveymonkey to be sent out to parents and staff with a closing date of 28th February</p> <p>Craig to circulate information on parent councils gaining charitable status</p>	<p>CH to send out</p>
	<p><u>Next Meeting</u> Wednesday 6 May 2015 at St Thomas HS</p>	