

South Neighbourhood Group Meeting

St Thomas of Aquins High School

06 May 2015

Chair: Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager

Minutes: Liz Leslie, Queensferry High School

Attendees:

Alex Ramage, Parent Council Rep, Prestonfield PS/Liberton HS
 Bryan Heaney, Parent Council Rep, St Peters RC PS
 Carol Cerdan, Parent Council Rep, James Gillespies PS
 Craig Hilton, Parent Council Chair, South Morningside PS
 Amanda Bissett, Parent Council Rep, Gilmerton PS
 Cath Downie, Parent Council Chair, James Gillespie's HS
 Stephen Harrold, Parent Council Rep, Gracemount HS
 Louise McSorley, Parent Council Chair, Prestonfield PS
 Kathleen Nazarian, HT, ST Peters RC PS
 Fiona McNeill, Parent Council Rep, Taobh na Pairce
 Richard Darke, Parent Council Chair, Gracemount PS
 Jacqueline Whymark, Parent Council Chair, Boroughmuir HS
 David Dempster, HT, Boroughmuir HS

1./2	<u>Welcome/Apologies:</u>	Action
	Moyra Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Austin Flynn, Parent Council Rep, St Thomas of Aquins RC HS.	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting/Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Page 1 Agreed – all paperwork sent out Page 2 Agreed Page 3 Point 6 – Change to Better Relationships Procedure. Fantastic feedback received from parents. Has now been collated and sent to Gillian Tee for sign off and will be implemented next year. Carol Cerdan and a parent working group have prepared a parent leaflet. Carol welcomed the chance to be involved in this project. There will be an overarching policy covering this procedure, exclusion and attendance which will come out for consultation before the end of the summer term. Page 3 Point 8 – MW will ask Crawford McGhie for more information on the follow up meeting and whether a further school will be built or not at Broomhills/Gilmerton Road. Page 3 Point 9 – HR still to reply. MW will follow up again. Teachers leaving during term time is an issue especially as they can use holidays as part of their notice period. Not all authorities allow this. James Gillespie's HS parent council has also written to HR about this but received no response. MW will refer this back to HR and Alex Ramage will raise it as an issue at CCwP. Page 3 Point 10 – Playground Development. James Gillespie's PS are now at a critical stage as they have sports development funding which needs to meet certain criteria. Need clarity about who to go to, how to get permission to build, being charged legal fees etc. MW will speak to Aileen Mclean and Billy McIntyre. As there are similar issues at Boroughmuir and Trinity, Alex will raise it at CCwP. Page 4 Point 12 – Appointment of Parent Rep to Education, Children and Families Committee. This will be voted on next Thursday at CCwP. We have one nomination from this group. Lindsay Law is standing down and Moyra expressed her gratitude for the work that Lindsay has done and it is tremendous to have a voting parent member on the Education, Children</p>	<p>LL to update minutes</p> <p>MW will send policy out for feedback in May MW to speak to CMc</p> <p>MW to follow up with HR</p> <p>AR to raise at CCwP</p> <p>MW to contact AMc and BMc</p> <p>AR to raise at CCwP</p>

	<p>and Families committee. The South Neighbourhood Group would like to note their thanks to Lindsay for all her hard work.</p> <p>Page 4 Point 13 School Streets – there was a query about enforceability and Moyra confirmed that it is enforceable whether the police are present or not. Will see how the first phase runs and what issues come up before they roll out second phase which will probably be next year.</p> <p>Page 4 Point 14 Craig sent information to Angie Arthur about gaining charitable status but hasn't been sent on to other chairs. Moyra will check. Carol Cerdan will also send a copy of a survey on playgrounds to Moyra to distribute to South Neighbourhood PCs</p>	<p>MW to get info sent out</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Directors Report – Moyra Highlighted Key Points from the Report</u></p> <p>1. <u>CCwP</u> – Alex was at the meeting and provided feedback. The presentation on attainment was specifically on senior school attainment and not primary. Attainment has increased in Edinburgh overall. There is a new benchmarking system (Insight) where each school is compared against a virtual school with similar parameters. David Dempster agreed that the results were better but results were not good across Scotland and National 3 and 4 level did not improve. He feels that the attainment pressure on pupils is immense. Attainment in numeracy is being looked at in both primary and secondary schools. The Insight system looks at attainment in literacy and numeracy, positive destinations, average total tariff scores and attainment versus deprivation. David would like there to be an analysis of the information from Insight to be provided as there was with STACs. Kathleen Nazarian advised that primaries are focussing on raising attainment in numeracy and maths and good strategies are in place and being rolled out. SEAL (Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning) is being used and there is quality CPD provision included in rollout. This forms part of primary school improvement plans.</p> <p>Both Head Teachers agreed that tables are not an overall view and parents should use them as part of a bigger picture of attainment in each school.</p> <p>In answer to a query as to why there is so much assessment, David advised that it is an SQA requirement. The government did write out for representation six months ago but very few head teachers wrote back. The following report to government contained the views of teachers, unions, universities and various other groups and there was a great amount of evidence about the amount and effect of assessment but there was no change as an end result. Attainment is now included in a new report called "Tackling Bureaucracy". HTs need to feedback to QIOs who in turn should raise it with Education Scotland to take to the SQA. Pressure needs to be kept up as this is an issue across all secondary schools. Alex to raise at CCwP.</p> <p>There was also a presentation from Peter Watten, Facilities Management. His team have whittled down the number of contractors used from 50+ to 3. There is now better management of these contractors and more accountability with better tracking in place which should lead to better service. Still early days but positive feedback and fast response. Prestonfield PS feel that since April work has been done well and problems identified to be resolved during the holidays.</p> <p>2. <u>Budget</u> – balanced but still more savings to be made 3. <u>Vision for Schools</u> – Report has gone through committee 4. <u>Education, Children and Families Committee</u> – Next meeting on 19 May, papers available online on 13 May 5. <u>Standards in Schools</u> – Kirkliston PS and Craigroyston HS highlighted</p>	<p>Issue of the amount of assessment to be raised at CCwP by AR</p>

	<p>6. <u>Third Party Working Group</u> – redesign of how funding works with voluntary partners. Information being gathered for report to committee.</p> <p>7. <u>Sports Hubs</u> – good news re funding. Information was requested about the active schools reorganisation. MW will contact Robin Yellowlees and Mel Coutts about the appointment of active school coordinators and the difference in school programmes being run termly or in 6 month blocks.</p> <p>8. <u>Placing In Schools</u> – Outwith catchment requests have been processed a month early (7 weeks before statutory deadline). This has meant that appeals have started earlier and will be completed before the school holidays. The strategic management of school placements for P1/S1 report went to council in March. Work has started on new primary school buildings. Billy McIntyre is to be asked to CCwP next week to talk about Rising Rolls, LDP and Wave 4 schools. Alex advised that there was a very small group of parents who hear appeals. Full training is given and more volunteers are really needed. Alex is happy to bring his wife along to explain what is required of the appeals panel. MW will put something out about this for next session. Committee Services are in charge of the appeals committees.</p> <p>9. <u>Towerbank Catchment Review</u> – not generally an alternative but more children really cannot be put on this site hence the option of catchment review. Consultation ongoing at present.</p> <p>10. <u>Defibrillators</u> – being rolled out to secondary schools. Very simple to use so no training is required.</p> <p>11. <u>Internet Day</u> – very good day</p> <p>12. <u>Early Years</u> – plans for more nursery provision and flexible care</p> <p>13. <u>Teacher Numbers</u> – additional funding to retain teachers. Recruitment drive underway.</p> <p>14. <u>Study Guides for New Nationals</u> – written by Tina Woolnough and have been very well received. Any feedback back to Tina.</p> <p>15. <u>Rosie Wilson</u> – very sad to see Rosie go. Fantastic work done with special schools. Ruth Hendery has been seconded from St Crispins.</p> <p>16. <u>Paralympics Event</u> – being arranged by Active Schools</p> <p>17. <u>Special Schools Update</u> – details about “Unsung Stories” and Rowanfield library.</p> <p>18. <u>Self-Directed Support</u> – this is for both pupils and adults</p> <p>19. <u>Future Meetings</u> – MW stressed that the dates of meetings are all linked so that the Neighbourhood meetings feed into the CCwP which in turn feeds into the Education, Children’s and Family Committee.</p>	<p>MW to contact RY/MC</p> <p>MW to send out information on appeals training for members next session</p> <p>Parents to reply to TW</p>
5.	<p><u>Equalities, Anti Bullying</u> There will be courses running for staff and parents. The training is aimed to help parent councils bring in hardly reached parents from all cultures. MW will have the dates and venues sent out to chairs.</p>	MW to send out details
6.	<p><u>Placements and Rising Rolls</u> This was dealt with under Directors Report.</p>	
7.	<p><u>PVG</u> This was added to the agenda by James Gillespie’s Primary School. They have been receiving contradictory information from Disclosure Scotland about what level is needed for people to run clubs. Moyra advised that the council stance is that anyone working with children should have a full PVG certificate or should get a scheme update if they have a full PVG from another organisation. South Morningside PS has information on their website about PVG. It is free for volunteers. There is a SPTC course on PVG. Any PVG is tracked and should circumstances change this information will come in to CEC.</p>	

8.	<p><u>Sharing Good Practice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Morningside – they have lots of clubs running after school but working with the head teacher, a number of hard to reach children who have no extra curricular activity and places in clubs were found. • Prestonfield PS – high proportion of Muslim parents. Ran a session with 5 different translators and talked about EAL, uniform, swimming and also about parent council events. As a result, a group of women ran an International Food Stall and Henna Tattoos at the school fair. This year they are doubling the food stall and doing Arabic calligraphy. Now contributing more to the life of the school, more interaction in the playground and they do come along to the parent council coffee mornings. • James Gillespie's HS – have moved into the new building but were quite astonished to find that the pupil toilets are unisex. Is this normal practice? David Dempster said that schools were left to decide what they would like. • Gracemount PS – conducted a school audit on how parents perceive the school. Business Manager was delighted and a shortlist of actions was prepared for the short, medium and long term e.g. signage a problem as visitors find it difficult to find the school. Very worthwhile exercise as it looked at the whole school including storage, windows etc. Should be done every 3 – 5 years. There was then a discussion of cleanliness in schools and in toilets in particular. Cleaners are only allowed to use certain cleaning chemicals in schools. In some schools there were reports of pupils not wanting to go to the toilet. MW/AR to take forward to CCwP. • Taob na Pairce – looking for information on after school clubs. Craig will circulate details of the Edinburgh Parent Council Network. Bruntsfield PS have very comprehensive information about after school clubs on their website and Kathleen Nazarian has information on how to set up clubs which she will pass to MW for circulation. • South Morningside PS – on moving to new site there are worries that there will be traffic issues and would like information on starting a walking bus. Advised to Contact Mark Simmonds at Road Safety officer and Sciennes PS. 	<p>MW/AR to take cleaning issue to CCwP</p> <p>MW/CH to circulate information</p>
9.	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Peters PS - Can you use vouchers to pay for after school clubs? No can only be used for registered care providers. • Gilmerton PS – Parking problems. Following the extension, there is no fencing and the pupils are coming straight out into a road with cars parked on both sides of street and cars blocking entrance. Advised to contact Mark Simmonds, community police and local councillors. MW will speak to Crawford McGhie re asset planning. • Gracemount PS – drainage issues. Business Manager should speak to facilities management in the first instance. 	<p>MW to speak to CMC</p>

14.	<u>AOB</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCwP Reps – Alex Ramage and Stephen Harrold confirmed that they would attend • Could the neighbourhood meetings be held in other schools? It was felt that St Thomas' was central and always very amenable. 	
	<u>Next Meeting – To Be Confirmed</u>	