

Wednesday 9 September 2015

Wester Hailes Community High School 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Chair: Sheila Paton, Senior Education Manager

Minutes: Liz Leslie, Boroughmuir High School

Present:

Alex Ramage, Parent Rep, Education, Children and Families Committee

Brian Jennings, Children and Families

Nancy Henderson, Children and Families

Rehana Shanks, Head Teacher, Dean Park Primary School

Lynne Watson, PC Chair, Dean Park Primary School

James Nicol, PC Chair, Nether Currie Primary School

Marion Milne, Balerno Community Council

Liz Carrie, PC Rep, Nether Currie Primary School

Catriona Luff, PC Rep, Firrhill High School

Apologies:

Lindsay Blakemore, Bonaly Primary School

1/2.	Sheila welcomed everyone to the meeting, chairing in the absence of Moyra Wilson and apologies were noted as above	Action
3.	<p><u>GIRFEC Working Group</u> Nancy Henderson and Brian Jennings were introduced. They will be coming to all the neighbourhood group meetings to ask for parent volunteers for a working group. By way of background, GIRFEC (getting it right for every child) was implemented in Edinburgh in 2008. At that time there were leaflets and information sessions made available to parents but lately they have been concentrating on providing information to staff groups and partner agencies. They now want to update and share information with parents and are asking parent councils to let them know of parents who might be interested in joining the working group. There will be three sessions, 2 before Christmas and one after, lasting a couple of hours each at a time to be agreed. They would like to start in October in order to have information ready for the introduction of the named person legislation being implemented next year. It would be good to have a mix of parents from primary and secondary school. PC chairs to circulate to parents and send names to Moyra Wilson to pass on.</p>	PC chairs to ask for volunteers and pass names to MW asap
4.	<p><u>Previous Minutes and Matters Arising</u> Page 1 – CCwP minutes not sent to Stephen Preston and James Nicol Page 1 – Catchment Reviews – Balerno HS roll is falling and desperately needs reviewed. Senior phase courses are being severely restricted due to numbers. Dean Park PS has been capped at lower level. To be raised at CCwP. Page 2 – Nether Currie after school club. Ongoing. No porta cabin so based in school but no access to kitchen etc. Page 2 – WHEC text books. All schools now have a very challenging budget and need to look at other online resources.</p>	MW to send details AR to take to CCwP
5.	<p><u>Directors Report</u> 1. <u>CCwP 14th May</u> Presentation from Crawford McGhie was interesting and it was good to see forward planning and capacity planning. Dave McKee's presentation was very useful re devices, how to use them to best effect and how to implement BYOD. Alex Ramage was elected to Education, Children and Families</p>	

	<p>Committee. He will attend all the neighbourhood meetings in this round to introduce himself and he provided his email information parentrep.edin@gmail.com</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <u>Exam Update</u> Very positive results but data not complete as results of vocational courses, post results service reviews and unsuppressed units not yet available. Full results tables not available until February. Points from this were that the figures are skewed because schools are offering a different number of subjects. At Balerno HS it was felt that students were stressed by having to choose more subjects. Liberton moved to 6 and this also caused concerns. Pupils can do highers over two years and timetables can be changed. There is no move as yet to standardise the number of subjects offered across the authority. Some schools have built in more community involvement and vocational courses to their timetables. 3. <u>Positive Destinations for School Leavers</u> Very positive as well and figures at highest rate ever. Unknowns have dropped from 20 to 8. The figure is not a ratio. Would be useful to know what the young people are actually doing and how we can help them. 4. <u>Literacy</u> Edinburgh is doing well and numeracy will be looked at next. 5. <u>Budget</u> Balanced for this year but more cuts are needed. Parents were asked if they would be happy to have the second CCwP meeting in November/December to be purely about the budget. This was agreed in principle but with the proviso that all parent council chairs are proactively encouraged to come and that proposals are sent out beforehand for review and discussion. 6. <u>Transformational Change</u> Proposals put forward to look at delivering more effective services and saving costs. Savings now standing at £150m to build in savings for investment. 7. <u>Children and Families Awards</u> Over 50 entries from Children and Families. Ceremony on September 28th. 8. <u>Play Day</u> Took place on 29th July. Great event and good fun. Well attended. 9. <u>Edinburgh Early Learning and Childcare Academy</u> Launched in August 2014 and the first group of modern apprentices have completed their first year. They are based in nursery classes, nursery schools and early years centres across the authority and receive training from Edinburgh College. Programme being developed to meet future needs of the workforce. 10. <u>Mentors in Violence Protection</u> First award ceremony has taken place with young mentors from Portobello, Craigroyston and Holyrood talking about the impact the programme is having on their schools and in developing them as leaders. 11. <u>Integrated Children's Service Board</u> Looking at improving support for children with mental health difficulties. 12. <u>Career Academy Scotland</u> Rebranding as Career Ready and they have a new website. All 23 high schools will be involved and each school will have at least 5 businesses linked to them over a two-year period. – have been sent out and are being well used by pupils and staff 13. <u>New Portobello High School</u> Topping out ceremony has taken place. On track to open in the Autumn of 2016. 	<p>Feedback to MW and info provided for meeting</p>
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6.	<p><u>Online Payments</u> Nothing further to report. The project is tied up with the IT contract and the national framework. To be raised at CCwP as schools currently using it would not want it to be removed and other schools have parents asking for it to be rolled out.</p>	AR to put on agenda for CCwP
7.	<p><u>Parent Representatives in Appeals Committee</u> Sheila asked the parent council representatives to ask their parents to consider joining the appeals panels for placement and exclusion appeals. Meetings can last for a couple of hours and are held during the day There are now very few parents volunteering but with more reps there would be less appeals for each to go to. Training is given. Any interested parties to email Moyra Wilson. Names go to the CCwP. Won't be asked to sit on appeals for own school. Appeals are heard in the city chambers.</p>	PC reps to get names to MW
8.	<p><u>Localities</u> Currently, there are 5 neighbourhood groups and special schools. Services are now to be based in 4 localities around high schools and their cluster primaries coterminous with police and health for service and support. Schools have moved to localities already. CCwP to be asked to agree to neighbourhoods changing to localities from the start of next year.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Foster Care Recruitment</u> Edinburgh is very short of foster carers and is very keen to recruit more. There are fees and allowances for every child which equates to a full time salary. Foster carers can request to be full-time, part-time or flexible and can request age ranges. It takes about 9 months to become a carer with preparation groups and training taking place at night and at weekends. MW will email more information and would ask parent council chairs to put out to parents.</p>	MW to send out information for PC chairs to circulate
10.	<p>Sharing Good Practice Nether Currie PS are working with the community centre to help with the refugee crisis. Emma McGlynn is the coordinator.</p> <p>Firrhill HS asked about websites. Graeme Smith CEC has done an audit of every school website and information was sent to HTs. WordPress has been promoted as easily updated and maintained. There are protocols to be followed and legal requirements. Schools using Facebook and twitter can link between. Schools should have a communication officer. Information</p>	

	available on the website.	
11.	<p><u>AOCB</u> December CCwP to have only budget on the agenda Wave 4 building – Balerno HS would like an idea of a date. No funding agreed and still out to consultation. Take forward to CCwP. Use of solar panels in new builds?</p>	<p>AR for CCwP Query with FM</p>