

## Special School Group Meeting

Thursday 17 September 2015

Item No. 7.5

**Pilrig Park School 6.30pm to 8.30pm**

**Chair:** Ruth Hendery

**Minutes:** Liz Leslie, Boroughmuir High School

**Present:**

Alistair Gall, Head of Special Schools and Young People  
 Alex Ramage, Education, Children and Families Committee Rep  
 Avril Elliott, PC Chair, Oaklands School  
 Susie Burr, PC Chair, Pilrig Park School  
 Sarah Kayambi, PC Rep, St Crispin's School  
 Ann Shearer, PC Rep, Woodlands School  
 Liz Power, PC Chair, Woodlands School  
 Susan Shipman, HT, Redhall School  
 Rachel Wood, PC Rep, Pilrig Park School  
 Colin Burrow, PC Rep, Redhall School  
 Kirsty Burrow, PC Chair, Prospect Bank School

1/2	<p><b><u>Welcome/Apologies:</u></b>                  Ruth welcomed everyone to the meeting which she was chairing in the absence of Moyra Wilson. Apologies from Mandy Shiel, Charlotte Chiswick and Braidburn PC.                  Alex Ramage introduced himself as the new parent rep on the Education, Children and Families Committee. He can be contacted at <a href="mailto:parentrep.edin@gmail.com">parentrep.edin@gmail.com</a></p>	Action
3.	<p><b><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</u></b>                  Page 1 – Points 1 – 3 Agreed</p> <p>Page 1 – Point 4 Ruth has prepared a paper for the meeting</p> <p>Page 2 – Sports Hub and Active Schools – MW has discussed this with Mel Coutts. AG to contact MW and send out information. St Crispin's has no clubs and Prospect Bank clubs are run by Edinburgh Leisure. It was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>Page 2 – Equalities. MW sent out information. Kirsty to get back to Ruth about engaging parents.</p> <p>Page 3 – Issue re OT's. Ruth has no further information on this. Martin Vallelly to be asked for an update which will be sent out to PC chairs.</p> <p>Page 3 – Issues re Playschemes. Kirsty had a meeting with Agnieta and she is keen to get feedback from parents about the play schemes</p> <p>Matters arising: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruth provided a report on Improvements in Performance. Some key points                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The report was the result of a review of standards, quality and improvement plans.</li> <li>○ Attainment is the key priority</li> <li>○ The data includes IEP targets, CfE levels, ASDAN and SQA results. ASDAN is not an SQA award and focusses more on life skills.</li> <li>○ SQA have now developed further awards in non-academic</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>AG to contact MW                  SB to send out link with lists of clubs.                  MW to get information on what is available for next meeting</p> <p>KB to get information to RH</p> <p>RH to get information from MV</p> <p>Parents to contact Agnieta</p>

	<p>subjects and there has been an increase in the range of subjects and levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Drummond pupils are coming to Pilrig Park for vocational courses and Braidburn and Oaklands are taking part in the Move programme</li> <li>o The information is based on 5 years' worth of data in the Standards, Quality Improvement Plan and each school should have this on their website</li> <li>o Special schools do have to look at more creative and dynamic ways of helping pupils achieve</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b><u>Directors Briefing - Key Points from the Report</u></b></p> <p><u>CCwP</u> – two presentations on rising rolls and ICT. It was noted that there are now fewer spaces in special schools and more pressure on the estate. Oaklands School finds communication using technology so important. Need to take positive steps to engage youngsters with technology. It was agreed that it would be useful to have sessions in school to help parents see how to use technology with their children.</p> <p><u>Positive Destinations</u> – almost all from special schools reach a positive destination. There are different measures but each child has a fully planned transition out of school.</p> <p><u>Transformational Change</u> – A report will be released tonight to go to the Finance and Resources committee. It can be accessed online. 2000 jobs are to go over 4 years with £126m to save. Various proposals will be put forward for reductions in service. There will be some impact on special schools with the proposed closure of Panmure to merge with Gorgie Mills. This will go out to public consultation. Need to improve services whilst saving money. Teaching staff will not be affected.</p> <p>The budget issue will be discussed at CCwP 24/11 and all parent councils are encouraged to participate and feedback issues from their parents.</p> <p><u>Questions arising from this were</u></p> <p>What is happening with the nursery nurse consultation? This is still moving on</p> <p>Why won't they increase council tax? This is set nationally and grant money would be reduced if it was increased locally.</p> <p>There are still efficiency savings to be made e.g. use of taxis. These will all be being scrutinised.</p> <p><u>Games at the Hub</u> – were special schools invited to this?</p> <p><u>Tenner Challenge</u> – well done to the three Oaklands pupils for winning this. There was also a Paolozzi award to a pupil from a special school.</p>	<p>PC chairs to attend budget meeting with feedback from parents</p> <p>MW to check with Mel Coutts</p>

5.	<p><b><u>Physical Contact Procedures</u></b>  Ruth produced a summary of the procedure that has been sent out to schools and key points are as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is recognised that there is more likelihood of physical contact in special schools.</li> <li>• It gives clear guidelines for staff on good practice.</li> <li>• Trying to codify good practice and procedure</li> <li>• It does include situations of one child with another</li> <li>• It provides for a respectful way of working and seeks to provide reassurance for staff, parents and pupils</li> <li>• Every procedure has links for staff that covers risk assessment and training</li> <li>• Parents are to be involved in any review of procedures</li> <li>• Report to go to Education, Children and Families Committee on 6/10. Papers will be online 30/9</li> <li>• Does it provide assistance for parents on how to do things properly? Suggested getting help from CAMHS and requesting manual handling training. Information from agencies can be provided. It was also suggested that it would be useful to invite agencies along to parents evenings. Susan to send out information on FEAST programme.</li> </ul>	AG/SB to send out information
6.	<p><b><u>Localities</u></b>  Information was given out about the change from neighbourhoods to localities. This will not affect special schools.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>Sharing Good Practice</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New HT for Pilrig Park – parent council involved in screening process and 2 sets of interviews. Council were very supportive and inclusive of parents.</li> <li>• Section 23 assessment – following meetings with Juliana Hearn, services are now in place. A carers assessment has been done and a trial family are in place for overnight foster care. It is very much appreciated.</li> <li>• St Crispin’s parent council will try and send a representative to these meetings but it won’t always be the same person. They are looking for a volunteer to help them with mapping places where you can change children, where to go for days out and activities and to share this information. It was suggested that a research student might take this on as a project.</li> <li>• Festival Theatre – will again be running relaxed performances of ballet and panto. Brunton Theatre are also going to be running relaxed performances.</li> <li>• Duke of Edinburgh Project – Prospect Bank having trouble finding a venue – Oaklands have a pool and Braidburn have special needs coaches where D of E volunteers come in and help with qualified staff.</li> <li>• Ruth drew attention to the document published by Angela Constance – draft National Framework for Scottish Education. It aims to encourage attainment in literacy and numeracy and raising standards. Value is being placed on children’s health and well-being including support for mental wellbeing and reviewing positive destinations. It was noted that there was nothing written specifically on standardised testing in P1, P4 and P7 for special schools.</li> </ul>	<p>RH to send out details.</p> <p>Ann to email Kirsty with details</p>

8.	<p><b><u>Issues</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woodburn School – the level of staffing of PSAs is a huge issue. There are none in any of the four senior classes where there are 10 children with varying degrees of need. Not all children who require one to one attention are receiving it. There are no staff to man the pupil support base, no independent travel or motor skills groups taking place. Teaching staff are doing PSA duties. Parents are questioning whether the level of support might be better in a main stream school. Ruth recognised the issue but with no budget and limited resources the number of PSAs cannot be increased. There are more complex needs now. It was agreed to take this issue to CCwP. The group felt that CCwP hadn't represented special schools before. Liz Power agreed to go as special schools' rep to the next meeting.</li> </ul>	AR to put on CCwP agenda. Liz power to attend as rep.
9.	<p><b><u>AOCB</u></b>  <b><u>GIRFEC Working Group</u></b>  Paperwork was handed out asking for parent volunteers. 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
	<p><b><u>Next Meeting</u></b>  Due to the budget meeting on 24/11, it may be that the next meeting on 25/11 will be brought forward. Date will be confirmed.</p>	MW to update