

South West Locality Meeting

Wednesday 27 January 2016

Tynecastle High School 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Chair: Maria Plant, Inclusion Officer

Minutes: Liz Leslie, Boroughmuir High School

Present:

Marion Milne, PC Rep Balerno/ Balerno Community Council
 Emma Anderson, PC Rep, Pentland Primary School
 Sheila Matthews, PC Rep, Pentland Primary School
 Sue Bellis, PC Rep, Oxfangs Primary School
 Hazel Kinnear, HT, Tynecastle High School
 Matthew Fleming, PC Rep, Balgreen Primary School
 Eleanor Mitchell, Co-Chair, Currie Community High School
 Sue McKendrick, PC Chair, Tynecastle High School
 Sally Houston, HT, Currie Primary School

Apologies:

Anna Hazel, HT, Nether Currie Primary School
 James Nicol, PC Chair, Nether Currie Primary School
 Jackie Smith, PC Chair, Wester Hailes Community High School
 Lindsay Blakemore, PC Chair, Bonaly Primary School

1.	Maria welcomed everyone to the meeting which is the first one as a locality. Maria advised that she would be sharing the chair of these meetings with Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager. Apologies were noted as above.	Action
2.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p>Page 1 – Sheila Matthews asked for her designation to be changed from PC Chair to PC Rep.</p> <p>Page 2 – Paragraph 6, last point – amend to read “Pentland PS – pupils from the pupil council are now asked to come along to the parent council meetings”.</p> <p>Page 2 – CCwP – Maria advised that they would need a primary and secondary rep from this locality to attend CCwP.</p> <p>Page 2 – Point 7 - Issues – Crawford McGhie attended a meeting arranged by the cluster HTs and parent councils. They discussed catchment boundaries relating to Newmills which would affect Dean Park PS and at the possible redrawing of lines around Nether Currie/Currie. More information is still to come out about developments in this area and another meeting will be arranged when this has been received.</p> <p>Page 2 – AOB – Point 3 – the Parental Award was discussed but not taken forward.</p>	<p>LL to update minutes</p> <p>Names to MW asap</p> <p>MW to ask CM for feedback following meeting</p>
3.	<p>Directors Report – Maria highlighted some of key points as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget update – a record level of responses was received during the budget consultation process. Maria advised that all the papers on the final budget decisions and the impact on services were on the council website and an abridged version will be sent out to all Edinburgh citizens. • Short-Life Working Group: Admissions and Appeals – a rigorous review of the process has been undertaken. An updated Admissions policy and procedure will be available on the website from 1 March. Grants, Awards and Placements are currently processing the out of catchment requests. Numbers are similar to last year. The appeals 	

panels are still looking for volunteers. PC chairs to ask parent body to get in touch with Moyra Wilson or Maria Plant if they are interested.

- Rising Rolls – Currie and Nether Currie PS have seen a large rise in the number of P7s this year. The increase will have an impact on secondary schools. There is currently capacity in Currie, Balerno and Tynecastle High Schools and they are looking to extending capacity in Firrhill HS. There is more of a trend for pupils to stay on at school past S4 or to stay on and mix school and college courses. There was a discussion on career advice and development in school. Modern apprenticeships are sent out to schools and careers advisors. Schools are developing partnerships with businesses resulting in business expertise and sponsorship coming in to school and work experience becoming available.
- Additional Support Needs: Update 2015 – large increase in the number of children with additional support needs. The aim is to get additional support in mainstream schools to support children's needs under GIRFEC.
- Annual Review of Services for Looked After Children – currently there are 95 children across the city (one third of Looked After Children) with attendance problems which is a manageable number. Educational Welfare Officers are there to support schools. This locality is very good at tracking and monitoring attendance and working in partnership with other agencies.
- Third party grants – in answer to a query about this, Maria advised that third party grants are sums of money given by the council to outside agencies to carry out work/projects with Children and Families.
- Corporate Parenting Member/Officer Working Group – looking at ways to improve the attendance and attainment of looked after children
- Sub Committee on Standards – Tynecastle nursery is mentioned following an exemplary report. It is a fantastic building with great facilities. The children have a superb outdoor learning area.
- Positive destinations – Tynecastle HS is at around 91.8%. The data is collected over a two week period by phone and strategies are put in place to help leavers with a negative destination. Structured gap years and volunteering with a recognised organisation counts as positive. It was noted that it felt incorrect that being pregnant was recorded as a negative destination. There was a general discussion around careers advice and development in schools. Skills Development Scotland have the World of Work programme and Skills for Life is introduced from nursery onwards. Currie PS P7's are working on STEM projects with Heriot-Watt University. Some parents felt that careers advice didn't work for everyone and that more support is needed for pupils who don't know what they want to do and that schools need to engage more with parents to inform them of what is available. There has been a huge move away from the expectation of a job for life and schools are endeavouring to provide pupils with transferable skills.
- Edinburgh Confucius Classroom voted best in the world – the Confucius Hub is based at Leith Academy. Recently the Head Teacher and QIO were invited to China to receive an award. They had an amazing experience.
- Health and Wellbeing Team – Patti Santelices and her team have run many train the trainer courses for the parenting programmes that are being rolled out across schools. These courses are now well established in both primary and secondary schools.

4.	<p><u>Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentland PS – Impact on P4 on swimming provision. 3 sessions have been missed already due to no teachers available. Is this a problem in general or just with Pentland? Maria will contact Robin Yellowlees about this and email Sheila. 	MP to contact RY and advise outcome
6.	<p><u>Sharing Good Practice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currie CHS – 50th anniversary is on 9th February and looking for ideas. Suggestions – get any old/archived documents from school or former pupils, send out Facebook message to contact people and put information on local schools and community council websites, hold an open day, have a lessons from 50 years ago day. 	
8.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive destinations – are there any cross city careers fairs available? Yes, one is held at the Corn Exchange and one at Ingliston. Maria will get the details and send on. Clusters also arrange events and some parent councils arrange careers fairs. Currie PS encourages parents to come into school and talk about or use their skills and to engage in the process of developing the curriculum • Issues with Computing courses – not technical enough and no programming or hardware input. Specialist skills are missing. Maria advised parents to take this up with their Head Teacher in the first instance. 	<p>MP to contact Joyce Rochford or Monica Hoenigmann for information and send out.</p> <p>PC reps to speak to HTs</p>
	Next Meeting - Wednesday 11 th May at Firrhill High School	