

North East Locality Group Meeting

Wednesday 3rd February 2016

Leith Academy 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Chair: Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager

Minutes: Liz Leslie, Boroughmuir High School

Present:

Lorraine Legrix, HT, Holy Rood High School
 Kevin Brack, HT, Brunstane Primary School
 Gordon Kaye, PC Chair, Royal High Primary School
 Norma Prentice, HT, Castlebrae Community High School
 Anna Bowman, PC Chair, Leith Academy
 David Sterratt, PC Chair, Drummond Community High School
 Tracey Reynolds, PC Chair, Craigentenny Primary School
 Liz Creelie, PC Chair, Parsons Green Primary School

Apologies:

Jen Shepherd, Leith Primary School Parent Council
 Ian Johnston, Duddingston Primary School
 Willie French, Royal High Primary School

1.	<p>Welcome/Apologies: Moyra welcomed everyone to the first meeting as the North East Locality and apologies were noted as above.</p>	Action	c
2.	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</u> There were two sets of minutes to review as the new locality was formed from two previous neighbourhood groups.</p> <p>East Neighbourhood Minutes: Minutes were agreed with no amendments</p> <p>North Neighbourhood Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Page 1 – a number of names were received to sit on the appeals panels from parent councils and open day. These names will now go through a interviewing process. - Page 1 – feedback on the question of schools asking for money from pupils for practical subjects. Departments are given a basic per capita budget for core resources for the curriculum. If there are departments that need extra funds to do more creative or imaginative curricular work, they can ask for a pupil contribution. This has to be done sensitively with respect to ability to pay and pupils will not be penalised for non-payment. The departments that are affected are usually the practical subjects such as HE, CDT and Art. In Drummond CHS it was felt that quality had been compromised by non-payment. A local councillor has been involved and a test case was discussed but the parent council have decided to focus on fundraising instead of lobbying. Norma Prentice advised that money (£30) is available to schools from the British Beef Council. - Page 2 – the parental engagement consultation on the budget took place at the City Chambers. The budget for the next year was approved at the end of January. All related papers are available on the council website. - Page 3 – Moyra spoke to Active Schools. Re the issues at Leith Academy, Anna Bowman is to email the details to Moyra Wilson. Moyra also had information on the question of Flora Stevenson PS using Broughton HS for after school clubs. She will contact Lindsay Law 	AB to email specific issues to MW. MW to contact	

	directly.	LL.	
3.	<p><u>Directors Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report has been prepared by Alistair Gaw who is now Acting director following the retiral of Gillian Tee. • The Education, Children and Families Committee met in December and the report highlights the following: - • Short life Working Group: Admissions and Appeals. An updated Admissions Policy and Procedure will be available on the website. The policy reiterates that pupils must be resident in catchment for a place to be awarded. Having a sibling in school does not guarantee a place. In RC schools, priority will be given to catchment baptised Roman Catholics. There will still be reserved places for incoming catchment places. • Reserved Places – petition to reverse the decision on reserved places was not agreed. • Rising School Rolls -Billy McIntyre provided reports to the committee. Primary school rolls are continuing to rise. Secondary schools will see rises from 2017. Consultations have taken place with schools about accommodation issues. Parent councils should also access information on the Local Development Plans for their locality. All committee papers and rising rolls papers are available online. • Asset Management Plan – meeting taking place tonight about the gym hall at Leith PS. There will be a further asset management report available in May. • Additional Support Needs – strategy is to strengthen support for pupils in mainstream schools • Looked after and accommodated children – excellent work moving forward in this area. Work focussing on attainment and attendance of LAC pupils. • There will be an extra ordinary Education, Children and Families committee meeting on 11 February on 3rd party grants. A link to the report will be available. • Tynecastle nursery school got an excellent report. • Positive destinations – excellent figures. Looking at sustainable destinations. Skills Development Scotland work very well in partnership with schools on positive destinations. • Congratulations to Leith Academy on the success of the Confucius Hub. • St Crispin’s after school club was mentioned following a very successful unannounced inspection. • Moyra explained that the Leaders Award was for the service provided by the Family Group Decision Making service for their solution focussed work with wider family groups. • A number of schools and groups were noted for their success in a range of awards. • Relaxed Pantomime – this was a fantastic annual event for pupils in special schools • Overall a very positive report 		
4.	<p><u>Placement FAQ’s</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These have been sent out to parent council chairs • They are predominantly for primary schools • Moyra asked that the information be shared by parent chairs with all parents • Head teachers will share placement information with PC chairs • Pupils must be living in catchment by end of February for a 	PC chairs to distribute information	

	<p>guaranteed place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy will be strictly adhered to. • ASL needs are covered in all schools. Not all schools are readily adapted. Needs would be flagged up by early years' staff. • There is a statutory deadline for decisions on placing requests to be made by the end of April. 		
5.	<p><u>Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craigentenny PS – would like to know if the budget proposal to make pupils pay for music tuition will apply to those pupils who are studying certificated courses. Moyra will ask Linda Lees for clarification and get back to Tracey. 	MW to clarify with Linda Lees and email TR	
6.	<p><u>Good Practice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Sherratt from Drummond attended SPTC event on Including All Parents. It was very good. Parsons Green are going to hold Essentials 1 event. Moyra can circulate details if numbers are required. • Abbeyhill PS had the idea to hold very short PC meetings at 8.30am when kids are at the breakfast club. They discuss one topic at each meeting. • Parsons Green have started having morning meetings following an evening parent council meeting for parents who can't attend an evening event. • Moyra can circulate SPTC training information to parent councils but everyone should be on their mailing list. • Alison Bowyer, Craigmount HS is the new national parent forum rep. • Royal High PS – television appearances for the school choir, P3 performing To A Mouse and sports day. • Drummond pupils have a contemporary art exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery • A discussion took place about the benefits of a school twitter feed. Good way of getting information to parents. • Online payments – should be available from August 	MW to circulate SPTC event information	
13.	<p><u>AOCB</u> No other business</p>		
	<p><u>Next Meeting</u> Monday 16th May Portobello High School</p>		