

South East Locality Group Meeting
St Thomas of Aquins RC High School
Monday 08 February 2016

Chair: Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager

Minutes: Liz Leslie, Boroughmuir High School

Attendees:

Amanda Bissett, Parent Council Rep, Gilmerton PS
 Fiona McNeill, Parent Council Rep, Taobh na Pairce
 Brenda Ann Cochrane, PC Rep, St Thomas of Aquins RC HS
 Cath Downie, PC Rep, James Gillespie's HS
 Craig Hilton, PC Chair, South Morningside PS
 Bryan Heaney, PC Chair, St Peter's PS
 Damien Hayes, PC Chair, James Gillespie's PS
 Stephen Harrold, PC Chair, Gracemount HS
 Kristel Torokoff, PC Rep, Sciennes PS

Apologies:

Alex Ramage, PC Rep, Prestonfield PS/Parent Rep Education, Children and Families Committee
 Austin Flynn, PC Rep, St Thomas of Aquins RC HS
 Jacqui Whymark, PC Chair, Boroughmuir High School

1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies:</u>	Action
2.	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting/Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Page 1 Online payments – due to be rolled out in August 2016 Page 2 School Streets – no further update Page 3 Playgrounds - for information about playground development in both PPI and non PPI schools parent councils should contact Margaret Westwood on Margaret.westwood@edinburgh.gov.uk Page 3 Outlook appointments – not progressing at the moment. MW will ask Angie Arthur to send out the link for school holidays to download on iPhones</p>	AA to send out link
3.	<p><u>Directors Report</u></p> <p>The report has been prepared by Alistair Gaw who is now Acting director following the retiral of Gillian Tee.</p> <p>The budget consultation was completed and was presented to the full council on 21st January. The decisions and all the papers are online.</p> <p>The Education, Children and Families Committee met in December and thirteen reports were put forward as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short life Working Group: Admissions and Appeals. The group has prepared a revised admissions policy to go to the next meeting. 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 families moving into catchment when available. Progress report to go to March committee. • Reserved Places – petition to reverse the decision on reserved places was not agreed. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 – ongoing review of assets. Further LDP papers looking at 2017 onwards will be put forward to committee between March and May. Stephen and Amanda advised that the LDP2 meeting with Crawford McGhie has still not taken place. MW to contact him again. • Additional Support Needs – strategy is to strengthen support for pupils in mainstream schools. Priorities for future development have been approved. • 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. Organisations bid to the council for grants to work with them. There are less grants available. A link to the report will be available. • Corporate parenting – there was an update on actions to improve attainment and attendance for looked after children as well housing and community benefits for these children. • Tynecastle nursery school got an excellent report. The facilities at this nursery are fantastic. • 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 with lots going on across the department. Schools should remember to update information on events and successes on the Bright Futures blog. 	<p>PC Chairs to advise parents of any updates</p> <p>MW to contact CMcG</p> <p>Schools/PC’s to update blog</p>
4	<p><u>Placement FAQs</u></p> <p>MW has sent this document to all parent council chairs, elected members and it is available on the website. Chairs are asked to share this information with the wider parent community. Schools should note that reserved places for families moving into a catchment area will stay, 1 per class in primary (2 in team teaching situations) and 1 per stage in secondary. No account will be taken of current nursery/childcare provision or siblings in school already in placement decisions. Very few out of catchment places will be available. Parents are encouraged to attend the open days at their local catchment school in November.</p> <p>Stephen Harrold advised that he had applied to sit on the appeals panel. Names can still be taken to join the appeals panels.</p>	<p>PC Chairs to share information</p> <p>Names to MW for appeals panel.</p>
5	<p><u>Issues</u></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gilmerton PS – 254 of the 440 pupils are housed in unsecure buildings. The buzzer entry system and the main door are not working. The alarm can't be activated. They were told that there would be a 2 – 3 week turnaround to address these issues. The local councillor and the head teacher have emailed to try and move these issues forward as it is not acceptable especially in the current climate. MW will send an email to Billy McIntyre and Peter Watten to make them aware of this issue. Taobh na Pairce - ongoing staffing issues. The parent council are working with the school to look at ways of attracting and retaining staff. Would like to have the policy of allowing teachers to leave school during term time revisited. This has been raised before and it would involve a national renegotiation of teacher's contracts with all the teaching unions. There is a recruitment drive ongoing but it is appreciated that Taobh na Pairce is more difficult to recruit for as it needs Gaelic speaking teachers. There has been a change in the numbers of teachers staying on in the profession and the supply list diminished when the two tier level of pay was introduced. St Thomas Of Aquins RC HS – the parent council are trying to support the school and the senior management team in light of some recent negative feedback. Some difficulties had been encountered at recent meetings. There was a letter went out from Waverley Court to parents which was helpful. There was good feedback from the other parent council chairs about managing meetings, having a code of conduct for meetings, specific time slots for discussions on topics, a review of the constitution and finding positive things to focus on or run supportive engagement sessions. MW will speak to the team at HQ who are working with the school and ask them to take this forward. St Peter's RC PS – Is there any policy on parent volunteers requiring PVG. Yes, they all do. Free training is available on this from SPTA and the PVG is free to volunteers. (Not free for students.). No-one should be working in a school without a PVG. Sciennes PS – the parent council runs many after school clubs and would like the use of classrooms. The HT can agree school lets up until 6pm and then the applications have to go through school lets. Teachers do not have to give up their classrooms after school as it is their working space. Could look at using public libraries or church halls. South Morningside PS – when planning for their summer fair, they were asked about the risk assessment for allowing the general public access to school. There was a debate about this and how it could be managed by trying to sell all tickets via school and not on the door or insisting that all attendees must have a child with them. It was suggested that there be only one group, a working group for the new school. CMcG and BM were to arrange a meeting of all affected schools and Sciennes would also like to be included. As a group, the issue of music tuition provision is also a concern as to how it is being allocated. St Peter's are investigating and will email outcome. MW will contact Linda Lees. It was felt that more consultation would be useful before any proposed changes are looked at for next financial year. The last two points to be carried forward. 	<p>MW to contact BM/PW</p> <p>MW to advise senior team at centre</p> <p>MW to forward to C McGhee</p> <p>MW to contact Linda Lees</p> <p>AA c/f to next agenda for update</p>
6	<p>Good Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Morningside PS - have set up a communications group which have developed their website on WordPress. Any information going out automatically goes out on Facebook and twitter. They are 	

	<p>also looking at ways of retaining knowledge so that when parents leave there is a record of how things are done. Parents have been asked to email information on things that they run e.g. stalls, bbq. The information is collated on google documents and shared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sciennes PS – are considering using Mail Chimp as the parent reps are having difficulty managing all the communication that goes out. They have started taking all the information, collating it and sending out a summarised bulletin to reduce the number of emails. This is currently done by parent reps but could be replaced by Mail Chimp. 	
12.	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCWP Reps – Stephen Harrold and Brenda Anne Cochrane volunteered to attend along with Alex Ramage. Agenda setting meeting is on Wednesday at 3.30pm in Waverly Court (ask for Moyra at reception) and the meeting is on Thursday 25/2 at 6.30pm in the City Chambers 	
<p><u>Next Meeting – Monday 9 May at 6.30pm in St Thomas of Aquins HS</u></p>		