



Item 6.1 - Business bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 24 May 2016

Main Council Chamber, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener Councillor Paul Godzik</p> 	<p>Cllr Paul Godzik (Convener) Cllr Cathy Fullerton (Vice-Convener) Cllr Elaine Aitken Cllr Robert Aldridge Cllr Norma Austin Hart Cllr Stefan Tymkewycz Cllr Maureen Child Cllr Nick Cook Cllr Gavin Corbett Cllr Cammy Day Cllr Alex Lunn Cllr Michael Bridgman Cllr Allan Jackson Cllr David Key Cllr Richard Lewis Cllr Melanie Main Cllr Eric Milligan Cllr Vicki Redpath Cllr Keith Robson Cllr Jason Rust Cllr Andrew Burns (ex officio) Cllr Frank Ross (ex officio)</p>	<p>Morris Smith Senior Committee Officer Tel: 529 4227 Alasdair Oliphant Departmental Adviser to the Convener and the Vice-Convener Tel: 529 3294</p>
<p>Vice-Convener Councillor Cathy Fullerton</p> 	<p>For education items: Marie Allan (religious representative) Rev Thomas Coupar (religious representative) Allan Crosbie (teacher representative) Craig Duncan (religious representative) Alexander Ramage (parent representative) John Swinburne (teacher representative)</p>	

Edinburgh Schools Closures

The recent decision to close 17 Edinburgh schools – all of which were designed, constructed, and continue to be managed, by the Edinburgh Schools Partnership (ESP) - was deeply regrettable, but absolutely necessary in order to prioritise the safety of our pupils and staff.

Putting in place alternative arrangements for 7,600 primary and secondary pupils and 740 nursery children in just over a week presented a huge logistical challenge for everyone involved. The levels of collaborative working, commitment and dedication shown by colleagues cannot be emphasised enough, as all efforts were made to minimise the disruption to children's learning and care.

Regular communication has been provided to parents to keep them updated on the temporary arrangements and notify them of any further changes and developments. Similarly, elected members have been kept informed of arrangements for affected schools in their wards. A number of meetings have also taken place with Parent Council representatives.

A report from the Chief Executive was presented to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee on 17 May 2016. This provides an update on the background to this matter and details the current position and planned activities. The report also outlines the Council's intention to instruct an independent inquiry into this matter.

Sub-Committee on Standards

At this meeting on 7 March 2016, seven reports were discussed. Well done to the staff and parents from Queensferry Primary School and Nursery Class who received an exceptionally positive report.

BBC documentary – 'Educating Sir Tom'

Castleview Primary School featured in a recent BBC Scotland documentary, 'Educating Sir Tom', and provided a positive example of how schools are closing the attainment gap. Businessman and philanthropist, Sir Tom Hunter, asked how we can guarantee every child a world-class education and visited schools across Scotland to see why children from poorer backgrounds do worse, and what can be done to improve results.

Sir Tom visited Castleview Primary to interview staff and parents and was clearly impressed with what he learnt on his visit. Our thanks go to Lindsey Watt and her staff for showing our education service in such a positive light.

For the latest information on the temporary arrangements for PPP1 schools [Click here](#)

To read the report to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, [Click here](#)

To read the inspection report [Click here](#)

Royal Visit to Edinburgh Schools

In late February, three of our schools - St Catherine's RC Primary School, Wester Hailes Education Centre and Craigmount High School - all had a very special visitor, HRH The Duchess of Cambridge. The visits provided an opportunity for the Duchess to find out more about Place2Be (St Catherine's) and the Art Room Project at Wester Hailes Education Centre. The Duchess ended her day with a visit to Craigmount High School where she joined pupils from the school and their associated primary schools in a tennis coaching session with Judy Murray as part of the Tennis on the Road initiative. These visits were enjoyed by everyone and received widespread media coverage.

Two students were also given the opportunity to record their own news item for the BBC School Report initiative, including their own interview with the Duchess during her visit to Wester Hailes Education Centre.

Child Poverty Conference

A conference on 22 March 2016 at the Faith Mission looked in more detail at the work being done by the '1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty in Edinburgh' project. A key note speaker at the event was Naomi Eisenstadt, the Scottish Government's Independent Poverty Adviser.

The project has been taking place in five primary schools and one secondary school, and has involved working with staff, pupils and parents to raise awareness of the scale, causes and impacts of child poverty; challenge poverty-related stigma; and investigate what practical actions can be taken to lower the cost of the school day.

A report describing in more detail the work of the project is included in the committee papers.

LGBT Charter Mark Award

Every organisation has a responsibility to value diversity and promote good practice in terms of LGBT equality. Raising awareness and sending out positive messages to LGBT people and society serves to challenge discrimination and promotes a more inclusive society. Our sincere congratulations go to Communities and Families for successfully completing the LGBT Charter of Rights at Foundation level. This level is the overarching Charter Mark and demonstrates a very clear commitment from the Council to be LGBT inclusive. We are also the first Council in Scotland to have achieved this award, so well done to all those involved in taking this forward.

To view the news clip, [Click here](#)

For more information on the LGBT Charter of Rights [Click here](#)

John Byrne National Drawing Competition

An Edinburgh pupil has won the second annual John Byrne National Drawing Competition. From 4,000 entries, the winning piece (selected by John himself) was a drawing by a student from Hermitage Park Primary School. John presented the prize at an award ceremony on 18 March at the Paisley Museum and Art Gallery.

Two other Edinburgh students from South Morningside Primary and Tynecastle High School were amongst the runners-up.



Boroughmuir Win Scottish Young Consumers Competition

A team from Boroughmuir High School has clinched the title of Scotland's Young Consumers of the Year 2016. After a closely fought quiz competition held at the Scottish Parliament, Boroughmuir prevailed in the all important final round to lift the title and claim the coveted trophy. Boroughmuir will now represent Scotland at the UK Final, which is being held in London in June.



Defibrillators in all our Secondary Schools

Every secondary school in the city has now been equipped with a life-saving defibrillator. All 23 high schools now have one, as well as 10 special schools, making Edinburgh the first local authority in Scotland to equip all of its secondary schools with the vital kit.

The Council worked with the Scottish Ambulance Service, Resuscitation Council UK and British Heart Foundation on information and guidance for using the equipment.

The kit is easy to use and familiarisation sessions have been held to show staff how to use a defibrillator with more being planned. Trainer equipment is also now being circulated to allow staff and school pupils see and handle the equipment.

