

# NOTE OF MEETING

**MEETING OF:** Portobello High School Parent Council

**HELD AT:** Portobello High School – Library

**DATE:** 1 October 2012

**TIME:** 7:00 pm

**PRESENT:** Paul Smart (Chair), Peigi Macarthur (HT), Christine Swinney, Sue Davidson (Clerk), Emma Wood, Sheila Elliot, Sarah Morton, Tom Ballantine, Carole Tracey, Kathleen Bolt, Hazel Nicolson, Alison Holligan, Louise Kelly, Alison Anderson, Diane Drummond, Hazel Bett, Donald McGregor, Michael McTernan, Verity Brookes, Paul Saddler, Ann O’Hagan, Patricia Dunn, Gillian Dunn, Linsey Denham

**1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

PS welcomed those present. Apologies from Maureen Child, Liz Meikle, Alex Lunn, David Walker, Mike Bracewell, Juliet McArthur.

**2. Note of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of meeting held on 14 May 2012 were approved as correct. PM reported that her teaching colleagues passed on their thanks for the ‘wishlist’ items.

**3. Mentors in Violence - Prevention**

Graham Goulden presented an outline of the project currently running in school. It was suggested that this could form part of a future information evening for parents, along with the Alcolols project.

**4. Physical Condition of the School - Update**

- The Assembly Hall roof was badly damaged in the recent high winds resulting in the school closure until the area had been made safe. PS, on behalf of the Parent Council, voiced his support for this closure.
- In light of the delay in building a new school, CEC are revisiting the condition survey. PS reiterated the council’s duty of care to keep the school maintained.

**5. New School – Latest Developments**

Following the legal challenge preventing CEC going ahead with the build of a new PHS on Portobello Park, the council are currently considering all options and will publish their findings on 18 October, prior to full council meeting on 25 October. They are to take a twin-track approach, namely (1) Looking at options to challenge the legal ruling (2) revisiting sites previously considered. It was agreed by a vote of 18 (for) to 2 (against) that:-

Whilst we need to carefully view the forthcoming report of 18 October 2012, the Parent Council’s preferred option for a new school is Portobello Park. PS to draft letter to CEC, copied to relevant MSPs, to reflect this. It would be helpful to have an information sheet to distribute to the wider parent group

**ACTION**

**PS**

and the following volunteered to form a sub-group to action this: PS, TB, EW, MM, CT. The school website will also publish future developments on this.

**6. Financial Report and School Lottery**

Balance of £2343.95 in PC funds. £722 balance in Lottery funds.

**7. Exam Performance and Improvement Planning 2012/13**

Last year's exam results exceeded the previous 6 years in some areas, although one or two areas were disappointing. Concerns remain regarding the underperformance of boys. It was noted that PHS was in the top 5 CEC schools in numbers of students going on to university. Improvement planning will be addressed at next meeting due to time constraints.

**8. Events**

The cabaret fundraising event planned for 10 November is postponed until 22 February 2013 due to the Assembly Hall being out of action.

**10. Reflections on Parent Forum and Topics for Future Meetings**

To be discussed at future meeting due to time constraints.

**11. Any Other Business**

None reported.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

19 November 2012