

NOTE OF MEETING

MEETING OF: Portobello High School Parent Council

HELD AT: Portobello High School – Library

DATE: 12 March 2012

TIME: 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Paul Smart (Chair), Peigi Macarthur (HT), Allyson Dobson, Ann O'Hagan, Verity Brooks, Councillor Maureen Child, Tom Ballantine, Sue Davidson (Clerk), Liz Meikle, Carole Tracey, Alison Holligan, Kathleen Bolt, Katherine Taylor, Fiona Finlayson, Caroline Ferguson (pupil), Harry Smart (pupil)

ACTION

- 1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

PS welcomed those present. Apologies from Kenny MacAskill, Stefan Tymkewycz, Gary Peacock, Stephen Hawkins, Christine Swinney, Emma Wood, David Seaton, Sheila Elliot, Mike Bracewell, Linsey Denham.
- 2. Note of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of meeting held on 16 January 2012 were approved as correct.
- 3. New School – latest developments**

Lady Dorian upheld the Council's entitlement to appropriate part of Portobello Park for the construction of a new Portobello High School on 7 March 2012. Portobello Park Action Group (PPAG) has 21 days in which to lodge an appeal; if they do not do so, CEC will commence the build forthwith. A full copy of the court findings are accessible via the school website.
- 4. ICT Update**
 - IT Refresh: whilst some computers will be replaced, there will be a shortfall. The proposed refresh will update infrastructure rather than hardware ie increase in bandwidth, wireless accessibility, improved storage and messaging.
 - iPad Trial: teaching staff now have 44 iPads available to them, with CEC to provide 20 more. These are being well received and well used. CEC is not yet ready to launch the 1:1 initiative for pupils.
 - 'Support your Learner': portal now available on the school website
- 5. Curriculum for Excellence – National Qualifications update**

The final documents for this are to be published on 30 April 2012. Support notes have been published for individual subjects. It was noted that there has been a misleading interpretation of the recent EIS survey in press reports.
- 6. Religious Observance Policy and Opportunities**

PM circulated to the meeting a draft PHS religious observance policy statement which was discussed. Proposed opportunities for the six Religious Observance

events for pupils were shared and accepted in principle.

7. Events – March update; forward look

Recent fundraising events raised as follows: Fashion show £720; 'Swish' £720 and Cabaret approx £1450.

EW requested that dates for next session's fundraising events could be planned this year to avoid clashes. To be allocated at next PC meeting.

PM to provide updated wishlist for next PC meeting so that funds can be allocated before the end of the summer term.

PM

8. Financial Report & School Lottery

- Opening balance: £1521.84; £31.80 paid for liability insurance at the fashion show
- Lottery: 140 members, balance £723.24. FF will retire from the PC in July and a replacement is needed to take over the running of the lottery. FF to liaise with school to place a request on the website.

FF

9. Suggested Topics for Future Meetings

- Social media/cyber bullying (next meeting)
- Physical education
- Alcohol project (next meeting)
- 16+ choices and positive destinations
- Scotland & its people

10. Any Other Business

- The school has been successful in achieving its 5th green flag – the second awarded in Scotland and the first mainstream school. It has sustained this work for 10 years now.
- 6th year pupil Rosanna Warren has gained a Rotary Club school scholarship in Georgia for next year.
- In sport, the basketball teams are doing particularly well.

11. Date of Next Meeting

14 May 2012