

NOTE OF MEETING

MEETING OF: Portobello High School Parent Council

HELD AT: Portobello High School – Library

DATE: 11 March 2013

TIME: 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Paul Smart (Chair), Peigi MacArthur, Ann O'Hagan, Tom Ballantine, Christine Swinney, Sue Davidson, Carole Tracey, Emma Wood, Liz Meikle, Hazel Bett, Michael McTernan, Donald McGregor, Cllr Alex Lunn, Cllr Maureen Child (part), Gillian Dunn, Juliet MacArthur, David Seaton

ACTION

- 1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**
PS welcomed those present. Apologies from Mike Bracewell, Verity Brooks, Stefan Tymkewycz, Kenny MacAskill, Sheila Elliot, Keith Lynch
- 2. Note of last meeting and action points**
The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2013 were approved as correct.
- 3. Curriculum for Excellence - update**
PM informed the meeting that following a CfE information evening for parents of S1, S2 & S3 pupils, a copy of the presentation, points raised by parents and answers to them were sent to parents. It is felt that staff have worked extremely hard for over 3 years on CfE, already resulting in many benefits including higher quality transition from primary, added value for CVs, increased focus on literacy, numeracy and IT, greater variety of subjects on offer. Many staff are engaged in developing the curriculum at National Working Group /SQA level which enables information to feedback quickly into school.
- 4. Castlebrae - update**
The full CEC meeting on 14 March will debate whether to go ahead with the recommended closure of Castlebrae. In order to be prepared if this does go ahead, the Heads Teachers of PHS, Holyrood and Castlebrae hold regular planning meetings aiming to ensure successful integration.
- 5. 6th Year Common Room**
Concern was raised that the 6th year common room is currently unavailable to pupils. PM explained the problems which have contributed to the room becoming unworkable each time it is opened up and read out an explanatory letter to parents and pupils following its last closure. It is anticipated that open social areas in the new school design will provide an attractive space which will hopefully overcome such problems.

<p>6. Finances including school lottery and fund raising Opening balance £2,511.47 Income - Cabaret Night ≈ £1400 - Fashion Show £741.65 Grateful thanks were expressed to those who had made both fundraising events such a success. The departmental wishlist was presented and it was agreed to transfer £3,100 from the PC funds to contribute to the purchase of the items.</p>	CS
<p>7. CEC Vision for Schools PS outlined the vision which will shape how schools develop over the next five years and beyond. Information is outlined at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/visionforschools. Parents are urged to read and respond to this consultation by 22 March 2013.</p>	
<p>8. CEC Parental Engagement Strategy (PES) This draft is going to be finalised in the next 2 months - feedback is welcome either to PS, who will be feeding back comments, or direct to moyra.wilson@edinburgh.gov.uk. General observation was that there are a lot of good ideas here but the challenge will be to prioritise activity to make best use of resources.</p>	
<p>9. Feedback from CCwP & East Neighbourhood Group PS, as East Neighbourhood Group and CCwP representative, outlined this approach to parental involvement currently being trialled by CEC. Neighbourhood groups are larger than school cluster groups and promote discussion of issues not only at school level but at the overarching education department level. Reps from these groups then attend CCwP meetings. Papers relating to these meetings are available on CEC website.</p>	
<p>10. New School Update Results of the CEC consultation relating to a Private Bill being brought to the Scottish Parliament for permission to build a new PHS on Portobello Park will be published on the council's website at the end of the week and debated at the full council meeting on 14 March 2013. Suggestions for use of the existing site will also be published. Following publication, the new school subgroup will consider whether to organize a deputation to speak at the council meeting. It was agreed that the subgroup should take this forward.</p>	NSSG
<p>11 Issues for Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Housekeeping' item to be included in future agendas. PC attendees should email SD with questions/points to be discussed no later than 2 weeks before PC meetings. SD to email reminders. • 6th year choices: International Baccalaureate, internship experiences 	SD
<p>13 AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th year pupil Assad Khan is standing for youth parliament • The Modern Languages department's excellent website portal is gaining widespread merit, as exemplified by a recent email from Airdrie Academy who expressed their appreciation. 	PM

12. Date of Next Meeting

13 May 2013

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