

NOTE OF MEETING

MEETING OF: Portobello High School Parent Council & Parent Forum

HELD AT: Portobello High School – Library

DATE: 21 January 2013

TIME: 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Paul Smart (Chair), Peigi Macarthur (HT), Tom Ballantine, Christine Rogers, Sue Davidson (Clerk), Verity Brookes, Ann O’Hagan, Allyson Dobson, Emma Wood, Carole Tracey, Sheila Elliot, Liz Meikle, Sarah Morton, Louise Kelly, Heather Morrison, Kathleen Bolt, Hazel Nicolson, David Nicolson, David Simpson, Mary Kemball, Alison Holligan, Sharon Hogg, Graham Purnell, Lesley Forrester, Alistair Brown, Caroline Clark, Ian Schofield, Michael Marten, Gillian Sangster, Joanne Laurie, Peter Scott, Gary Wilson, Stephan Eisenhardt, Nicky MacDonald, Deji Bankole, Donald McGregor, Michael McTernan, Jan Bain, Keith Lynch, Diane Drummond, Patricia Dunn, Gillian Dunn, Carole Hain, Linsey Denham, Juliet Herron, Fiona Crosbie, Gillian Warren, Tim Warren, Ali Paterson, Jacquie Robertson, Andrew Johnstone, Jacqui Bogan, Andrew Brown, Neil Hardie, Gillian Eunson, Paul Cooke, Miranda Cooke, Hazel Bett, Paula Ormsby, Beth Turner, Donald Canavan, Jacqui Pestell, Joanna Hardy, Anne Elder, Giselle Dye, Sybil Bacica, Steve Bacica, Yvonne Longwill, Cathryn Thompson, Des Ferguson, David Seaton, Mike Watson, Kenny Brown, Charles Marriott, Councillor Alex Lunn. (77)

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

PS welcomed those present. Apologies from Mike Bracewell.

2. CEC Consultation on New High School – Parents Forum Discussion

The invitation to the Parents Forum to attend the first Parent Council (PC) meeting of the New Year was to provide an opportunity to discuss the consultation process at the first meeting after the consultation had been approved by City of Edinburgh Council (CEC). PS outlined the steps the PC had been taking to affirm its support for the new PHS to be built on Portobello Park. TB asked if anyone wanted to disagree with the approach taken by the PC to date other than views already expressed at earlier PC meeting. There was no disagreement expressed.

Any parents/carers who have not completed the CEC consultation form were urged to do so before the closing date of 31 January. PM reported that pupils have been encouraged at Assemblies to explore the issues and take part in the consultation process. There is a post box in school for completed responses.

A question/answer session and discussion followed.

ACTION

The PF were asked to vote on the following:-

- Going forward, should the Portobello High School PC support the CEC in pursuing the option of building a new PHS on Portobello Park?

Votes : 75 in favour, 2 against

- If a Private Bill is brought forward which would enable CEC to build a new Portobello High School in Portobello Park should the PC support the Private Bill including lobbying parliament and MSPs?

Votes: 75 in favour, 2 against

- Does the meeting support the idea of a polling day on the consultation within the school, without trying to influence the way pupils vote in the consultation?

Votes: 75 voted in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

PM to discuss feasibility and practicalities of a ballot with staff and the Council.

PM

Those members of the Parents Forum who did not wish to stay on to observe the Parent Council meeting left at this point.

3. Note of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meetings held on 1 October 2012 and 19 November 2012 were approved as correct.

4. Update on Senior School Curriculum Developments

AD presented to the meeting an update of the vocational and enhanced curriculum for S5/6 pupils. 90% of last year's school leavers have moved on to a 'positive destination', which represents a 2% improvement on the previous year and reverses the trend of other CEC schools. A further 8% are actively engaged in seeking employment.

5. Feedback from Chair & Vice Chair on Session with School Staff

PS and TB have met with staff for a development exercise and a summary of feedback was distributed at the PC meeting detailing parent and teacher expectations of each other. It was suggested that this be included in the parent handbook. Discussion followed on how the PC can assist some parents/carers who the school find difficult to engage and who may, at times, have diverse and extra needs. PM to consider with staff members and to be discussed at a future meeting.

PM

6. Review of PC Constitution

PS and TB to examine current PC constitution and present any recommendations for change to a future PC meeting to allow adoption of revised version at the start of the next academic year.

PS, TB

7. Castlebrae Update of Developments/Pupil Questionnaire Responses

PM reported that the CEC consultation on the proposed closure of Castlebrae

High School is now closed and the report will be published in February, prior to discussion at a full council meeting on 14 March. In the meantime, planning meetings have been held with Head Teachers and curriculum/pastoral care Deputies for those schools who would fall into the revised catchment area if the proposal goes ahead.

Much discussion has taken place within PHS to address any concerns current pupils may have, including the use of anonymous questionnaires, and pupils have been encouraged to express ideas to help potential new pupils settle and integrate.

8. Financial Report and School Lottery

Opening balance of £2510.95, closing balance of £2511.47 in PC funds.
Lottery report to be carried forward to next meeting.

10. AOB

- *Cabaret night* to be held on 22 February
Fashion Show to be held on 28 February. Tickets for both events can be purchased at the school office. Parents/carers are urged to support these two events – they are entertaining evenings and add greatly to school funds.
- *Wishlist* to be discussed at next meeting
- *School self-evaluation survey*. Parents/carers are urged to complete this CEC feedback survey. Those parents who have registered an email address at the school have been sent the link:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cfsurvey-parents>

12. Date of Next Meeting

11 March 2013