

NOTE OF MEETING

MEETING OF: Portobello High School Parent Council

HELD AT: Portobello High School – Library

DATE: 13 May 2013

TIME: 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Paul Smart (Chair), Peigi MacArthur, Ann O’Hagan, Michael Bracewell, Alison Fotheringham, Carole Skedd, Verity Brooks, Chris Aitken, Stuart Mackenzie, Tom Ballantine, Christine Swinney, Sue Davidson, Emma Wood, Carole Tracey, Liz Meikle, Sheila Elliot, Hazel Bett, Michael McTernan, Donald McGregor, Juliet MacArthur, Louise Kelly, Katherine Taylor, Patricia Dunn, Gillian Dunn, Alison Anderson, Alison Holligan, Diane Drummond, Daniel Kawalski, Cllr Maureen Child (part)

ACTION

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

PS welcomed those present. Apologies from Stefan Tymkewycz, Kenny MacAskill, David Seaton, Sarah Morton, Kathleen Bolt

2. Note of last meeting and action points

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2013 were approved as correct.

3. 16+ Positive Destinations

AF and CS outlined the range of cross-partner initiatives designed to ensure that all school leavers move to ‘positive destinations’. Websites of use are: theedinburghguarantee.co.uk; myworldofwork.co.uk; teenwork.co

4. ‘Edmodo’

CA and SM outlined recent pilots using Edmodo and social media as educational tools; the Learning & Teaching Working Group are working to roll this out further, including a parental connection. This led to a wider discussion about personal access to IT. MMcT offered to discuss opportunities with LTWG.

5. Science Baccalaureate at PHS

DK (6th year student) presented his recently completed International Baccalaureate Science project followed by a question and answer session.

6. Key Updates

- Castlebrae High School. The full council meeting voted to reject the annexation of Castlebrae. Those children who transferred to PHS in anticipation of Castlebrae’s closure are well settled.
- New School. The Private Bill is progressing through the Scottish

Parliament. There is an information meeting on 15 May at Portobello Town Hall with respect to the council's bid to renew planning permission for the school build on Portobello Park.

7. Housekeeping

- **Classes and teachers.** PM outlined the system for teacher absence. Cover is largely provided by supply teachers and organised/monitored by curriculum leaders, taking into account class needs.
- **Planning trips.** PM to look at issuing an advance timetable of all school trips to maximise planning for parents/carers and to ensure equity.
- **The S1 experience.** Management are revisiting the reporting system within the Curriculum for Excellence framework, recognising the parental desire for face-to-face meetings earlier in the session.
- **The S6 experience.** PM outlined the reasons behind the 6th year leaving date being brought forward this year. Due to time constraints, further discussion of S6 experience to be deferred to next meeting.

PM

8. Finances

- Balance of £1063.23. SD to donate £240 annual clerk fees to school funds.
- School Lottery: 104 members currently but numbers are falling. A recruitment drive is needed. To be discussed at next meeting. CT issued a cheque for £1,000 from lottery funds.

9. Feedback from CCwP and East Neighbourhood Group

Deferred for later meeting due to time constraints.

10. AOB

- TB to look at draft constitution for next meeting.
- PS noted his retirement from the PC. A new chairperson will be appointed at the AGM in September 2013. On behalf of the parent council/forum, TB expressed grateful thanks to Paul for his invaluable work both as a member and chair of the PC.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 2 September at 7pm.