

James Gillespie's High School Council AGM
6th October 2009
AGENDA

1. Attendance and apologies
 2. Minutes of previous AGM (2nd December 2008)
 3. Chair's Report
 4. Treasurer's Report and approval of accounts
 5. Selection of Officers: (all posts may be shared)
 - a) Chair
 - b) Vice Chair (s)
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Communications Officer
 - e) Others as appropriate(in addition, the Events Group nominates a representative to join the Officers Group)
 6. Appoint Auditor (s)
 7. One nominee to the JGHS Trust (the School Council has two members serving two year terms, alternating for election)
 8. Head Teacher's Report to AGM
 9. Any other business
- END OF AGM

7:30/7:45 – 9:00 p.m. SPECIAL SESSION – SCHOOL ESTATE REBUILD

- 1. Background and organising breakouts (15 min)**
- 2. Themed discussions in breakout groups (25 min)**
- 3. Breakout reports and whole-group discussion (25 min)**
- 4. Next steps/meetings (10 min)**

Breakout Themes (other ideas welcome)

- **environmental issues / energy use**
- **pupil involvement**
- **maintaining the campus feel / architectural design**
- **planning process**

James Gillespie's High School Rebuild

A primer

History

All the buildings at JGHS apart from Bruntsfield House were built in the 1970s and are now no longer fit for purpose (e.g., HMI). Staff, pupils and parents have been pushing for many years for something to be done. Initially we focussed on refurbishment, but as time has gone by and the buildings become more dilapidated, the focus has moved to renewal.

During 2007/8 JGHS was grouped with Portobello High, Boroughmuir High, St. Crispin's Special and St. Johns Primary in the "Wave 3" schools. In March 2009 the City Council prioritised amongst Wave 3. Portobello, as top priority, was funded for rebuild – this process is underway. JGHS, as second priority, was funded for redesign, with rebuild pending identification of a funding stream.

In June 2009, the Scottish Government announced that it planned to spend approximately £1.2 billion on renewal of school estates across Scotland. The City of Edinburgh submitted its priorities (with JGHS at the top, followed by Boroughmuir). We anticipate the Scottish Government will announce its decision on September 28th 2009.

Current Status

The City Council's process for the design of the new JGHS has begun, with the formation of a Project Board, including Alex Wallace (HT) and Neil McCallum (DHT). Neil is seconded 40% of his time to work on the rebuild process, and Alex is forming a staff focus group.

The City will pro-actively involve parents in the design at what it deems to be the appropriate stage. We expect to hold a meeting for parents to hear from the City Council about its plans and how it expects the design process to unfold, sometime in autumn 2009, date to be confirmed. By this time we will know if the Scottish Government will fund the rebuild.

October 6th Special Session on Rebuilding JGHS

At an initial meeting of interested parents on September 15th 2009, it was decided not to wait for the City to consult us, but to start our own discussions immediately. Hence the special session at the AGM on October 6th, with breakout groups discussing specific aspects of the rebuild and how we will engage with it. There are many opportunities to get involved, and parents with relevant experience and skills are especially encouraged. For example, but not limited to:

- Experience of building design
- Experience of building project execution (the actual building phase)
- Ideas and experience for involving parents and pupils in the design
- Ideas and experience for environmental and energy aspects
- Energy and commitment to work with the groups
- Time to visit other new schools/colleges for ideas

The Convenor of Children and Families at Edinburgh City Council has said she wants an "iconic building" at JGHS. Let's help make sure it's done so that staff and pupils find it an inspiring teaching/learning environment!

Lobbying

Lobby your MSP to persuade Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, that Edinburgh should be awarded funding. You can email Mike Pringle MSP, or a regional MSP – but this must be done before September 28th! Their contact information is available at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/msps/locate/con-esou.htm>