

Committee Minutes

Consultative Committee with Parents

Edinburgh, 2 November 2010

Elected Members Present:- Councillor Beckett, Councillor Rose, Councillor Godzik

Parent/School Members Present:- as detailed on the appendix to this minute

Apologies:- Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor MacLaren, Susan Edwards, Tracy Rendall, Gavin Corbett, Sally Smith, Willie French, Lesley Gibson-Eaglesham.

1 Order of Business

It was noted that Councillor Beckett would be chairing the meeting as Councillor MacLaren was unable to attend due to illness.

2 Minute of Meeting

The minute of meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 28 September 2010 was approved as a correct record.

3 Matters Arising

M Wilson, Neighbourhood Manager provided an update on the establishment of the Parental Engagement Working Group.

She explained that the Working Group comprised of, in addition to herself, 3 Head Teachers, 6 parent representatives, G Douglas and one other colleague from Children and Families.

A meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for 25 November 2010 at 4.30pm in Waverley Court. A letter on this would be circulated to all parent groups.

The Group welcomed the creation of the Parental Engagement Working Group.

Decision

To thank M Wilson and note the position.

4 Update by Convener and Director

The Director provided a short update on a range of issues involving Children and Families including achievements, budget, report back from Committee, class sizes and fostering in Edinburgh.

Referring to the Education, Children and Families Committee it was explained that Committee had agreed consultation on closure of two nurseries. The administration has been clear that no further Primary or Secondary Schools would be considered for closure in this administration.

Following discussion it was noted that the Children and Families Departmental Advice and Conciliation Service would be a very useful asset in the current financial climate.

Decision

To note that an update on the budgetary position would be provided at the next All Parent Council Chairs Revenue Budget meeting to be held on Wednesday 15 December 2010.

5 Community Access to Schools

M Rosendale provided a brief update on Community Access to Schools and the requirement to address the longstanding issue of variability of charges and accessibility for sport and leisure facilities in secondary schools.

The review had commenced in autumn 2008 and reported to the Education, Children and Families Committee in December 2009 with a further report in September 2010.

The proposal was for two management models to be brought forward for consideration by the Education, Children and Families Committee in January 2011.

The two models were not mutually exclusive and combinations of these may also be considered. He confirmed that supporting background information on the facilities available at each secondary school would be circulated to Committee as part of the report.

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It was recognised that the condition of premises available for let varied between schools. Potential costs of school lets had taken these into account. Edinburgh Leisure had themselves identified the schools whose lets they wanted to manage and promote through their marketing strategy.

The Group requested that the following points be taken into consideration;

- Ensure that facilities available at Community Schools were marketed within their local Community for community use;
- Ensure no loss of control by schools of the income stream raised from school lets, which tended to be redistributed to the support of other school activities ;
- Note concerns regarding the maintenance of school facilities should Edinburgh Leisure be given control of some lets; and
- Note concerns that Edinburgh Leisure may not have the incentive to hold community events and celebrations. The costs to host these events may be prohibitive to local organisations

Decisions

- (i) To agree that M Rosendale extend the consultation on lets to primary and special school head teachers, in addition to secondary school head teachers;
- (ii) To note that, should the Edinburgh Leisure model be approved by the Education, Children and Families Committee in January 2011, Edinburgh Leisure would have responsibility for decision making in terms of the five schools listed in the report. However, prioritisation of any lets should be carried out in partnership with the relevant head teachers;
- (iii) To note that the Edinburgh Leisure model applied to school sports facilities only; and
- (iv) To thank M Rosendale for his presentation

6 Draft Session Dates 2012/13

G Douglas circulated colour versions of the draft session dates.

He explained that following a recent meeting with both East and Mid Lothian Councils further possible changes to the session dates shown could be considered.

During discussion the Group requested clarity on the number of days per year children were in school.

Decisions

- (i) To note that the Council was meeting its statutory obligations under asymmetric timetabling;

- (ii) To agree that further information on asymmetric timetabling be brought to a meeting of the CCwP; and
- (iii) To agree that the two options for session dates 2012/13 be placed on FACE for consultation.

7 Placing in Schools Appeal Committee – Nominations

There was a request for a further one or two nominations on the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee, in addition to the five which had already come forward.

Decision

To note that no further nominations had come forward.

8 AOB – Parent Council Raised Issues

Decision

- (i) To agree that a report on asymmetric timetabling be brought to a future meeting of the CCwP, in addition to other organisational timetabling models; and
- (ii) To agree that a report on the Councils literacy, dyslexia and numeracy strategies be brought to a future meeting of the CCwP

9 Dates of Meetings

Decision

- (i) To note that the next meeting of the CCwP was an all Parent Council Chairs Revenue Budget meeting, to be held in Broughton High School on Wednesday 15 December 2010; and
- (ii) To agree that options on the type of meeting to be held on future dates be circulated to the Group. Comments on these to be returned to G Douglas, Children and Families.

Appendix

Parent/School Members Present

NAME	REPRESENTING
Donald Craigie	Dean Park Primary School
Mary Brownlee	Tynecastle High School
Jeanna Brady	Bruntsfield Primary School
Kevin O'Donnell	Trinity Academy
Rory Mackenzie	Balerno High School
Francis Barkey	Balerno High School
David Thomson	Currie Primary School
Ben Prochter	James Gillespie' Primary School
Andrea Bracher	Kaimes Special School
Gordon Chumbka	Broughton Primary School
Paul Iannetta	Holyrood High School
Stephan Eisenhardt	Craigtinny Primary School
Eileen Prior	SPTC
Anne Mooney	Braidburn School
Julie-Ann Sime	Tollcross Primary School
Karen Traill	Liberton High School
Iain McGilivray	Firrhill High School
Lesley Broadwood	Bonaly Primary School
Tina Woolnough	The Royal High
Gillian Tee	Children and Families
Mike Rosendale	Children and Families
Graham Douglas	Children and Families
Moyra Wilson	Children and Families
Christina Burnett	Children and Families