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From: **Jane Meagher** <Jane.Meagher@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Date: 17 March 2011 13:48

Subject: Message from Councillor Paul Godzik

To: Jane Meagher <Jane.Meagher@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Dear friend,

Principal Teacher proposals

As you are aware the current Lib Dem/SNP Council Administration pushed through a Council budget on 10th February which included a number of cuts to education in Edinburgh. I wanted to update you on this matter and ask for your support in scrutinising the Lib Dem/SNP plans within the Council.

I have become increasingly concerned at the discussions surrounding the Administration education proposals. One head teacher has suggested that the changes are "likely to result in the abandonment of Curriculum for Excellence in Edinburgh" while teaching union EIS are currently consulting on industrial action. It has also emerged that the Administration have set aside nearly £1million to pay-off experienced teachers and bursars.

For this reason I submitted an emergency motion at the Council's Education, Children & Families Committee requesting that this matter be fully scrutinised by the Committee, and that independent witnesses be invited to provide a view on the policy direction of the Council. I was disappointed that the Education Convenor refused to accept that this issue was an emergency. I personally feel that this is the most important issue facing our schools at this moment in time and I want the Committee to hear a full range of views before this policy is set.

The motion, which I have copied below, will now be heard on 10th June. I hope you will consider supporting this motion, and call for full scrutiny of the proposals. You can write to the Committee at committee.enquiry@edinburgh.gov.uk and local organisations such as Parent Councils can request to speak in support of the motion.

That the Committee notes recent budget decisions to reduce management costs in secondary schools. Committee further notes concerns expressed by Edinburgh Secondary Head Teachers' Association, EIS and others.

Therefore calls on the Committee to set aside time to scrutinise the implementation of these changes, allowing for internal and external witnesses to appear before the Committee to provide a view on these proposals, their timescale, savings targets, and any educational benefit

I hope you will be able to offer your support and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Cllr Paul Godzik

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