



South East Locality

Meeting Details			
Date of Meeting:	13 Sept 2018	Location:	St Thomas Aquin's RC High School 2-20 Chalmers St, Edinburgh EH3 9ES

Meeting Attendees Present	
Name:	Position Held:
Maria Plant	Senior Education Manager
Derek McNeil	Liberton High School
John Brownlee	Gracemount high School

Apologies Received	
Jacqueline Whymark	Boroughmuir High School
Alex Ramage	Parental representative to Education Children and Families Committee
Ailsa Macintosh	James Gillespie's High School

1.Introductions

Maria Plant (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.

Maria advised delegates that this is the first of 4 locality meetings. This will be followed by the CCwP meeting on 4 October. Maria suggested that any interested party approach her after the meeting or contact her by e mail.

2. National Parent Council Rep

Joanna Murphy (Chair NPFofS) advised delegates that the vacancy for a parent representative has arisen due to the resignation of Alison Boyer. Alison no longer has children in High Scholl education.

Joanna asked that anyone interested please contact her.
enquiries@nationalparentforumscotland.org.

Meetings are held 4/5 times per annum either in Edinburgh or Glasgow and any expenses are paid. Any help and/or support will be given to the new rep.

Joanna discussed that Role of the National Forum, explaining it was set up in 2009, its aim being to give the voice of parents to the Scottish Government and to remind policy makers are part of the partnership. The NPFofS was in fact involved in the preparation of the Scottish Governments Parental Engagement Strategy.

Joanna noted her willingness to come to any individual PC meeting and advised delegates that there are two NPFofS scheduled for 29 September and 24 November to which any PC rep may attend.

Derek McNeil asked Joanna if she was aware of any initiatives that have encouraged parental involvement as Liberton PC have funds to spend and would like to spend them in a way that will encourage involvement.

Joanna noted the example of a New York Community School which advised that for every meeting involving parents that food was offered and this had increased parental involvement.

An article in relation to this is available which Joanna will send in.

Derek also asked if funds raised by the PC be used for eg. Childcare or loss of earnings. Joanna advised that Glasgow PCs can and will do this but PCs must be clear what funds are being raised for.

Both delegates put forward ideas to encourage involvement including "European Football nights" for male relatives.

Joanna tabled booklets for delegates information and noted a further resource “Clicked” for parents regarding Social Media use is newly available.

John Brownlee Gracemount High School PC noted that he had been on Connect course at which he had been given a list of acronyms which he will put on the PC website.

Maria reminded delegates that training would be on offer from the NPFOF and encouraged attendance at their next meeting.

Maria Plant thanked Joanna for her excellent presentation and Joanna left the meeting.

3. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed.

Maria reminded delegates that following the Locality Meetings a CCwP meeting would be held and 3 from each locality could attend and this would be an excellent opportunity to share information.

The next CCwP is to be held on 4 October 2018.

4. Edinburgh Learns

Marie advised delegates that City of Edinburgh Council are in the process of setting up 8 Strategy Groups covering Learning & Teaching, Quality Improvement, Equity, Health & Wellbeing, Parental Engagement, Digital Learning and Leadership.

Drafts proposals will be shared with Parent Councils for further discussion

These groups will eventually provide guidance to schools.

Nominations are invited for Parent reps for each group.
Interested parties please contact Maria Plant

Maria will be chairing the Parental Engagement Strategy Group Meetings which are scheduled to be held in Waverly Court on 25/10/2018 16/01/2019 and 15/05/2019. 10am- 12 noon.

Derek enquired what rules would apply if parent volunteered for classroom support. Maria advised that any volunteer on a semi regular/organised basis must have a PVG. It was felt that this may discourage some people due to the intrusiveness.

5. Parental Engagement Strategy

Maria presented the “Learning together” Scotland’s national action plan on parental involvement, parental engagement, family learning and learning at home initiative 2018 – 2021, launched by the Scottish Government on 21 August 2018.

It contains 13 goals and 52 national actions. It provides a national vision but it allows for local and community innovation and flexibility.

350K has been allocated for implementation across 32 Local Councils. Each Local Authority must appoint a dedicated officer to work with this.

The aim is to involve every parent in their child's entire journey until the age of 18 years and this plan is based on the GIREC aims.

Maria advised delegates that The City of Edinburgh Council already had a Parental Engagement Strategy in place which was in the process of being updated. The initial draft on local strategy is almost complete and will not only reflect the previous strategy but will also reflect the expectations of the national guidelines.

Maria tabled slides for delegates and these were discussed in full. Maria advised that 6 ways of involvement had been adopted by Connect and are used in Partnership School Programme.

These are: Parenting: Promoting and Fostering Parenting Skills (Supporting parents and Carers).

Communicating: Establishing and encouraging 2-way communication between home and school.

Volunteering: Welcoming and valuing Parental help within school.

Learning at home: Encouraging parent to be involved in their children's homework.

School & Decision Making: Including parents in improvement planning.

Collaborating with the community: Involving the wider community where possible

The next steps will be the establishing of a Strategy Groups. Three meetings have been scheduled the first being 25 October followed by a further 2 meetings to be held in Waverly Court on 16/01/2019 and 15/05/2019. 10am- 12 noon. (See Edinburgh Learns)

A Parental Collaboration Conference is scheduled for 30 November. This will be shared with City of Edinburgh Council and 4 other regional authorities. The aim is to share practices, hold workshops, hear input from Connect both pre and post conference. It is hoped that the parent representatives who are on the Strategy Group will attend.

Head Teachers will be invited but it was noted that few parents will be. As yet there is no confirmation of numbers.

Maria advised that further information will follow.

6. School Lets

Maria advised delegates that following the Facilities Management Revue Primary schools are allocated 32 free hours per annum to be used at the discretion of the school -but School Lets must be informed and permits issued.

However High Schools could be used free of charge.

Both delegates noted that this did not affect their representative schools but were aware of this issue and noted that Liberton High School is now being used for meetings previously held in Primary Schools.

Maria noted that this issue will be raised at CCwP.

5. AOCB

John Brownlee raised the issue of teacher recruitment for certain subjects. The school had previously experienced difficulty in recruiting for the Maths Department and are now looking for a Teacher of Business Admin. Derek noted that Liberton noted that they are looking for a Teacher of Home Economics.

Both delegates enquired as to what Edinburgh was doing to make people interested in coming to the city -and what package could be put together. Maria noted that young teachers coming to Edinburgh for the first time are unable to source accommodation until after the festival is over.

Maria agreed Teacher staffing is an ongoing issue.

Derek asked if figures were available of the percentage of pupil/schools who will be sitting their prelims before the Christmas break.

Maria will find out numbers and advise.

John noted his apologies in advance of the next meeting which he will be unable to attend due to a family commitment.

There being no other business Maria closed the meeting and thanked the delegates for their attendance.

Next Meeting		
Date	Venue	Time
8 November 2018	St Thomas of Aquin's	6.30 -8.30pm