

South East Locality

| Meeting Details | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Date of Meeting: | 7 February 2019 | Location: | St Thomas of Aquin's 2- 20 Chalmers Street Edinburgh EH3 9ES |

| Meeting Attendees Present | |
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| Name: | Position Held: |
| Maria Plant | Senior Education Manager |
| Alex Ramage | Parent Representative Also representing Prestonfield Primary School PC Liberton High School PC |
| Brian Sharp | South Morningside Primary School PC |
| Raul Pardinaz-Salis | James Gillespie's Primary School PC |
| John Brownlee | Gracemount High School PC |
| Ailsa MacIntosh | James Gillespie's High School PC |
| Barbara Lyon | Taobh na Pairce |

| Apologies Received | |
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| Councillor Macinnes | |
| Jacqueline Whymark | Boroughmuir High School |
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1.Introductions

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

Maria confirmed the CCwP remains scheduled for 28 February 6-8pm in the City Chambers.

3 representatives from each locality are invited (2 from Special Schools) and Maria stressed the importance of attending.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Maria noted that the question had been raised as to whether CEC held figures relating to the percentage of pupils who sit prelims before/after Christmas break. Maria advised no data is kept.

Maria noted that schools decide for themselves based on the readiness of pupils.

John Brownlee felt that it was a judgement call for the Head Teacher and felt there was no right or wrong answer. Delegates agreed.

Ailsa MacIntosh noted that the previous minutes stated she would attend the agenda planning meeting scheduled for 29 November 2018. This was incorrect, Ailsa was unable to attend.

3. Feedback from Parental Engagement Conference 30 November 2018

This conference was a joint venture hosted by Fife, Midlothian, East Lothian, Scottish Borders and Edinburgh Councils.

Parent Council Representatives had attended and whilst the attendees were in the main from the teaching profession all attendees were welcomed.

The conference hosted two "Keynote Speakers" – Morag Trainer and Janet Goodall. Maria noted that both, albeit from different angles had given excellent thought-provoking talks.

The following link is available:

www.seicollab.org.uk

Maria was unsure if this conference will be rolling out on an annual basis.

Ailsa asked if it would be possible to rotate the day and time if this conference was scheduled again.

Maria reminded delegates this was the ongoing development of the Edinburgh Learns strategy of which Maria chairs the Parental Engagement Group.

The first meeting has been held and Maria will share the date of the next in the near future.

Ailsa noted that her colleague Charles Warlaw may attend.

4. Information Paper - Localities

Information papers were tabled which explain the various aspects of involvement in Parent Councils including FAQs, terms of reference, a summary of Parental Engagement in Edinburgh and additional information pertaining to engagement Groups.

This paper had been prepared by Billy Samuel, Melissa Wilson and Alex Ramage as an explanation/over view for Parent Council Chairs or delegates.

Delegates agreed this would prove to be most useful.

4. A.O.C.B

John Brownlee raised the issue of National 5's D grades not being recognised by employers as a qualification.

Delegates discussed what is the worth and is it appropriate to call it a 'pass'. Ailsa Macintosh noted if a pupil failed on a National 5 subject, and had not previously sat an examination for the same National 4 subject, there was a danger the child could leave school without a qualification in said subject.

Alex noted that he would be happy to raise this issue at the forthcoming CCwP. This matter could also be raised with Connect and would be worthy of discussion with Susan Gibb, SQA.

Raul raised the question of plans and steps for new schools. Information is available on the CEC Hub with more information to follow.

Maria noted that new builds are mainly on the outskirts of Edinburgh. CEC has planned for the maximum projection of pupils. Maria noted that it takes approximately 4 years to build a new high school. Robbie Crockett and Crawford McGhee are responsible for taking this work forward.

The birth rate in Edinburgh is cyclical and, as statistics now show we are in a downward slope. The issue of the high birth rate is now affecting high school, age groups.

Ailsa noted that Boroughmuir is now reaching capacity, which may trigger a catchment review, with possibility of using the Darroch building.

Raul and Brian raised road safety en route to schools. Raul noting that a zebra crossing would help James Gillespie's. Brian noted that the 20mph is not adhered to at South Morningside, this is cause for concern. Maria will advise who to contact in relation to this.

Ailsa advised James Gillespie's are in the process of a Wi-Fi pilot noting that the Wi-Fi was switched off for 2 weeks during prelim time which dented confidence in the trial. No acceptable reason has been given for the switch off. The trial is intended to understand the "equity" issue.

Alex requested feedback as he will take this forward to the ITC meeting noting that equitably the right way is for each pupil to have a device however schools have no funding to do this. Meanwhile teachers are teaching in a digital world but not all children have devices.

Ailsa discussed a replacement for Edmodo noting that James Gillespie's is using Office 365. Maria advised Edmodo had been replaced as CEC believe there is a GDPR issue. This is due to the main server which holds all confidential information being in America, however it is covered by the EU Privacy Shield.

Delegates discussed term dates which have been set for three years following an on-line consultation however PCs have requested this issue be re-visited and dates have been suggested.

This will be taken forward at the next CCwP.

Ailsa noted that Midlothian council is set to become the first Scottish local authority to entirely axe all musical instrument tuition in its schools other than for children who are studying for National 5 or Higher and voiced concern that Edinburgh may follow suit.

Further discussion centered round Transient Visitor Levy (Tourist Tax) and workplace parking charges and the possible future positive impact on available funds.

Barbara Lyon asked if there was the facility to join a locality meeting via conference calling as this may encourage more participation. Maria will advise.

Alex reminded delegates of the forthcoming CCwP and further stressed the importance of the 14 invited representatives attending.

There being no other business Maria thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

| Next Meeting | | |
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| Date | Venue | Time |
| 23 April 2019 | St Thomas of Aquin's Edinburgh | 6.30 - 8.30pm |