

Corstorphine Primary School Parent Council
*Corstorphine Primary School, High Street, Corstorphine
Edinburgh, EH12 7SY*

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday, 25 April 2018

Present: Billy Samuel (Chair)
Elinor Waterston (Treasurer)
Sarah Campbell (Parent Member)
Jeni Mackay (Parent Member)
Sue McVey (Parent Member)
Moir McDonald (Community Member)
Bill Halliday (PTA Representative)
Pam Briggs (Head Teacher)

In attendance: Jessie Crawford (Parent)

Apologies: Aleks Tomczyk, Angela Lawson, Jen Farrar, Tracey Lees, Gilly Herbert,
Karine Masting, Cllr. Gillian Gloyer, Cllr. Scott Douglas

1. Minutes of last Parent Council Meeting (31 Jan 2018) and Matters Arising

The minutes were approved as read. The following updates on open items were noted:

JUN17/5: School Dinners [ACTION CLOSED – see Agenda Item 4]

NOV17/1: “1 in 5 Poverty” Agenda

A meeting with Mrs Briggs and the sub-group was arranged for Friday 18th May (10am).
Action rolled forward.

2. Updates from External Meetings

The Chair provided an update on recent meetings he had attended:

North West (NW) Locality Meeting (1st February 2018). The key item of the meeting was a session on Developing the Young Workforce, under the heading of “transforming the learner journey to meet the needs of all learners”. There was recognition of the need for a broader curriculum that what was traditional for previous generations, at the same time giving children the skills to tackle jobs of the future (that don’t exist at the moment). Topics also covered in the meeting included questions in relation to the approach to responding to Scottish Government consultations; current staff recruitment challenges, particular in High Schools for Maths and Computing; and latest views on the Edinburgh Schools Review.

Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP) (1st March 2018). The meeting was cancelled at short notice due to the bad weather (snow) and was not rearranged.

Additional Meeting: Education Children & Families Committee (29th March 2018). An additional meeting of Edinburgh Council's, Education Children & Families Committee was held to specifically hear deputations from Parent / Community groups impacted by the proposed catchment review. The Chair noted that he had submitted a deputation request, which was granted. Deputations were given 10 minutes to make their points, after which Committee members were able to ask any questions. The key points made by the Chair (based on parent feedback to date) were in relation to the potential for sibling guarantees to Craigmount, and that current proposals did not present "safe routes to school". There were no outputs from the meeting; rather the observations will be considered as part of any proposals that will be taken forward to the Education Children & Families Committee on 22nd May 2018. The Chair noted that the significant majority of deputations related to the Currie / WHEC / Balerno proposals for South West Edinburgh, with only parent representatives from Kirkliston PS and Corstorphine PS relating to the West Edinburgh proposals. The Chair also noted that Council meetings are filmed, and that the recording of the meeting is available online, with a shortcut to the Corstorphine PS Deputation (Item 3.12) available – see https://edinburgh.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/344996 .

3. Head Teacher's Report (Mrs. Briggs)

Inspection Report. Mrs Briggs shared a hard copy of the final Inspection Letter with those attending the meeting – these were collected in at the end of the meeting. Mrs Briggs explained the standard protocol set out by Education Scotland in terms of sharing the results of all of Inspections, and she had just been notified that she can discuss the content of the final letter with the Parent Council; but the content of the letter was otherwise embargoed until issued centrally to all Parents on 1st May. Parent Council members commented that the letter read quite positively, and it was therefore not clear as to why the rating for "Learning, teaching and assessment" was only satisfactory. The Chair noted that he had already provided this feedback to Education Scotland, as the Parent Council Chair has the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Inspection Letter. Mrs Briggs noted that a detailed Summarised Inspection Findings document will also be issued alongside the Inspection Letter - the School Improvement Plan will be updated to reflect areas noted for improvement. Parent Council members discussed the Inspection Letter conclusions; it was particularly noted that the Inspection had been undertaken following a period of where the entire Senior Management Team were appointed since February 2016 (including an Acting Head Teacher during that period) and, at the same time, there was the completion of simultaneous major building works covering the new Nursery, Project Play Phase 1 and the internal reconfiguration of the Lantern Wing to create 2 additional classrooms. The view of Parent Council members was that it was a tribute to the continuing hard work of the teaching staff and the Senior Management Team at Corstorphine Primary School that these results were achieved through a period of unprecedented change. Parent Council members also noted the very positive comments regarding the Nursery - Mrs Briggs noted that Mrs Bracewell has been asked to join a local authority working group, which was a further positive reflection. Moira suggested that the Chair could issue a note to Parents following final issue of the Inspection Letter reflecting the discussion at the Parent Council meeting; this was supported by Parent Council members. The Chair agreed.

Action 1: The Chair to send a note to all Parents following issuance of the final Inspection Letter, reflecting the discussion at Parent Council.

Edinburgh Zoo. Mrs Briggs noted that she had met recently with the Head of Education at Edinburgh Zoo, to explore opportunities for “partnership” rather than simply having pupils visit. A number of options were discussed, and the Head of Education will discuss further with their Director to see what may be feasible.

Staffing. 2 teachers have recently commenced adoption / maternity leave. There was only one applicant for temporary cover of the posts, but cover has been arranged until the end of term.

Building Works. Over the summer holidays, every water pipe with the school is being replaced. The piping is of the wrong diameter, and this is causing a lack of water pressure particularly towards the end of the school day. The workers will put the classrooms back the way they find them but as teaching staff will not have access during the holiday period, Mrs Briggs noted that they may look to move classes at the tail end of the second last week of summer term so that they are ready for the beginning of the new session.

Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy. As noted at the last meeting, a review of the Policy is underway. Children and staff have been asked for their views. Feedback was also requested via questionnaire at Parents Night, in terms of strengths and areas for improvement. Mrs Briggs noted she had introduced a “this is what we do” approach, to promote consistent positive behaviours. Moira commented positively on observed behaviour.

4. Parent Council Sub-Groups.

Active Travel. Jeni Mackay provided the key points noted from the Travel Survey. The main concern arising relates to safety of pupils around traffic. The Chair noted that he had responded to a recent Edinburgh Council survey on School Crossing Patrols, with input from Jeni – the Chair to share a copy of the submission. It was agreed to have a meeting with Mrs Briggs / Mrs Gillies to discuss next steps - meeting arranged for 17th May (9.20am).

Action 2: The Chair to provide a copy of the response to the School Crossing Patrol survey, to Parent Council members.

Action 3: Jeni Mackay to meet with Mrs Briggs and Mrs Gillies to discuss “next steps” following completion of Active Travel survey.

School Dinners. Sue McVey will be spending time with the School kitchen staff next week and will share any observations highlighted. Meeting arranged for 9th May with Sue, Elinor, Mrs Briggs and Pamela McGuigan to progress matters. Update to be provided at next Parent Council meeting.

5. AOB:

Project Play. Mrs Briggs noted that there still continue to be problems with the artificial grass on the “mound”; options are being considered. In the meantime, the area will remain closed for safety. Mrs Briggs noted that she had a meeting on 10th May with Gilly Herbert to discuss Project Play.

Scooters. Jeni Mackay asked that the school explore options for promoting safe use of scooters, to mitigate the risk of accidents in the playground.

PTA. Bill Halliday made a general request for volunteers to join the PTA.

Pupils representing the School. Sue McVey asked that consideration be given to preparing pupils where they are representing the School in sporting events; where they may be up against more experienced competitors. Mrs Briggs will pass this feedback to Miss Cavanagh, who is the lead on Active Schools. The Chair noted the excellent progress of the School Chess team, who had made a very impressive start to Inter-School competition, with some of the team qualifying for National competition.

6. Date of next meetings:

The date of the final Parent Council meeting for this session is:

- Monday 4 June 2018

Action Tracker (Open Items):

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Status</u>
NOV17/1	<p><u>“1 in 5 Poverty” Agenda</u> Karine Masting, Sarah Campbell and Angela Lawson will meet to discuss “next steps”. The Chair was requested to join this initial meeting. An update is to be provided to the next Parent Council meeting.</p> <p>Update: Meeting scheduled for Friday 18th May (10am)</p>	KM, SC, AL	<p>Due 31/01/2018 Due 25/04/2018 Due 04/06/2018</p>
MAR18/1	<p><u>School Inspection</u> The Chair to send a note to all Parents following issuance of the final Inspection Letter, reflecting the discussion at Parent Council.</p>	BS	Due May 2018