

DUNBAR PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting Held On: TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER 2017 at John Muir Campus

Present:

Helen Schoen (Chair)
Helen Faulds (Co-Vice Chair)
Jaime Calder (Treasurer)
Helen Gillanders
Emma Buglass
Sharon Brown
Michael Fairbairn
Julie Adams
Samantha Stebbing
Stephanie Davidson
Michelle Higginbottom
Hazel Baptie
Emma White
Will Collin

Apologies

Susan Brennan
Laura Tierney
Debbie Hadden
Jaclyn Eeles
Emma Vance
Gillian Heavie

1. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Helen Schoen (Chair) opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The minutes from the previous meeting (October) were agreed by Jaime Calder and Emma White.

Helen gave thanks to all who were involved with the Christmas Fair, the calendar and pupil Christmas cards.

2. REPORT FROM HEAD TEACHER

- **Staffing:** There are three Class Teacher interviews being held for maternity and part time posts.
- **Homework Survey:** Helen Gillanders gave thanks to Gillian Eunson (DHT) for the homework survey collation. There was some discussion about consistency of homework between classes. The next step will suggested was to send out draft procedure for parents/carers comments .
- **East Lothian's Parental Engagement Strategy:** This has been produced by Education department and parents will get a leaflet before end of term. The strategy was discussed and Helen Schoen said that she felt Dunbar Primary had been meeting the aims of this for some time. It was suggested more information about way parents can engage with the school and other information to help bridge the gap from Nursery to P1 should be included in the P1 booklet. To be discussed at future meeting.
- **Scottish Government's Changes to Education Bill:** This has huge implications for schools, Head Teachers and Local Authorities. A copy of the power point presentation is available at Lochend Campus office.

There is a meeting for parent council members and parents and carers on the issues around Governance at Musselburgh Grammar School on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 7pm

If the Parent Council or parents/carers have any concerns or for any further information they can contact their local councillor. Helen S suggested emailing the Reps to get feedback on the Draft consultation

- **French/German:** Lucy Hare(Class Teacher) would like to discuss at January meeting.
- **Outstanding Lunches:** There was some discussion about the possibility of school contacting parents/carers in the morning of the day a child does not have lunch money with them. The school is currently being charged an estimated £300 per month for outstanding lunch money. This will be trialled from January.

3. UPDATE FROM CHAIR

- **Christmas Fair:** The feedback for this new venture was very good (some options offered were having it during the day – possibly Friday afternoon or at the weekend to enable children to be involved.
- **Treasurers Report:**
The Christmas Fair licence was a last minute cost. £1900 was raised on the night.
Rag Bag collection (October) - £372 Raised
Christmas Cards - £940 Raised
Calendars - £1800 Raised
There is a total of £9,500 in the bank account which gives £4500 available for funding.

Jaime has been costing out shelving for the library at John Muir Campus – this will be discussed at January Meeting. Jo Legge will feedback information from P3's regarding books to purchase.
- **Funding Requests:** At future meetings all funding requests will be put to a vote and show of hands will be added to minutes. Please see attached information sheet. An application form will also be used for any funding requests from the school

4. ANY OTHER INFORMATION

- **P1 Booklet:** It was suggested that more information be added to this booklet to help bridge the gap from Nursery to P1. To be discussed at future meeting.
- Parent Council edubuzz link to realign on primary school page. (Angus MacRury to do)
- **Disabled Car Parking:** Further information will be sent to parents/carers regarding the disabled parking at John Muir Campus.
- **Uniform:** Black leggings can be worn with a skirt otherwise trousers to be worn.
-

5. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS (7-9pm) at John Muir Campus Library

- Monday 15th January 2018
- Monday 26th February 2018
- Monday 23rd April 2018
- Monday 14th May 2018
- Monday 18th June 2018

Signature of Chair: Date:

Empowering Schools Consultation

Introduction

The Scottish Government is seeking views on its proposal to "create a school and teacher-led education system and therefore to empower our schools and school leaders".

The consultation seeks stakeholders views on 5 key aspects:

- Headteachers' Charter
- Parental and Community Engagement
- Pupil Participation
- Regional Improvement Collaboratives
- Education Workforce Council for Scotland

Head Teacher Charter

The Education Bill will establish a Headteachers' Charter. The purpose of the Charter is to set out the rights and responsibilities of headteachers that will empower them to be the leaders of learning and teaching in their schools. The Charter will also set out the responsibilities that local authorities will fulfil in order to enable headteachers to lead.

The Headteachers' Charter will enable headteachers to make decisions in four key areas:

- Curriculum for Excellence
- Improvement
- Staffing
- Funding

Parental and Community Engagement and Pupil Participation

The Education Bill will also improve parental and community engagement in school life and in learning outside of school, and strengthen the voice of children and young people, by actively promoting and supporting pupil participation.

Regional Improvement Collaboratives

The Education Bill will provide the legislative underpinning for the establishment of Regional Improvement Collaboratives to fulfil their agreed functions which will include: regional priorities and regional improvement plans; professional learning and leadership; curriculum support; sector specific support; improvement methodology; sharing good practice and the impact of research; peer to peer and school to school collaboration and a regional approach to supporting staffing challenges.

Education Workforce Council for Scotland

An Education Workforce Council will be established to take on the responsibilities of the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCs) AND THE Community Learning and Development Standards Council (CLDSC) and to establish appropriate professional standards for other groups within the education workforce.

Section 1. Headteachers' Charter

This section explores the following aspects in relation to what HTs should be responsible for:

- How best to plan and design learning and teaching in their schools within the CfE national framework
- Be responsible for the quality of learning and teaching in their schools
- Empowering their staff to develop approaches which meet the needs of individual learners and groups of learners

Section 1.1 Headteachers' Charter - Curriculum for Excellence

The Scottish Government's view:

- Some HTs find their freedom within the CfE framework is reduced by LA requirements to adopt particular approaches to learning and teaching
- Many HTs are not able to make decisions about the curriculum offer in their school
- Some LAs provide high quality support for teaching and curriculum development
- Others impose local restrictions on the organisation of subjects, constrain HT flexibility to lead learning and teaching as well as limiting the staffing and management structures

"We want to provide a clear, firm legal basis for all headteachers to have this freedom of choice."

Within East Lothian Council, the education authority has worked in partnership with practitioners to develop curriculum frameworks to support the delivery of learning, teaching and assessment across all curriculum areas. Schools are only required to adopt particular approaches to learning and teaching in the delivery of numeracy. The approach adopted is educationally sound and underpinned by educational research evidence. Schools are able to determine how best to deliver the curriculum to meet the needs of their learners in line with the principles and values of Curriculum for Excellence. All 6 secondary schools offer a curriculum designed to meet the needs of their learners and this is evident within the senior phase where young people access a curriculum offering a range of flexible pathways. East Lothian Council does not impose any local restrictions on the organisation of subjects or constrain flexibility in leading learning and teaching

Summary

- Give HTs freedom to lead teaching and learning in their schools
- Create a new duty on HTs to work collaboratively with other schools and partners on curriculum design and improving learning and teaching
- Require that HTs will continue to involve their school community in the life of the schools and key decision-making
- LAs to participate in the Regional Collaborative's work to provide the support and expertise that schools in the area need, rather than imposing local curricular policies and practices on schools.

Headteachers' Charter - Curriculum for Excellence

Question 1

The HT Charter will empower HTs as the leaders of learning and teaching and as the lead decision maker in how the curriculum is designed and provided in their schools. What further improvements would you suggest to enable headteachers to fulfil this empowered role?

Headteachers' Charter – Supporting empowered headteachers**Question 7**

What types of support and professional learning would be valuable to HTs in preparing to take up the new powers and duties to be set out in the HT Charter?

Section 1.2 Headteachers' Charter - Improvement

Schools will be supported and challenged by LAs acting in their capacity as part of the RIC

The Education Bill will:

- change the need for school improvement priorities to align with LA priorities
- enable HTs to align their improvement priorities with the National Improvement Framework (NIF)
- ensure schools are supported by their LAs through the Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs)

The Scottish Government's view:

- HTs – improvement in their schools in collaboration with parents, staff, pupils and their peers
- LAs – will have a new role, employ and line manage HTs and work with other LAs in their RIC
- LAs- will no longer be required to develop individual improvement plans

“We envisage a shared model of accountability.”

East Lothian Council's education service and its schools work together to deliver on local priorities set out by the Council and its communities.

Local authority improvement plans and school improvement plans are already aligned with the priorities set out within the National Improvement Framework

The education service already works in partnership with neighbouring authorities to support HTs and schools. Current inter-authority groups include early learning and childcare, quality improvement and school leadership.

Summary

- The HT Charter will expect HTs to collaborate with other schools, the RIC and wider school community
- LAs and HTs will continue to be required to have regard to closing the poverty related attainment gap
- HTs will be able to decide improvement priorities for their school
- Remove the requirement for LAs to develop separate improvement plans given the new requirement for Regional Improvement plans

Headteachers' Charter - Improvement

Question 2

- The HT Charter will empower headteachers to develop their school improvement plans collaboratively within their school community. What improvements could be made to this approach?

Headteachers' Charter - Improvement

Question 3

- The HT Charter will set out the primacy of the school improvement plan. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this approach?

Section 1.3 Headteachers' Charter – Staffing

- LA remain employers of staff, including HTs
- LAs to allocate resource to support the provision of ASN
- LAs will address any issues of performance, discipline or grievance
- HTs to determine staffing and management structures
- HTs do not have to consider staff being re-deployed by the LA
- Student teachers and probationers to be coordinated at local or regional level

Headteachers' Charter – Staffing

Question 4

The HT Charter will set out the freedoms which headteachers should have in relation to staffing decisions.

- a. What are the advantages and disadvantages of headteachers being able to have greater input into recruitment exercises and processes adopted by their local authority?
- b. What are the advantages and disadvantages of headteachers' ability to choose their teams and decide on the promoted post structure within their schools?

Section 1.4 Headteachers' Charter – Funding

The Scottish Government's view:

- HTs should have more of a say in how the budget allocated to their school can be used to deliver education
- HTs must not become accountants or business managers
- LAs remain overall budget holders and accountable for education spending
- Greater delegation of staffing budgets to HTs
- LAs continue to be responsible for provision of specialist services and provision of support for learners' additional needs
- LAs responsible for expenditure on the school estate and other issues connected to placing of pupils in schools such as school transport

The Scottish Government carried out a consultation on possible future approaches to funding school education June to October 2017. The Government will report on the outcome of this consultation in summer 2018.

Within East Lothian Council, education officers and HTs work together to determine the funding mechanisms within the Devolved School Management Scheme. This ensures HTs are involved in decisions relating to the budget allocation mechanisms for schools.

Summary

- **Require LA delegation of budgets to extend to staffing, rather than just to schools' discretionary expenditure outside staffing; and**
- **Increase the transparency of LA decisions on education spending and require the involvement of HTs and the school communities in these decisions.**

Section 1.4 Headteachers' Charter – Funding

Question 5

Should HTs be able to decide how the funding allocated to their schools for the delivery of school education is spent? If so, what is the best way of doing this?

Question 6

How could local authorities increase transparency and best involve HTs and school communities in education spending decisions?

