Minutes of Parent Council Meeting – 25 November 2015

Queensferry Primary: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Attendees

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AK</td>
<td>Alex Kant</td>
<td>P6</td>
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<tr>
<td>KMo</td>
<td>Kenny Morrison</td>
<td>P5 and P7</td>
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<tr>
<td>KC</td>
<td>Katrina Closier</td>
<td>P2</td>
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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Anne-Marie Appleby</td>
<td>P1 and P5</td>
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<td>CW</td>
<td>Claire Whyte</td>
<td>P1, P4 and P7</td>
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<td>HD</td>
<td>Helena Dolan</td>
<td>P2 and P4</td>
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<td>KM</td>
<td>Karen MacGregor</td>
<td>Head Teacher</td>
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<td>DF</td>
<td>David Flint</td>
<td>Queensferry Community Council</td>
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Apologies: Louise Wilson, Sandie Fawl, Tim Hall, Scott Boyd and Fiona Bekkout

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Approval of Minutes
   Minutes from last meeting were approved.
   Anne-Marie Appleby and Helena Dolan welcomed to Parent Council.

2. Report from KM
   KM advised that the school roll will increase to 395 pupils by January 2016. They have just completed the P1 enrollment week which included a very well attended Open Day with tours on 9 November.
   KM advised that the visits for the School Inspection have now completed. The overall feeling is that it was a very positive experience. It is anticipated that the draft report (in the form of
a letter to parents) will be in school by 15 December with the final report published on 12 January but these are provisional dates.

KM advised that the work to create the new school website is continuing. The Parent Council and PTA are invited to see a demonstration of this on Friday 4 December.

The staff have been working with the pupils in respect to the Queensferry Citizens initiative. This is a new approach to pupil groups which is being piloted. It links clearly with the school’s vision for citizenship and sustainability and also with our school values of responsibility, kindness, creativity and co-operation. It creates an opportunity for many more children to be involved in groups discussing topics affecting them such as litter, the friendship bench and the outdoor classroom. Pupils in P2 – P7 are involved.

3. Traffic concerns

CW is to follow up with the community policy officer in respect to a visit to the school to talk about road safety.

KM advised that Mark Symonds has been in touch with her to discuss whether it would be appropriate to create a traffic survey for parents. He will be in touch further regarding this.

4. National Improvement Framework

CW advised that Parent Councils are being invited by the Scottish Government to review the outcomes of this review. Information has been provided to the Parent Council as follows:

The National Improvement Framework will bring together key information on education to allow us to look at how we are performing and where we need to do more to improve. The information will be used to help improve attainment and wider achievements for children. It will be used by teachers for individual children, by Headteachers in conjunction with Parent Councils for school improvement, by local authorities and Scottish Government.

The information gathered will cover six key areas:

• **School improvement** – this will use school self-evaluation to see how improvement is progressing within schools and would be informed by **How good is our school?** and how well parents and schools are working together on school improvement planning and reporting
• **School leadership** – this will assess leadership development for all teachers, as well as introducing a requirement for all Headteachers to hold the new Headship qualifications
• **New standardised assessments** - The Framework will include new standardised assessments for children in P1, P4, P7 and S3 in reading, writing and numeracy. Aspects of the new assessments will be piloted in Challenge Authority schools in 2016, before use nationally in 2017. The new assessments are being introduced to bring greater consistency to Curriculum for Excellence and to the information on the broad general
education (P1 to S3). Teachers will also be able to use the assessments to inform judgments on children’s progress. The assessments will be designed so that they are accessible and inclusive for children with additional support needs.

- **How will parents be involved?** By providing more meaningful information about the progress of their children, the Framework will help parents to support their child’s education both at home and at school. The information will be drawn from teachers’ professional judgment, supported by feedback from the new assessments. Parent Councils will also have a wider range of information to help them support school improvement.

KM provided context of what the NIF is seeking to achieve. The Scottish Government are seeking responses to their consultation by early 2016.

5. **Final Assembly**

This topic will be discussed at the next Parent Council meeting.

6. **Publicising the outcomes of the Parent Council meeting**

The Parent Council discussed whether we should provide more information about the outcomes of the Parent Council meeting in advance of the publication of the Minutes. It was discussed whether we should provide a six monthly summary or annual summary. It was also discussed whether we should provide a bullet summary of points discussed. CW will prepare a bullet summary of this meeting for the members to review and determine whether it would be helpful to issue this to parents.

7. **Parent Council training opportunities**

CW advised that she receives a number of emails from City of Edinburgh Council and the North West Neighbourhood group inviting Parent Council members to participate in training. She will share this with the wider group and members can decide whether they wish to take part. It was considered whether there would be scope for the training providers to carry out appropriate training with us as well as the Parent Councils of the cluster schools. This will be monitored.

8. **Any other business**

HD advised that there is funding available from Scotrail which should be explored by the PTA and Parent Council. She will look into this in more detail.

DF advised that the Junior Community Council is meeting next week, this is made up of pupils from Queensferry High School. They will be discussing the output from the City of Edinburgh Council placemaking exercise. DF agreed to share the output from this with the members of the Parent Council.

**Next meeting Tues 1 March 2016**