

Braidburn Parent Council



Office Bearers:

Chairman: Leigh Ferrand
Vice Chair: Rachel Bhandari

Secretary: Lesley Munro
Treasurer: Kirsty Watt

Minutes of Braidburn Parent Council

Date of Meeting 03 Feb 2020

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from LF, CA and CM.

2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Transport issues

JS and KW outlined their personal experiences of issues that they have had with transport this year.

Issues that were raised in relation to transport were: across the city there are 5 outstanding cases from last year relating to transport; they feel council not following through on what they agreed previously regarding individual transport arrangements; very short notice being given when learner being moved from individual to group transport; little or no communication regarding changes to transport; learners absent from school due to transport issues; lack of action on Health and Safety risk assessments; learners distressed from long travel times, sometimes as much as 1.5 hours, between home and school; learners arriving late at school on a regular basis; parent and carers concerned that not all information they provide to transport team is being read and acted upon; delay in training for transport staff in CPR, etc.; last year's transport application form not designed well with no information on appeals process; some vehicles being used for transport do not accommodate some designs of wheelchairs requiring parents and carers to ask NHS to provide letter to support the provision of the appropriate adaptations.

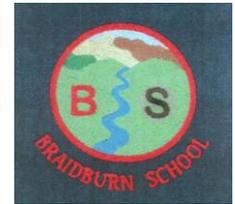
JS and KW asked if the Parent Council could raise issues on their behalf at the next Special Schools City Wide Localities Meeting 20/02/20.

It was agreed that Braidburn Parent Council would ask for transport issues to be added to the agenda of the next meeting of Special Schools City Wide Localities Meeting with the purpose of seeking clarification from CEC on their approach for managing school transport for next year in recognition of continuing issues and anxiety from parents as a result of how things have worked this year. This is particularly in relation to children requiring high levels of support and how information supplied by parents is reviewed and acted upon.

The key actions that were agreed were:

- contact the other special school parent council chairs to see if there was appetite to make this a joint request – we could do this via the FB group or chairs email?

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- seek advice on how to get this onto the agenda for the meeting
 - decide who will attend from BPC. It was suggested that it would be better that someone other than parents with ongoing transport issues represent us, to take the heat/emotion out of the situation

Action RB/LF

4. First Aid Classes

JS asked if the Parent Council could look into organising Paediatric First Aid classes for parents and carers to attend. JS suggested that LM contacts Millie's Trust to see if they could assist. LM is waiting to hear back from St Andrews Ambulance Service, VOCAL and the Red Cross. Once these organisations have responded with full details LM will circulate details to the Parent Council, then we can decide what the next steps would be.

Action LM

KW suggested that we also look into training on Moving and Handling. LM thinks VOCAL previously arranged a course on this so she shall contact them for more information.

Action LM

5. Review of the Constitution

LM circulated a copy of the constitution prior to the meeting via email and Google Docs. The comments received to date were discussed. LM will incorporate comments made so far into the margins of the document along with any other comments parents and carers may have before the next meeting. LM will also consider any information provided by CONNECT and incorporate that into the document if relevant. LM will circulate a copy of the comments before the next meeting.

Action LM

6. Planning for Chair/Vice Chair positions

LF and RB volunteered to hold the above positions until the end of April. This would leave a gap of at least one meeting before the next AGM. It was proposed that we would seek a volunteer from the Parent Council to Chair these meetings as required.

Action All

LM will circulate a job description for each of the Office Bearer Posts for comment at the next meeting with a view for circulating these when we publicise the availability of these positions in advance of the 2020 AGM.

Action LM

7. CEC cuts to Out of School Clubs

RB informed the meeting about the cut to funding for clubs such as Action Group's Sunday/Saturday Club and other similar clubs that have run over the last 18 months and have been funded by CEC. It was suggested that these clubs had been funded by CEC when the running of Playscheme was under review. It was suggested that we find out what CEC plans are for the future

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at the next Special Schools City Wide Localities Meeting 20/02/20. KW also raised the point the cost of Action Group's Sunday Club has risen to £70 per session, so will parents and carers need to ask for an increase in their SDS to meet these costs?
Action RB

8. Pupil Equity Fund

KW raised that issue that PEF funded had been allocated to numeracy and literacy. KW asked how this would benefit learners who could read or write who would benefit from support in achieving certain life skills. LL explained that it has been allocated to numeracy and literacy in the wider sense, i.e. in providing numerous new play opportunities that enhance life skills in the new Hub for both primary and secondary learners. A play therapist also now attends the school on a regular basis. CW also informed the meeting that a Family Support Worker was now available in the school to support those families that require support.

9. Parental Engagement

GM raised the point that since her child has started Braidburn she has not been able to attend special assemblies at Christmas and Easter. CW pointed out that it is difficult to include parents and carers at these events due to space limitations and Health and Safety requirements. GM suggested that the events were spilt into smaller groups, i.e. upper and lower secondary so that there would be room for parents and carers to attend. JS informed the meeting that her previous school used the adjacent high school for these events as it had more space. KW suggested that Braidburn could use the adjacent sports hall in Firhill or their assembly hall or the assembly hall in Oxfangs school. CW will look into this and provide an update at the next meeting.

Action CW

10. Secondary Parents' Night

KW raised the point that she had to wait 35mins for her appointment with the class teacher at the recent parents' night. It was suggested that an appointment system was brought in. CW will look into adopting the online booking system that is used in other schools.

Action CW/CM

11. Braidburn Parent Council Matters

11.1 Edinburgh Parent Council Network

No update here as issues raised not relevant to Braidburn

11.2 Special Schools City Wide Locality Meetings

GM attended this meeting. The role of the PSA was discussed, including such issues as: PSA shortage, training, how they can be better used in mainstream. The contract between the NHS SALTs and OTs and the council is now up for renewal and a new agreement will be put into

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place. Communication involving KeyComm is being reviewed and PECS training was discussed as there is still no dedicated PECS trainer in the city.

The 5 principles of the Vision for Children in Edinburgh were discussed, looking at how mainstream and specialist education are integrated. Bullying issues were also discussed along with transport issues.

11.3 CCwP

No update

11.4 Finance Update

Funds of approx. £1 000 has been received from CEC. £300 still available in Story Bag budget. Funding available for the Family Ceilidh later this month.

12. Headteacher Update

A copy of this is attached.

13. Friends of Braidburn update

Included in the Headteacher Update.