

Broughton Primary School Parent Council

AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, 26th May 2010 @ 18:30

Location: BPS Staff Room

Present	GC	Gordon Chrumka	Chair
	AD	Alan Devine	Head Teacher
	AH	Aileen Harris	Treasurer
	AM	Ailsa McMullan	Parent/PSA Co-Chair
	DD	Donna Douglas	Non-Teaching Staff Member
	JB	Jackie Blair	Vice Chair
	JW	Jennifer Williamson	Teaching Staff Member
	LC	Lisa Cardozo	Parent Member
	LL	Lindsay Law	Secretary

Apologies

GH	Gillian Hutton	Parent
HI	Hazel Irvine	Parent Member
JG	John Gardner	Parent Member
LG	Lorna Garner	Teaching Staff Member
LS	Lesley Shepherd	Parent/PSA Co-Chair
SS	Sandra Stewart	Deputy Head Teacher

1. Chair Gordon Chrumka welcomed everyone to the final Parent's Council of the session of 2010.
2. Head Teacher's Report
 - a) Class allocation for next year is almost finalised and will be sent to parents in a newsletter prior to parents' consultations. There are some small staffing changes due to budgetary considerations and there has been no allocation as yet for learning assistant time.
 - b) The derelict building, which had been causing concern at the rear of the school, has now gone although there has been a delay in finishing the job. The ground has been levelled and is awaiting topsoiling, when it will be handed over to the school. There was a small article in The Spurtle suggesting that there might be other plans for the piece of land, which will need to be investigated further. Although the school has

been given use of the land, it has not become formally part of the school's boundaries/playground. The school will share the land with the after-school club and will cooperate in the usage of the land. The eco-committee does have some plans for the land, and the after-school club is now represented on the committee. The after-school club is going to investigate applying for lottery money, and there will be other investigations into Awards for All, Leith Neighbourhood Partnership and other small grants. As the removal of the derelict building will open up the playground, and there continues to be issues with youths in the nursery garden, careful consideration of planting will need to be taken.

- c) Police were recently called as youths were spotted vandalising the nursery garden. Damage was not as great as feared.
- d) To support parents' understanding of the curriculum for excellence a box will be put at the front door for questions and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) will be prepared based on input to the box. Mr. Devine will welcome all questions, there are none too silly or too small.
- e) In further Curriculum for Excellence news, in the school there have been 4 working parties for each main area of the Curriculum and these will continue next year. The school has been receiving regular updates from the government - some parts of the curriculum will be rewritten and simplified. Inspectors will not be undertaking their usual duties at all secondaries, and very few primaries, to enable support of implementing the curriculum in schools. The new curriculum aims to give much more flexibility to schools, and national testing has almost stopped, there will be no formal assessment in children's reports, and the focus will be on a much wider range of assessment techniques. However, the Council is to continue testing as they will be buying in formal 5-14 tests from another education authority.
- f) A draft copy of the school's improvement plan will be circulated, although school individuality in the plan is limited as each school now has to focus on curriculum implementation. All cluster schools seem to be having a similar experience and there is an upcoming meeting to discuss priorities (Health and Wellbeing). In the new

curriculum, active learning and different ways children can learn is being focused on.

3. Curriculum for Excellence - additional update

- a) There is an Edinburgh Learning Festival on Saturday 29th May which will have a number of presentations for parents. Unfortunately this is on the same day as the school fair.
- b) Booklet published by the Council and a post-graduate student which is aiming to explain the Curriculum for Excellence in a jargon-free way using real life examples. They are encouraging Parent Councils to buy and distribute. Gordon will send a link round for the PC to review to check whether this would be worthwhile. Initial impressions in the meeting were good, but at 60-80p a booklet the Council would need to be sure this was a good investment.
- c) A new website is being created to provide information on Curriculum for Excellence

4. Chair's Report

- a) The Council have rescinded the decision to reduce the number of free hours for PSA lets to 8. In addition, clarification has been given that this does not apply to meetings. Some other schools have been hit quite hard by this regulation. It appears that this has always been the case that lets were not free, but now the Council is starting to enforce this more rigorously.
 - b) Drummond High School is having a celebration of achievement evening, which Gordon will attend on behalf of Broughton Primary School
 - c) Representation at Primary 1 Transition Day - Gordon plans to attend with Jane Chromka as back-up. Lindsay will also attend. A handout will be provided with details of the Parents Forum and how parents can get involved with the school.
 - d) Scottish Book Trust - Meet the Authors Initiative. The first event went very well and it was reported that the classes involved had really enjoyed this event. Every class (P2-P7) is going to go to the Book Festival
 - e) Parents Council Bank Balance - just over £1400.
- ### 5. A new edition of FACE - Edinburgh Council's newsletter for Children and Families - is now available. It has a number of different sections and often includes a poll.
- ### 6. Buildings Update

- a) Derelict Building
 - i. Update is included in the Headteacher's Report
- b) Resource Centre
 - i. Contrary to previous information, the building has not yet been sold
 - ii. There are plans to advertise the building on the open market
 - iii. Concerns have been raised and "forwarded to the appropriate area" about the issues that the sale of the building raises. These include the issue of the shared boiler, shared access and shared bins. There are serious concerns over what kind of user would be appropriate, given this shared access, and City of Edinburgh Council has so far been unable to clarify this

7. Annual General Meeting

- a) A tentative date has been scheduled for Wednesday 1st September at 18:30. Other dates for the rest of the year are yet to be finalised due to issues with a late Easter. There are two proposed versions of dates, which will also need to be discussed at the PSA. One will mean that a meeting will need to take place on an in-service day, although there would be potential to delay until after April. The dates will be required in the next two weeks to send to the Council.
- b) Gordon Chrumka will be stepping down as Chairman in the next session, although he will be willing to stay on the Council
- c) There are plans for a social event for PC and PSA volunteers - events and details to be confirmed.

8. Projects - with just over £1400 in the bank account there is scope for additional projects to be funded. Some of the money is required for communications, and some is saved due to the use of parent volunteers as clerks. Last year money was spent on noticeboards, a number of suggestions were made for this year.

- a) Contribution to the derelict building activities
- b) Improvement of the lower entrances - the tiles are quite worn and dingy, this project could have parental contributions to the cleaning, potential retiling, and also art from the children could be incorporated
- c) Additional noticeboard at the bottom entrances to increase coverage at the walkway into the nursery and the school. The cost for the Broughton Rod noticeboards was approx. £360

- d) During Health Week Mrs. Stewart's son, who is a chef, attended the school and it was agreed that facilities to enable the children to cook would be beneficial. Costing is currently being undertaken for the conversion of the kitchen.
- e) Playground Markings - these are quite expensive and additional funding from grants might be required.