

**NOTE OF MEETING OF PARENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES HELD  
ON TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2014  
CRAIGMARLOCH SCHOOL**

A tour of Craigmarnloch School was undertaken by Eileen Stewart, Head Teacher and all those present were impressed by the wonderful facilities available to support the young people in the school. Sheena welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Eileen for undertaking the tour. She introduced those present to Patricia Cassidy and Angela Edwards.

**1 NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Note of the previous meeting, held on 11 September was agreed.

**Matters Arising:**

- **National Parent Forum of Scotland Annual Conference – Saturday 4 October 2014:** Once again, the conference had been a big success and the workshop run by Paul Smith of Inverclyde Academy on Tracking and Monitoring had proved very popular. Sheena endorsed the event and indicated that it was normally held the first Saturday in October and worthwhile attending
- **Sessions for Parent Council Representatives & Senior Managers ‘Effective Meetings for Parent Council Members’** – As indicated in previous minute, these sessions run by SPTC had proved popular and beneficial to both senior managers and Parent Council members and feedback received had been very positive. Sheena indicated that she would be happy to run these sessions again, if Parent Councils felt that they would be valuable in the New Year
- **Free School Meals for all Primary 1 to 3 Pupils** – as discussed previously, from January 2015 all Primary 1 to 3 pupils would have the option of receiving a free school meal. Sheena would remind Head Teachers that this should be incorporated into School Handbooks. She also reminded the meeting that Parent Councils should be involved in the updating of the School Handbook and perhaps look at having a joint Foreword

**2 PATRICIA CASSIDY, CORPORATE DIRECTOR – Budget Update**

Sheena introduced Patricia Cassidy to the meeting. Patricia indicated that she had been 6 months in post now and was in the process of visiting all schools. She was very impressed by the tremendous sense of community in the schools and local authority as a whole.

**Budget Update:** Patricia gave a PowerPoint presentation (*copy attached*) on how the Council is funded, how the money is spent and the financial difficulties being faced. The budget consultation had gone live on 1 December and would run until 17 January 2015. Information on proposals and an online budget simulator whereby members of the public can give their options on what areas of the budget they feel the £7m of savings required in 2016/17 can be made and are all on the Council’s website. There were 122 savings options and when options for savings are chosen the simulator gives ‘impact statements’. Education Services is the biggest of the Council’s directorates and accounted for 52% of the total budget.

The views of the public can be submitted in various formats, by post, e-mail or at a series of public community consultation meetings which had been set up between 4 and 11 December.

Patricia undertook to e-mail secondary Head Teachers to ask them to encourage senior pupils to get involved in the consultation process.

Discussion took place on the options open and how the figure of £7m had been arrived at for the Council to find in terms of savings. Patricia informed the meeting that a National formula is used, across all local authorities in Scotland to determine budgets and the savings which each is required to make. She also reiterated that, to date, wherever possible, schools had been protected in terms of the major budgetary savings, however, this was now not proving possible. However, it was crucial that the budgetary allocation that was received was used to the best effect for young people in our schools.

Given the importance of this matter and time constraints of the meeting it was agreed that the opportunity be given for all Parent Council members to be invited to a meeting to allow fuller discussion and the opportunity to give suggestions and views. The date will be **Wednesday 7 January 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in Notre Dame High**. Notification will be sent out to all Chairpersons and Head Teachers by Rhona, for them to disseminate to their Parent Council members.

## **2 GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD (GIRFEC)**

Angela Edwards, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, gave an overview of how GIRFEC had come about and the legislation behind it and delivered a PowerPoint presentation (*copy attached*) reflecting the key areas.

Each child in Inverclyde would have a 'Named Person'. In secondary schools this would probably be the Principal Teacher of Guidance and in primary schools it would be the Head or Depute Head Teacher. This would be the key person for a child, but Angela indicated that in most cases this was how things operated at present. Where individual young people had a Children's Plan, authorities required to comply with recommendations therein, where this involves a multi-agency approach their named person could be a lead professional from education, social work or a health professional.

Each school in the authority had a GIRFEC Champion who would take the lead in developing this in their own school and cascading information to staff. Further information on GIRFEC is available on the Council's website <http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/education-and-learning/getting-it-right-for-every-child/champions/>

Angela also informed the meeting that nursery aged children now received 600 hours of pre-school education per year.

## **3 UPDATE ON NATIONAL PARENT FORUM OF SCOTLAND**

Roslynn Oliver had had to tender her apologies for the meeting but had prepared an update for the meeting on the work of NPFS which was distributed (*copy attached*). She also had supplied copies of a recent Report for Parents on 'Sharing Learning, Sharing Assessment' <http://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Report.pdf>

## **3 DATES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The dates of the Parent Council Representatives meeting for this session are:

- **Thursday 5 March 2015 – Lady Alice Primary School, Greenock at 7.00 pm**
- **Tuesday 26 May 2015 – St Ninian's Primary School, Gourock at 7.00 pm**

**PARENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING**  
**Thursday 11 September 2014**  
**St Mary's Primary School**

**ATTENDING:**

Lesley Crumlish	Aileymill Primary School
Marion Morrison	Aileymill Primary School
Jan Donnachie	All Saints Primary School
Sheena Beaton	Education Services
Patricia Cassidy	Education Services
Angela Edwards	Education Services
Rhona Turner	Education Services
Ken McColl	Gourock Primary School
Diane Blyth	Inverkip Primary School
Julia Harwood	Inverkip Primary School
Anne Hughes	Notre Dame High School
Janette Ramsay	Notre Dame High School
Glen Miller	Port Glasgow High School
Gerry Watt	St Michael's Primary School
Lynne Quinn	St Ninian's Primary School

**APOLOGIES:**

Ian Dyer	Clydeview Academy
Robin Thomson	Inverclyde Academy & Wemyss Bay Primary School
Mhairi Gilchrist	Moorfoot Primary School
Roslynn Oliver	National Parent Forum Scotland
Valerie Fisher	St Andrew's Primary School
Cate McGeachy	St Francis' Primary School
Tommy McDade	St Stephen's High School