

**NOTE OF MEETING OF PARENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES HELD
ON TUESDAY 26 MAY 2015
ST NINIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

1 NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The note of the previous meeting, held on 5 March 2015 was agreed.

Matters Arising:

• **Training sessions for Parent Council Representatives run by SPTC:**

- *Involving all Parents – Wednesday 29 April at 7.00 pm in Inverclyde Academy this session had been cancelled due to lack of uptake*
- *Parent Council Essentials (2) – Thursday 7 May at 7.00 pm in Inverclyde Academy – this session had been very worthwhile with those present having the opportunity to access a lot of useful information to take back to their respective Parent Councils and the chance to share practice with other Parent Council members attending*

Sheena reminded the meeting that, as part of the block insurance with SPTC, we had 16 hours of training time that we could access. As an authority we have not utilised the full quota. If individual Parent Councils wished to have SPTC to their own school or cluster, could they contact Rhona or Sheena with what session they would propose to host.

- **Staged Intervention Model** – As discussed, this was being reviewed at authority level and when complete Sheena will arrange for a representative from Psychological Services to attend and give input on how this operates in schools

2 BUDGET UPDATE & DISCUSSION

Budget Update

Patricia Cassidy apologised for not being able to attend the meeting in March but she had been required to attend a committee meeting. She gave a resume of the various methods that had been employed to gather the views of the citizens of Inverclyde. These had included the Citizens Panel, community events at various locations in the authority, a dedicated session for Parent Council members, a budget simulator on the Council's website and Focus Groups. The undernoted is a breakdown of responses received:

- *Consultation – 190 responses*
- *Online simulator – 602 responses*
- *Questionnaire – 631 responses*
- *Focus Groups – 636 responses*
- *E-mails – 84*
- *Hits on website – 10,000+*

Another form of communication, as part of the consultation process was a Survey Monkey. Anyone who had given their e-mail address in their response was sent a link to a Survey Monkey. This had instigated 190 responses.

Patricia indicated that before the final decisions had been made, a group consisting elected members, senior officers and corporate directors had been meeting on a fortnightly basis looking at all the responses as they were received into the Council so that they could give due consideration to them within the timescales that had to be met. She underlined the importance that had been placed on there being no school amalgamations, no teacher cuts and no change to the school day, which had been a concern prevalent in responses received.

Patricia wished to bring to the attention of the meeting that further savings would require to be made and that meetings would start to take place at the start of the new session. At the moment there was no way of knowing what the savings required would be at the moment as it was a new Parliament in Westminster.

Raising Attainment

Patricia wished to share good news with the meeting in terms of raising attainment in the authority. In February the First Minister had indicated that they were allocating funding to address attainment, which Local Authorities could put bids in for. Evidence was that there was a gap in P1 in less affluent areas, where there can be a gap of 18 months behind their peers. The gap continues and for a lot of children widens as they go through their education.

The Attainment Challenge is looking at addressing this and Inverclyde Council had submitted a plan 2 weeks ago to bid for part of the £20m available for resources. Today a telephone Conference Call had taken place with the Scottish Government and, along with 6 other Local Authorities in Scotland, Inverclyde had been chosen to be part of this Challenge. The focus for this will be in 6 schools starting in Primary 1. The 6 schools are:

- Aileymill Primary School
- All Saints Primary School
- King's Oak Primary School
- Newark Primary School
- St Andrew's Primary School
- St Francis' Primary School

In choosing the schools a number of factors had come into play, including school roll and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). This would very much focus on involving the whole family to support the child in reading and as a result, as part of the challenge, CLD and Adult Literacy would be involved. More schools will come on board in due course.

Patricia indicated that it was a time limited resource and currently the level was unknown. Parents in the targeted schools will be informed of this when the proposal is firmed up.

A Scottish Government Improvement Officer would be appointed to the local authorities who were involved and they would be closely monitoring all progress and spending.

Discussion with parents will commence once the bid has been fine-tuned. Patricia Cassidy would appreciate support from Parent Councils in disseminating information.

3 POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR (PRPB)

Sheena indicated that she had been working on developing and promoting this with Diane Blyth, Head Teacher of Inverkip Primary School. All schools were now working with PRPB and had a copy of the Education Scotland document in school and available for parents to view. Sheena showed a PowerPoint presentation (*copy attached*) giving an introduction to parents and carers on how this was being embedded into schools and the aims in taking forward restorative practices. This would challenge schools and staff to promote this in the authority. The aim of this evening was to raise awareness of this and gather views from parents.

Roslynn Oliver informed the meeting that she had just completed a 'Caring for Vulnerable Children' 6 week course online with University of Strathclyde, which may be of interest to other parents.

In terms of promoting young people working together, Paul Malloy indicated that Notre Dame High School had a Science Fayre in February/March and as part of this they have collaboration with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) targeting S1 and P6/7 in feeder primary schools, which benefitted the transition of primary aged children to high school. Paul stated that Notre Dame would be happy to provide information on this if any other school was interested in taking this forward.

4

UPDATE FROM NATIONAL PARENT FORUM OF SCOTLAND

Roslynn asked that, if any schools/Parent Councils had any good practice that they wished to share, could they let her know and she would forward this to NPFS. This would help showcase the good work going on in schools in Inverclyde at a national level. This could either be sent to Rhona who would forward to Roslynn, or directly to her at inverclyde@npfs.org.uk. She also reminded the meeting that they could follow her NPFS updates on twitter Roslynn Oliver @roslynn_oliver.

NPFS had a number of Focus Groups ongoing and these fed back to the Curriculum for Excellence Management Board. She will keep the meeting updated on the work of the groups and also signposted the meeting to the NPFS website, which gave updates and information.

There will be a GIRFEC event hosted by NPFS on 20 June in Hampden. Crèche facilities will be available.

The Education Awards will take place on 10 June. There are 3 nominations for the Head Teacher Award, one of whom is Mairi McFarlane, Head Teacher of King's Oak Primary School.

Ardgowan Primary School were also through to the final 3 for the 1 + 2 Languages Award.

The last meeting of the session for NPFS will take place on 6 June. If you wish anything raised on your behalf at this meeting, please contact Rhona or Roslynn.

5 DATES OF MEETINGS FOR NEXT SESSION

The dates for the meetings of Parent Council Representatives for next session will be:

- ***Wednesday 2 September 2015 – Moorfoot Primary School at 7.00 pm***
- ***Thursday 26 November 2015 – Ardgowan Primary School (with tour at 6.30 pm and meeting commencing at 7.00 pm)***
- ***Tuesday 1 March 2016 – St Joseph's Primary School at 7.00 pm***
- ***Wednesday 25 May 2016 – St John's Primary School (with tour at 6/30 pm and meeting commencing at 7.00 pm)***

It is hoped that, given early notification of the dates of our meetings, that schools can work around these when setting their own Parent Council meetings/events in the school.

Due to time constraints, the Q&A session planned for this evening will be remitted to the meeting on 2 September, along with an input from Psychological Services on Staged Intervention.

PARENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING
Tuesday 26 May 2015
St Ninian's Primary School

ATTENDING:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ian Dyer | Clydeview Academy |
| Patricia Cassidy | Education Services |
| Sheena Beaton | Education Services |
| Rhona Turner | Education Services |
| Fiona McEwan | Inverkip Primary School |
| Roslynn Oliver | National Parent Forum Scotland |
| Les Wilson | Notre Dame High School |
| Paul Malloy | Notre Dame High School |
| Eugene Lafferty | St Columba's High School |
| Jillian Anderson | St Columba's High School |
| Claire Hunter | St Joseph's Primary School |
| Louise Stevens | St Ninian's Primary School |
| Lynn Quinn | St Ninian's Primary School |

APOLOGIES:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Morag McCracken | Craigmarloch School |
| Robin Thomson | Inverclyde Academy/Wemyss Bay Primary School |
| Fiona MacEachran | Kilmacolm Primary School |
| Cate McGeachy | St Francis' Primary School |
| Mary McDonald | St John's Primary School |
| Jamie Walker | St Mary's Primary School |
| Tommy McDade | St Stephen's High School |