

**NOTE OF MEETING OF PARENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2016
IN ST FRANCIS' PRIMARY SCHOOL**

1 CAREERS EDUCATION STANDARDS – SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

Wilma Bain welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Ken Edwards, Education Programme Lead at Skills Development Scotland. Ken gave an overview of his role in terms of opportunities that children will have from the ages of 3 – 18, in line with Curriculum for Excellence. He gave a PowerPoint presentation on this and 'Developing the Young Workforce' which had been launched in 2014. This was a 7 year plan for change and had 5 change themes, in part to address the fact that there were 53,000 young people under 25 not in a positive destination in Scotland and it was imperative for change. He discussed how they were working with top employers to look at attitudes and aptitudes they use and how they can look for the 'softer skills' as well as formal qualifications.

Ken referred to the National Parent Forum of Scotland Nutshell 'Career Education: A World of Possibilities' which gave information on the Career Standard which had been launched in September 2015 and outlined the 10 Entitlements for young people. This outlined transitions from early years education through to 18. This can be downloaded on pdf http://www.npfs.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2015/09/NPFS_world_of_possibilities_1509_E.pdf .

Ken informed the meeting that 'A Guide to Careers Service in Schools' was being disseminated to all young people in secondary schools after the October break.

Ken also advised that there was a wealth of information and support mechanisms on the 'My World of Work' website for both young people and parents/carers www.myworldofwork.co.uk

A progress check will take place in March 2017.

2 NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The note of the meeting held on 25 May was approved and there were no matters arising.

3 TAIL O' THE BANK CREDIT UNION

Demi Robertson and Susan Galbraith from Tail o' The Bank gave an outline of the work that they do and indicated that they had established a link with Inverclyde Council that all S1 pupils could open their own Credit Union Account and Inverclyde Council would deposit £10 into this when it had successfully been opened to encourage saving from an early age. Application forms had been given out to all P7 young people to have this up and running when they entered S1 but uptake had been low, with only 19% taking this offer up. Demi and Susan indicated that schools could run their own Credit Union to promote saving, responsible borrowing if they wish. Demi and Susan will be visiting schools in January and February to raise awareness of this. Parent Councils may wish to promote this in their own school.

4 ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

Wilma updated the meeting on progress being made in the authority with the Attainment Challenge. A report had been presented to the Education and Communities Committee and this is available on the Council's website if anyone wishes to read it. Wilma indicated that Inverclyde was seen as a leading authority in terms of those involved in the pilot. Mairi McFarlane, Project Manager, had also been asked to do a presentation at the Scottish Learning Festival. The secondary sector can now get involved at S1, and possibly S2 level.

A bid has been submitted for extra funding to allow more primary schools to come on board. Wilma reminded the meeting that all schools will benefit from the Attainment Challenge as good practice will be shared with all and CPD offered to Attainment Challenge staff will be offered to all staff. This funding is additionality, so does not affect schools budget. All Attainment Challenge funding has to be accounted for to the Scottish Government. Regular progress reports and 1:1 meetings with the Scottish Government on progress made. An evaluation is currently being done and, although early days, the results were positive.

5 PLACING REQUEST POLICY

Wilma informed the meeting that there were 2 statutory consultations about to take place. The proposal is to add 2 qualifying criteria to those already in place. It was felt that the current policy wasn't clear for parents and, in the case of Notre Dame High, which was over-subscribed for the past few years, the appeal panel had felt that in many cases they had nowhere to go in terms of turning down appeals.

The changes proposed are that, in secondary schools, children who attend a primary school associated with the secondary school as a result of a placing request or a request to remain according to the length of time at the associated primary school. This means that pupils who have attended for the longest time will have the highest priority. The other proposal is, in the case of denominational schools, pupils who can demonstrate an affinity with the religious ethos of the school and can provide documentary evidence of this in the form of a certificate of baptism into the Catholic faith.

These 2 proposed qualifying criteria would be third and fourth in terms of criteria, behind young people with additional support needs and those with a sibling already in the school.

The consultation will follow the statutory consultation timeline and run for 30 school days, in line with the 'Schools Consultation Act 2010'. No decisions will be taken until the consultation period has ended and responses considered. After the consultation, a report will be produced on findings of all stakeholders for consideration by Committee.

6 SCHOOL TRANSPORT REVIEW

The other consultation taking place was the review of the school transport policy for the authority. Currently, Inverclyde Council operates a more generous transport policy than the statutory requirements. Currently, for secondary pupils this is 2 miles for secondary pupils and 1 mile or more for primary in the authority with the statutory requirements being set at 3 miles for secondary and 2 miles for primary to receive free school transport.

Wilma indicated that, due to the current financial climate in the Council and the severe financial constraints, it was deemed necessary to review this. The proposal, which would take effect from August 2017, is still more generous than the statutory requirement:

- Secondary pupils residing more than 2.5 miles from their school
- Primary pupils residing more than 1.5 miles from their school and,
- To introduce an element for those children and young people entitled to Free School Meals (and in receipt of the clothing grant element) to enable them to access transport at closer distances of 1.5 miles for secondary pupils and 1 mile for primary pupils

Young people with Additional Support needs will be unaffected.

As with the Placing Request consultation, this consultation will follow the statutory process and run for 30 school days, excluding school holiday periods.

A report will be prepared after the consultation period has ended on the findings for Education Scotland and this will go on the Council website. A decision will be taken at the Committee in January/February 2017.

Concerns were raised that the consultation was being outlined tonight and consultation starting on Monday and that this was rushed as no information had been given to Parent Council Chairs before this meeting. Grant indicated that the Education Committee meeting had taken place on 6 September, this being the first meeting in the new school session, and this meeting was being held the following day so information was being provided as quickly as they could. Education Committee may not have agreed to proceed in this way so this was the earliest that it could be shared.

7 UPDATE FROM EDUCATION & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Robin had attended the meeting held on 6 September 2016. He reminded those present that all committee papers are on the Council's website if anyone wished to read them. The main items discussed were:

- **HMIe Inspections:**
An excellent HMIe inspection report for Inverkip Primary and Nursery Class
The inspection report on Craigmarloch School was discussed. The new Head Teacher spoke about how he wants to drive the school forward and his proposals for the future
- **Duke of Edinburgh Award** – Inverclyde: Inverclyde is one of the top local authorities in Scotland with regard to uptake of Duke of Edinburgh Award. The licence has been approved for another 5 years
- **School Estates:** Kilmacolm Primary and St Patrick's Primary are both on target to go back to their refurbished schools in October 2016. Details of current conditions and suitability of all schools in Inverclyde were also reported
- **Teacher Numbers for 2016/17:** A report had been presented to committee on teacher numbers required to maintain the pupil:teacher ratio in schools in relation to the 2016 census. The ratio is 13.7 pupils per teacher. The authority requires to meet this ratio or face a financial penalty. Census day is 21 September, if a vacancy requires to be filled work is being undertaken to ensure that this is done before this date
- **Review of Placing Requests & Review of School Transport:** Proposals as per discussion at this meeting

8 UPDATE ON NATIONAL PARENT FORUM SCOTLAND

As previously indicated, Owen Derrick has been appointed as a replacement to Roslyn Oliver on NPFS. Owen had given his apologies for this meeting as he had another engagement; however, he was keen to hear from Parent Councils and would be at the next meeting. His e-mail address is inverclyde@npfs.org.uk.

9 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

A discussion document on the updating of the Parental Involvement Strategy had been circulated with the agenda and minutes for this meeting. As time was tight at this meeting, Norman asked if Parent Councils could take this back to their own Parent Council and review it. He would appreciate comments and feedback. Norman intends to establish Working Groups to look at the various areas. If any Parent Council members wish to be involved in these groups, could they please advise him. Norman was also keen to involve senior pupils from primary and secondary schools, along with teaching staff and parents to ensure all stakeholders are involved.

10 DATES OF FUTURE MEETING FOR THE SESSION

- ***Thursday 24 November 2016 – Clydeview Academy, Gourock at 7.00 pm***
- ***Tuesday 7 March 2017 – St Patrick's Primary School, Greenock tour of refurbished school at 6.30 pm with meeting commencing at 7.00 pm***
- ***Wednesday 24 May 2017 – Kilmacolm Primary School tour of refurbished school at 6.30 pm with meeting commencing at 7.00 pm***

If you wish any items included on the agenda of the next Parent Council Representative's meeting please let Rhona know.

PARENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING
Wednesday 7 September 2016
St Francis' Primary School

ATTENDING:

Morag McCracken	Craigmarloch School
Anna McEwan	Craigmarloch School
Gayle McSheffery	Moorfoot Primary School
Gillian Rodgers	Newark Primary School
Wilma Bain	Education Services
Norman Greenshields	Education Services
Grant McGovern	Education Services
Rhona Turner	Education Services
Robin Thomson	Inverclyde Academy/Parent Representative on Education & Communities Committee
Eugene Lafferty	St Columba's High School
Cate McGeachy	St Francis' Primary School
Pauline Kelly	St Francis' Primary School
Angela Cunningham	St John's Primary School
Claire Hunter	St Joseph's Primary School

APOLOGIES:

Ian Dyer	Clydeview Academy
Ruth Binks	Education Services
Owen Derrick	Inverclyde National Parent Forum of Scotland Representative
Tommy McDade	St Stephen's High School