

**NOTE OF MEETING OF PARENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES HELD**

**ON THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2016**

**IN CLYDEVIEW ACADEMY**

1. **NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Wilma welcomed everyone to the meeting. The note of the meeting held on 7 September was agreed. There were no matters arising.

1. **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA**

Norman indicated that a concern had been raised with a parent from a split family who felt that they were out of the communication loop and were not receiving all information with regard to their child’s education. As schools have moved on from just sending out letters in school bags and were now using social media and their websites, Norman felt it would be useful for those present to discuss how communication should best be undertaken with parents. Parents present felt that the variety of methods used by schools allowed them to access the information in many different ways, one of which may suit them more than another.

1. **SCOTTISH GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Further to the publication of the Governance Review [Empowering Teachers, Parents & Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education.pdf](Empowering%20Teachers%2C%20Parents%20%26%20Commuities%20to%20Achieve%20Excellence%20and%20Equity%20in%20Education.pdf) in September 2016 and the information provided previously regarding this from various bodies, Wilma thought it may be helpful to speak through the various reports and legislation which had led to the Scottish Government commencing this review. She undertook a PowerPoint presentation (*copy attached* [*Educ Reform - Parent Council Chairs 24.11.16 Powerpoint presentation.pdf*](Educ%20Reform%20-%20Parent%20Council%20Chairs%2024.11.16%20Powerpoint%20presentation.pdf)*)* and spoke through why the Scottish Government were undertaking this review and how they were looking at addressing the 6 drivers of the National Improvement Framework and the timelines involved. Parents could either respond individually or collectively as a Parent Council. The authority would be submitting their comments on this and Norman was part of a group composing a response from the Scottish Parental Involvement Officers Network which involved representation from all local authorities in Scotland. The Scottish Government had also organised public consultations.

1. **UPDATE ON NATIONAL PARENT FORUM OF SCOTLAND**

Owen introduced himself to the meeting and indicated that he was happy to take forward any issues with NPFS which Parent Councils had as their representative. His e-mail address is inverclyde@npfs.org.uk. He indicated that he was involved in the review of the Parental Involvement Act and would keep everyone updated. The 4 key questions which Mr Swinney is looking at are:

* How do you want schools to be run?
* Where should influence lie?
* What adds value to the learning experience?
* What should parents do (within education)?

Owen indicated that there had been a good response to the Parental Involvement consultation to date. He will keep Parent Councils updated on this matter.

Owen indicated that NPFS were involved in various consultations including:

* Early Years and Childcare
* Teacher Standards
* Fitness to Teach
* STEM
* 1 + 2 Languages (this will be commencing soon)

Owen encouraged parents and Parent Councils to respond.

1. **UPDATE FROM EDUCATION & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Robin had tendered his apologies for the meeting due to illness; however, Ruth gave the meeting an update on the main points from the meeting held on 1 November 2016. The main items discussed were:

* ***Secondary Attainment Challenge Bid:*** Inverclyde had been successful in getting all monies bid for. Stevie Parsons, Head Teacher, St Stephen’s High School has been seconded to take forward the secondary attainment challenge in the authority
* ***Inverclyde Summer Literacy Lunch Clubs 2016:*** Ruth gave an update on the initiatives being taken forward in schools such as the Literacy Lunches, which took place over the summer holidays and involved whole families getting lunch and promoting family engagement, pop-up libraries and activities every day
* ***Tackling Unnecessary Bureaucracy and Undue Workload in Schools:*** A report by Education Scotland and the actions taken to tackle unnecessary bureaucracy was presented. The report advised that Inverclyde Council had been proactive in providing support and guidance which minimises workload demands for staff within its schools. Ruth indicated that, as an authority, we would be challenged on this
* ***Establishing the Capacity of Secondary Schools in Inverclyde:*** The agreed formula had been used to establish capacities for secondary schools. This would be done using a staged approach to the revision of capacities and the maximum intake for year groups in secondary schools and 3 would be capped in the first year with the remaining 3 being capped the following year. This will clarify the situation for parents and help manage the capacity in secondary schools
1. **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT/ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Norman indicated that, further to previous discussions, the Parental Involvement Strategy required review and had been in place from 2012 until 2015. There was also debate regarding whether this should be Parental Involvement or Parental Engagement strategy. Some parents felt more comfortable with the term Parental Involvement, but it may be that, in time, they would feel comfortable with becoming involved in Parental Engagement. As indicated at the previous meeting, Norman will be establishing various Working Groups to take forward this strategy and would be very keen to involve parents who may wish to be involved. If anyone wishes to be involved can they let him know please. He also intends to involve senior pupils in this process.

1. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS FOR THE SESSION**
* ***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**

**THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2016**

**CLYDEVIEW ACADEMY**

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| **ATTENDING:** |  |
| Ian Dyer | Clydeview Academy |
| Morag McCracken | Craigmarloch School |
| Anne Doig | King’s Oak Primary School |
| Kelly Dominick | King’s Oak Primary School |
| Jacqueline McAliece | King’s Oak Primary School |
| Linzi Miller | King’s Oak Primary School |
| Wilma Bain | Education Services |
| Ruth Binks | Education Services |
| Norman Greenshields | Education Services |
| Rhona Turner | Education Services |
| Gayle McSheffery | Moorfoot Primary School  |
| Owen Derrick | National Parent Forum of Scotland |
| Janette Ramsay | Notre Dame High School |
| Claire Hunter | St Joseph’s Primary School |
| Julie Matthews | St Stephen’s High School |
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| **APOLOGIES:** |  |
| Vicky Fitzharris | All Saints Primary School |
| Grant McGovern | Education Services |
| Fiona Lawrie | Gourock Primary School |
| Robin Thomson | Inverclyde Academy/Parent Representative on Education & Communities Committee |
| Fiona Maceachran | Kilmacolm Primary School |
| Eugene Lafferty | St Columba’s High School |
| Cate McGeachy | St Francis’ Primary School |
| Gerry Watt | St Michael’s Primary School |