



Bruntsfield Parent Council 18 June 2020 via Zoom.

SINCE THIS MEETING TOOK PLACE THE PROPOSALS ON RETURN TO SCHOOL DEVELOPED MATERIALLY SUCH THAT THE DISCUSSION SUMMARISED BELOW IS NOT RELEVANT TO THE CURRENT SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

Apologies: Polly Goulding

Karen Galloway took the chair and outlined meeting agenda and protocols.

Part 1: Return to School

The main aim of the meeting was to answer the questions on the return to school that parents have and to discuss the proposed blended learning model.

KG has been involved in locality meetings and working with chairs of other parent councils to provide feedback to CEC.

Joint parent council letter has been issued expressing views of parents and summarising disappointment at lack of clarity and ambition in CEC proposals.

(a) Councillors (Melanie Main, Neil Ross, Mandy Watt) provided an update

Melanie Main – CEC proposal had to balance safety with a quality education and had to do it within budget. So by finding an additional £12m (from early years and schools in deprived areas) they could move to 33% attendance. More money required from SG to do anything extra.

Mandy Watt – Agreed with MM. Additional issue with rising rolls in Edinburgh. Concern over well being where children are separated from friends.

Neil Ross – Reiterated that the council needs more funding. SG is underfunding councils. Private School adjustment leaves us without funding necessary. Clarity on Council's plans for August are based on 2m rule (i.e. June advice).

KG made clear that the Parent Council wants the best education for our children. We can't keep seeing SG and CEC passing the buck. Need to decide how to get things back onto an even keel. Need leadership.

(b) CK outlined the current plans for return to school at BPS

Planning well underway.

BPS is ready for 1/3 attendance (and ½ when allowed to do so) though school is over capacity by 100+ using all 3 halls to enable flexible learning. Signage, PPE coming in. Isolation room planned.

Curriculum split:

- Building Resilience tailored to children's needs
- Core skills in literacy and numeracy to be consolidated.

- Other areas then introduced.

Current principles for arranging pupil groupings:

- Families in on same day
- School will work with parents but we can't promise every friend, every preference.
- Let's get the children in and then tweak as necessary
- Will use outdoors space as much as possible (subject to rules). Staggering of lunch time and breaks.
- Organised classes in schools so that half given to certain classes/half to another to allow guiding and distancing.
- Separate time slots for drop off and pick up for older and younger children.
- Provision to be made for teachers/parents to nurture any children that are concerned about coming in.

Hygiene

- Good cleaners. Well drilled from hub school.
- Hand washing regime in place for each session break before and after activities, breaks, lunch.
- School has brought in bags to enable children to store their stationary etc so that it is only available to them. Coats on back of chair. Bag next to chair. Minimising communal areas.

Quality of education – impact

- This is not what any of us wanted.
- Acknowledge what parents have done (CK thanked everyone). Parents are filling an important gap.
- Schools are good at skills for learning and skills for work but lack time on skills for life. Carry on during summer holidays. Helping making meals, helping with shopping.
- Impossible to tell precisely what the impact has been and it will differ between children. But school will work out who needs support and will put support in place to catch-up.
- Children left school in a good place. High achievement.

(c) Blended Learning

Parent Richard Ward gave a presentation on blended learning which was very well received by the meeting and is available on the Parent Council website.

(d) Summary of main concerns raised by parents:

A strong desire for more face time with teaches and more regular and detailed feedback.

Parent Allan Crosbie felt that there should be more realism and patience and that parent councils should not expect too much from CEC. He didn't agree with statement put out by parent councils believing it to be overblown in context of global pandemic.

Part 2: Standard Business

- (a) Minutes from previous meeting approved
- (b) Clubs finance - finances are stable. Balance around £25,000. Work on audit progressing well.
- (c) Events finance - £7,000 in accounts. Spending projects to be identified. Yearbook for P7s went well.
- (d) Clubs – Felix 3 x online clubs currently offered. Follow-up in August on what we can offer from August. New system allows us to get up and running quickly.

(e) St Oswald's – update from David Urch

Submitted business plan for stage 2 application for community purchase. If successful St Oswald's will provide a mixed use space with a focus on wrap around care. Very exciting project.

We need to encourage council to support application with revenue commitment. Possible decision in August. Update to follow at next meeting.

Meeting closed.