

## Bruntsfield Parent Council meeting 18 May 2022 (via zoom)

### Opening and apologies

- RC opened the meeting noting it was quorate.
- There were apologies from local councillors Neil Ross, Marie Claire Munro and Ben Parker.
- Minutes from 29 March 2022 – approved
- It was noted that the funding application for the gardening and playground improvement project had been approved.

### Headteacher update (CK)

- **Sharing the Learning:** P7 classes have entertained us all with their performance of 'Jubilee Jamboree'. This is the first performance we have been able to invite parents and carers to see and I am very, very pleased Curriculum for Excellence Showcase Events are now back 'live and in school'.

Well done to all the P7 children and staff, a great performance!

- **Swimming Pool:** It seems as though the repair is not quite as straightforward as first thought. To avoid the children missing any more lessons, we have secured the use of Sciennes Primary swimming pool until the repairs at Bruntsfield have been completed. Details are being finalised and the classes who have swimming will be informed.
- **School Travel Plan Review:** Over the next 24 months the Road Safety Team will be carrying out a School Travel Plan Review across all schools in the city. The aim of the review is to develop a 5-year action plan with staff, parents and children at each of the schools to make the surrounding routes and streets safer and to encourage more active travel to school. Schools with temporary Spaces for People measures are being prioritised. The first surveys have already been carried out and analysis is underway. This process will enable conversations on what the school and parents would like to see installed on a permanent basis to improve the routes for travelling to school sustainably. Information on the programme and progress updates can be found on the [Streets Ahead](#) website.
- **Equalities:** The CEC Equalities Team send information each month to all staff in school. This gives a monthly list of key events and links to great teaching and learning resources for staff to discuss and use with their classes. The CEC schools are also working together to collate all the work they are doing, with the view to sharing practice across the City. I am very pleased to see so many classes using our children's books as a focus for discussion and debate. Ms Dobie is working with the Pupil Equalities Team on a display for us all to enjoy.
- **Resources for Parents and Carers:** The Early Intervention team at Child and Adult Mental Health (CAMHs) have added two new Anxiety Resources and workshops to help parents support their child or teenager, *the new leaflet is attached*.

You may also find all the resources on the CAMHS NHS Lothian website at [Online Resources \(nhslothian.scot\)](#)

The new resources include [A relaxation booklet for children](#) and a Self Help Guide for parents on supporting their child with anxiety

- **Part 1 :** Understanding and Talking about worries
  - **Part 2 :** Anxiety Traps
  - **Part 3 :** Overcoming Anxiety
  - **Part 4 :** Looking After Yourself and Further information
  - **Scottish Government Consultation on School Uniforms in Scotland:** The Scottish Government has launched a consultation to seek views on school uniform in Scotland. The consultation runs from 19 May 2022 until 14 October 2022. The consultation is available from their Citizen Space website through the following link: School uniforms in Scotland – Scottish Government – Citizen Space ([consult.gov.scot](https://consult.gov.scot)), which includes information on the consultation and how to respond, or you may contact them at: Scottish Government, Support and Wellbeing Unit, Learning Directorate, Area 2-B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh. EH6 6QQ.
- CK also spoke to the meeting about the staggered timings for the beginning and end of the school day and took questions. CK reiterated that the feedback from staff and pupils was that the timings made the school more spacious and calmer (especially for P1 and P2) and were working well.
  - CK is leaving the school at the end of the academic year and spoke briefly to the meeting about the next steps.

### **Update on outdoor learning**

- Ms Lamond gave an update on the playground project.
  - The children have been collecting materials and working with the project team to assessing the space.
- Ms Lamond has also met with the CEC outdoor learning team to help develop ideas (especially in relation to the Bruntsfield Links)

### **Summer Playground Party on 11 June (KP and team):**

- Organisation is going well but we need more volunteers.
- Great stalls planned (including P6 fundraising for year book)
- For other stalls we will ask for donations rather than fixed prices with profits split between Ukrainian refugees and playground project.

### **St Oswald's update (DU)**

- The team have the £500k to buy building and refurb it
- Main aim is to offer WAC pre and post school and offer hall to school for additional space.
- St Oswald's needs volunteers (team is just 4 at the moment)
- Skills including fundraising, web design, bookkeeping would be welcome.

### **A+ update (Zaki El-Salahi)**

- 2 sessions left in the term
- A lot of parents have been in touch and attended the meetings
- Zaki will produce a short end of year report
- Good feedback so far
- The group have also started a Ukraine war outreach service
- Action list coming from the meetings:
  - Decolonising the curriculum

- More work to be done on communication
- Zaki expressed his pride in bruntsfield – a lot has been done.

### **Clubs update (JF)**

- The relaunch continues to go well.
- Judo – new club
- Choir club will be at playground party
- More volunteers please

### **New Volunteers needed**

- RC also reminded the meeting that the Parent Council will need a new Chair and Secretary for next term.
- Roles can be shared.

***All BPS staff members and CEC councillors left the meeting at the point to facilitate a discussions amongst the PC on the process for the new headteacher appointment***

### **Headteacher replacement (RC and SD)**

- RC and SD explained that under the Parental involvement Act parents have a right to be involved in senior management appointments
- CEC required parents who are involved in the process to undertake training (which SD and RC have done).
- RC and SD are our appointed representatives and the meeting thanked them for their time and energy in helping to select the new headteacher.
- RC and SD are working with the CEC HR team and another head teacher as part of the appointment panel.
- The process is confidential and RC and SD cannot comment on individuals or discuss specific details of the process but they spoke to the meeting about the general recruitment process and the timings for the appointment.
- The meeting also discussed questions the Parent Council would want candidates to be asked and RC and SD took these away.
- RC and SD explained that if n0t candidate is successful then a depute head will takeover for a period and the process will be re-run at a later stage (this is what happened at JGPS in a recent recruitment process).

There being no other business the meeting closed.

**Next meeting is 14 June 2022.**