

Minutes of Broughton High School Parent Council Management Support Group

Tuesday 8th December 7:15 - 20:45

Present: Graeme Robertson, Arthur McIvor, Hugh Duffy, David Martin, Lesley Johnston, Eilidh Steele.

Apologies: Katie Sturgeon, Tom Christie, Morag Riley, Alan Ness.

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting / Matters Arising.

The following action points not discussed separately on the agenda were discussed:-

- **Membership** - Not all councillors had replied, Cllr Ian Whyte is to co-ordinate with the group.
- **Health & Food Technology (HFT) Rooms.**
Graeme met with HFT, and health & safety are to visit.
The issue with stools is being tracked, **Graeme to chase.**
Mobile Smart boards are to be set up in HFT.
Costings of wires for smart boards are to be sought.
- **P7 Parents Evenings** were a success - lots of parents attended.
Following feedback about the school classes and rooms being closed during the evening, Lesley is to examine the possibility of doing this event on a Friday afternoon when the school is open.
Action: Lesley Johnston.

2 Reports / updates.

2.1 Royston consultation

We agreed that we had submitted a response, and that we don't need to attend the council meeting on 17/12/09.

Action: Graeme to check the final consultation hasn't changed.

2.2 CCWP Budget Meeting 17/12/09.

David Martin to go to the CCWP budget meeting on our behalf. There might be a chance to present the budget cuts presentation supplied by Graeme Robertson to a wider audience.

Graeme had sent the slide pack to the council (Mike Rosendale), he has also made it available to the wider Edinburgh Parent Council Network (EPCN). We will try to get a slot at the CCWP meeting to present the views of parents, to counter the views of the council and try to gain wider support for a wide ranging review of the estate, including trying to persuade others that some schools need to close.

Action: David Martin and Graeme to chase.

2.3 Football academy

Arthur met with Gordon Smith, Chief Executive of the SFA to discuss setting up a football academy at BHS.

Action: Arthur to invite SFA sub committee to visit the school.

3 Careers Event.

Eilidh reported that she had received a good response from former pupils and others with a variety of interesting jobs. Although we still need more volunteers particularly from the trades sector.

Not all parents received the note, though that might be due to absence.

The event will probably take place on the 3rd February 2010. Each attendee will have a profile, and be supplied with a 'template' for what is required.

Action: Arthur to ask if some MSP's want to attend.

Action: Eilidh to send the request via email to the management group.

4 Budget Cuts.

As discussed throughout the meeting, most of the details are listed under section 2.2 CCWP Budget Meeting 17/12/09.

- Graeme had circulated the response from GT/MM/DR.
- Iain Whyte is liaising with the other Cllrs about arranging meetings.
- There was general discussion about how to communicate with the wider parent body and the difficulty in doing this.

5 Liaison with cluster primaries.

Update. HD reported that he had established contact with all the cluster primary school parent councils except for Royston.

The comms group has still to agree a communications strategy before we go ahead with any actual meetings with them.

LJ reported that an open day for parents in the summer term wasn't viable due to exam diet..

Other ideas about having some kind of summer event were discussed, perhaps on the basis of the primary schools letting the High School for some kind of event.

6 Head Teacher's Report

Lesley reported on:

- **Curriculum for excellence.** Lots of documents have been produced; LJ is preparing with P Cumming the schools high level curricular map. The timeline for implementation has already been issued to staff.
- **1st year interdisciplinary day.** A variety of topics were offered and the students chose which they would like to study. The learning was good with outcomes and experiences of Curriculum for excellence being well covered.
- **Internet.** It was asked if the films produced could be made available on YouTube and to ask about making things available online generally. We need to find out what the details of the web guidelines are, and find

out what's acceptable. The Bandwidth issue that was previously reported as causing restrictions on what can be loaded, was said to be such a small issue, that it shouldn't affect what the COMMS group is trying to load, or what the schools is trying to upload. LJ to investigate

- **GLOW.** All is on track with this. In the future, all parents and pupils will have their own access, which would be another avenue/channel of communication open to the school for curriculum.
- **Staffing.** The projected school roll for next year is below 900, which is a worry. The Music School and the Dance School are actively advertising to get more pupils into the school. Long term absence and maternity cover are costly.
- **Achievements.** The PE department organised a dance competition for Edinburgh schools. BHS won the screaming prize, and the senior dance. Gymnasts won a 3rd place prize in an Edinburgh competition. 2nd/3rd year football were winning, but we're missing a coach for 4th year football. DM to ask on the touchline if anyone wants to get involved.

School Lets. Edinburgh Leisure business representative said our plan is not viable. As, if the school is open, then staff have to be present which outweighs the cost of the let. There is an ongoing issue about how to manage this. It is not practical to try to make a profit if CLD have free lets.

The muddy pitch will not be playable on for another 2 years. The grass has still to be planted and then requires two years to mature.

7 AOCB.

- Parent council to get its own headed notepaper.
- At the recent parents' night, one class had only a 4% take up of parents. The other classes had about 75%. The low turn out was from a class of students who traditionally would have left school at Christmas
- Using email for communications from the parent council. Can we get an emails distribution list? The office might need help for this sort of thing. IT should be noted that any information sent this way cannot be guaranteed, so paper copies should be sent out as well.
- **It was noted that the meeting ended on time at 8:44.**

Next meeting

Tuesday 12th January 2010