



## **Broughton High School Parent Council Management Support Group Annual Report : 2010 - 2011**

### **Introduction**

The Management Support Group (MSG) has been meeting approximately monthly, with between 6 and 10 members attending.

We are very fortunate to have a strong & constructive relationship with the senior management team, and would like to thank them all for the time they give to encouraging and supporting the activities of the Parent Council.

We have dealt with a range of topics and actions over the past year, with the dominant topics being budget cuts (again), the retirement of the Head Teacher, and a School Inspection by HMIE (now Education Scotland).

### **Head Teacher Changes**

Lesley Johnston elected to retire early at the end of the 2010-11 session. Her impact on the school over the last few years has been tremendous, and her influences will be felt for some years to come. It has been my privilege and pleasure to work with her through the School Board and Parent Council, and we wish a happy and successful retirement.

We were delighted when Sharee MacKerron (Senior Depute) agreed to accept the role of Acting Head Teacher until a replacement HT is appointed; we have already benefitted from a smooth transition, and look forward to working with her over the coming term.

We set up a Working Group under the chairmanship of Harald Tobermann, to coordinate the recruitment and selection of a new HT; Harald will report progress separately.

### **HMIE Inspection**

The school was visited by Inspectors from HMIE in June, with the outline findings having been published in the last few weeks. We were pleased that the Inspectors largely confirmed the actions areas which the management team had already identified, and delighted that they see no need to carry out any follow-up visit in relation to the inspection.

The detailed findings are due to be published imminently, and will feed into discussions and action planning over the coming year. In the mean time, the public report is available on the Education Scotland site, and links can be found on the Parent Council website.

### **Budget Cuts**

Once again, we endured a torrid few months of consultation with City of Edinburgh Council over further cuts to school budgets. We again campaigned for long-term strategic review of the school estate, in favour of further annual tactical cuts, with well-attended public meetings with local and national politicians, lobbying meetings with Councillors, and positive press coverage. However, the will to impose significant cuts was too strong, and we are just now getting to grips with reductions both to senior staff and to support staff.

### **Communications Group**

Regrettably we were unable to secure a volunteer to chair the Communications Sub-Group of the Parent Council in the past year; however, this has not deterred Tom Christie and Hugh Duffy from their respective support for the PC Website and the Parents' email distribution list – both essential in our quest to improve communications. Sincere thanks to both for their largely unsung efforts behind the scenes on these activities

## **School Website**

After many years of planning and many months of preparation, we were delighted to see the establishment of a revised and modernised school website late last session. The evolution of this has continued under Sharee's headship, and we look forward to this becoming a stronger and stronger mechanism for promoting and supporting communications with parents and the wider community.

## **Attendance / Absence Management**

This has been agreed as a priority action area, and we are keen to explore the establishment of a Working Group to work with teachers and the management team to promote and progress this in the coming year. All volunteers welcome!

## **Staff "Thank You"**

Towards the end of last session, the Parent Council / Broughton Association sponsored a free lunch for all teaching and support staff, in recognition of their ongoing commitment and support despite facing a constant barrage of curricular and budgetary challenges. This was very well received, and we have agreed to support a regular supply of biscuits for all-staff meetings throughout the coming year.

## **Curriculum for Excellence**

Implementation of the new Curriculum continues, with S1 and S2 pupils now working under the new regime. In order to assist the transition process over the coming years, a new 32-period timetable has been agreed, and is now bedding in.

## **Youth Music Initiative (YMI)**

The YMI saw hundreds of P6 and P7 pupils from across the city descend on Broughton for music tuition. Volunteers from the Parent Council operated a cafe in the Staff Room for the benefit of YMI parents, and this proved popular not only with them but with other school users alike. Regrettably Creative Scotland funding for this initiative has been reduced this year, and the Saturday morning classes are likely to be replaced with a more modest provision in Broughton on Friday afternoons. Many thanks to Hugh Duffy and his band of volunteers, who did a tremendous job of presenting the school in a positive light.

## **Consultative Committee with Parents (CCWP)**

This Council-run committee aims to engage with Parents from across Edinburgh schools (Primary and Secondary); David Martin has once again attended on behalf of schools in the Broughton cluster. Once more, the agenda has been dominated by budget issues and the challenge of improving parental engagement; for those interested, papers are published on the Edinburgh Council website through Council Papers Online.

## **Building Lets**

Once again, our fantastic facilities have proved popular with the local community, but unfortunately this has led to a trebling of our target for letting income, to around £70,000. Discussions continue with Council officials regarding the viability of such a demanding target, and the impact of our recent establishment as a Community Sports Hub – although this might increase demand for facilities, it is also likely to increase demand for preferential letting terms.

## **Primary School Liaison**

The school continues to work closely with the cluster primary schools, with a specific focus on improving numeracy and literacy of the pupils coming into S1. The Parent Council have once again provided support at Parents' Evenings in the primary schools, working with pupils to man an information stand to promote Broughton High School to prospective future pupils and their families.

## **Succession Planning**

After six years of involvement with the Broughton Association, the School Board and the Parent Council, the time has come for me to move on. The timing is far from ideal, coinciding as it does with Lesley's retirement and the appointment of a new Head Teacher, but with my son now having left S6, I too must let go of my long and happy relationship with Broughton High School.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and staff – past and present, and too numerous to mention individually – I've had the pleasure of working with over the years, and wish every success to those stepping up to take things forward from here.

## **Summary**

The last year has been another busy year for the MSG, but hopefully the effort has been worth it. As with many activities like this, much of the effort typically falls on a small number of volunteers. We would be delighted to hear from other parents who might be willing to get involved with some of the activities of the MSG, on either a regular or occasional basis.

Many thanks to all members of the MSG for their involvement, but especially to Lesley Johnston, Morag Riley (our regular Staff member), and latterly Sharee Mackerron, for taking on this extracurricular responsibility. Thanks also to Ruby and Jack (our departing Head Boy and Head Girl) for supporting various school and Parent Council activities throughout the year, and for bringing a pupils' perspective to proceedings.

Copies of meeting minutes, and other relevant information, are published on our Parent Council website, [www.bhspsc.org.uk](http://www.bhspsc.org.uk). This also contains links to other useful websites with relevant information.

Graeme Robertson  
Chair, Management Support Group  
Broughton High School Parent Council