

Minutes of Glasgow City Parents Group held in the Glasgow Gaelic School on Tuesday 12 March 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Sarah Conboy, Scotstoun Primary; Stephen Harvey, Swinton Primary; Gillian Neil, St Benedict's Primary; Gillian Quinn, St Benedict's Primary; Neil, Patterson, St Benedict's Primary; Sarah Freel, Our Lady of the Rosary Primary; R Nicholson, Hillhead High; L Solman, Antonine Primary; S McKellar, Antonine Primary; Michael Montgomery, Scotstoun Primary; Fiona Rich, St Angela's Primary; Mandie Running, Our Lady of the Rosary Primary and Lourdes Secondary; Emma McIntosh, Cleveden Secondary; P Ryan, St Benedict's Primary and L McGuire, St Paul's Primary.

Attending: : Maureen McKenna, Executive Director of Education, GCC; Kathryn Farrow, Quality Improvement Office (Parent Partnership), Education Services, GCC; Gillian McCabe, Minute-taker.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Kathryn Farrow welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced Maureen McKenna, the Executive Director of Education from Glasgow City Council and informed the meeting that Maureen was going to be sharing details of her update on the recent Education Scotland Inspection Report and the Education Budget for 2019/2020.

Kathryn said she had placed post-it notes in front of parents for them to think of things they would like included in the new Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy. She suggested that whilst they were listening to Maureen give her presentation that they should note things that they like about GCC, things they think need improved, things that are going well but with suggestions how we improve even further.

Kathryn explained that following our recent Digital Learning Workshop, Tony Byatt, (DHT, St Benedict's Primary School), had asked if the Parent's Forum could look at some "posters" he had prepared and for those present to add comments and/or suggestions to these.

2. Director's Update – February 2019 – Powerpoint Presentation by Maureen McKenna, Executive Director of Education, GCC

Prior to the start of the meeting, Maureen circulated the following documents to those present: Stakeholder Survey Analysis; Head Teachers' Charter Working Group; and Education Scotland's Inspection of local authorities.

Maureen explained that the "Stakeholder Survey Analysis" document was based on an annual online survey which gathered the views of parents and carers, pupils, staff and the community to build a stronger view of how well GCC are doing. It gives

stakeholders the chance to share their experiences and perceptions of Education Services and identify areas of improvement.

Maureen informed the meeting that the Head Teachers' Charter Working Group was formed to advise the Education Directorate of the recommendations of the working group. The Working Group was set up with a mix of Head Teachers across the city and was supported by David McClelland, Head of Resources and Mary Arthur, HR Manager. Maureen talked about recruitment and explained how probationers are appointed in Glasgow through Panels.

The last document, the Education Scotland Inspection of GCC schools; GCC was left to the last by Education Scotland because GCC are the biggest and most complex authority in Scotland.

In brief, Education Scotland said that GCC is showing excellent progress in improving learning, raising attainment and closing the poverty-related attainment gap. Maureen was delighted to say that the HM Inspectors found clear evidence that poverty was no longer accepted as a barrier to the pursuit of excellence in Glasgow.

Maureen then gave her Powerpoint Presentation, Director's Update February 2019-20.

She told the meeting the budget was passed on 21 February 2019. She explained that Education Services had a pretty challenging £41 million of savings to make. Maureen explained the efficiencies and was delighted that there would be no loss of staff.

Maureen took some questions from those present.

3. Parental Involvement & Engagement Strategy

Kathryn Farrow talked about this briefly. She said she would send out a communication about this asking for parents to respond if they were interested in being involved in this. She said if she received too many requests to be involved in this group that the names would be chosen out of a hat.

4. Any other current business

Two suggested Agenda items for the next meeting were details of the Parental Involvement and Strategy Group and a talk by Barry Syme, Principal Psychologist from GCC, about mental health and wellbeing.

Kathryn Farrow asked if parents could email any ideas for further Agenda items. Kathryn's email address is Kathryn.farrow@glasgow.gov.uk.

5. **Date of next meeting**

The next Glasgow City Parents Group Meeting will take place on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 7.00 pm in the Glasgow Gaelic School, Berkeley Street, Glasgow G3 7HP.