



Minutes of Budget Meeting of 30 January 2013

Present:	Richard Porter (Chair)	Balornock PS/Springburn Academy
	Carol Eason	Carmyle PS
	Gayle McLellan	Carmyle PS
	Lizette Craig	Carmunnock PS
	Edi Reavey	Cardonald PS
	Ruth Downes	Hillhead PS
	Geraldine Acbor	St Mungo's PS
	Liz Langan	St Cuthbert's PS
	Emma MacIntosh	Highpark PS
	Nancy Loftus	Rosshall Academy
	Mandie Running	Our Lady of the Rosary PS/Lourdes SS
	Feargal Dalton	Glasgow City Council
	Kishuak Siddiq	Pollokshields PS
	Razia Khalil	St Brides PS
	Mariam Umar Din	St Brides PS
	Farzana Hussain	St Brides PS
	Frances Orr	St Brides PS/Holyrood SS
	Sabina Aftab	St Brides PS/Shawlands Academy
	Iris Gibson	Glasgow City Council
	Joanna Fozard	Pollokshields PS
	Douglas Wilson	Our Lady of Assumption PS ???
	Joan Andrews	Carntyne PS
	Alison Guthrie	Pirie Park PS/Hyndland SS
	Yasmeen Tanveer	Pollokshields PS
	Margaret Carlin	Pollokshields PS
	Gillian Bard	Avenue End PS
	John Clarke	Avenue End PS
	Bruce McCullagh	Avenue End PS
	Audrey Harrison	St Fillan's PS/Hollyrood SS
	Linda Crumlin	St Bride's PS/Hollyrood SS
	Tracey Christie	Carntyne PS
	Margaret Anderson	Carntyne PS
	Sarah Lavery	Carntyne PS
	Paul Toland	St Mirins PS/Holyrood SS
	Joanna Murphy	St Brides PS/Holyrood SS
Attending:	Kathryn Farrow	Education Services
	Maureen McKenna	Executive Director of Education Services
	Carol Jack	Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Richard Porter welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Councillor Dalton and Councilor Gibson, Kathryn Farrow, Education Services and Maureen McKenna, Executive Director of Education Services.

2. Revised Quality Assurance and Improvement Policy Update

Maureen produced a revised Quality Assurance and Improvement Policy that had been circulated to head teachers and urged the Forum to read it.

3. Advanced Highers Update.

Maureen provided an update on the current position with regard to the provision of advanced highers in Glasgow advising that due to the challenges faced by schools to offer a wide range of subjects accessible to every child a number of initiatives were being explored, namely

- (a) engagement with the college sector to put in a “higher hub” to provide wider access for deprived postcodes to higher education. In this regard £900k had been awarded from the lottery fund and Education Services were looking into the best way to deliver this; and
- (b) looking into more flexibility to the way pupils can take advanced highers eg. location/time/provision of transport and highlighted the possible different teaching arrangements.

Maureen stated she would keep the Forum updated.

Richard stated positive feedback had been received from parents who appreciated the equal access across the city.

4. Education Budget

Maureen circulated a presentation on the education budget proposals to be submitted for approval to the upcoming Council meeting.

Maureen summarised that the overall spending gap for the Council 2013-2015 was £48.8m with Education Services having a proposed budget saving of £16.3m over 2 years. Education Services had proposed a major capital investment programme in addition to the savings outlined in the report.

The Forum raised the following concerns.

- (a) Although money spent on new builds was welcomed there were problems in existing buildings (often less than 6 years old) which needed upgrading already. Many of the problems were due to “quick fixes” leading to large scale remedial works.

Maureen stated there were different budgets for new builds and refurbishment however she would look into the individual cases highlighted and get back to Parent Councils concerned.

Maureen advised that she was unaware of some of the concerns highlighted. Richard Porter stated that there were channels for dealing with problems with schools by Parent Councils and in the first instance Kathryn Farrow/Maureen McKenna could be contacted directly.

- (b) Several members raised the issue of cluster janitors and whether one janitor would be able to cope with more than one school.

Maureen stated this was an area where they had to make savings.

- (c) The Forum were concerned at the closure of 4 primary and ASL swimming pools in particular St Bride’s pool which would have a direct impact on the BME community in the area and agreed that the pools provided a great resource to all young children in the city.

Maureen stated this had not been an easy decision to make however on a positive note an independent engineer had expressed an interest to continue St Bride’s pool as a community resource and Maureen’s intention was to pursue positively.

- (d) The Forum questioned why privately run after school care was given a subsidised let given the charges to parents.

Maureen stated that historically this had always been the position.

Richard highlighted this issue could be brought to the attention of local councillors.

- (e) The Forum were of the view that private schools should cover the costs for hospital education rather than the Council.
- Maureen stated this was a legal matter outwith her control.*
- Richard stated this was a matter for the local MSP.*
- (f) With regard to proposed EAL savings the Forum stated that mainly deprived areas of the city would be disadvantaged and this was a major issue.
- Maureen stated that savings had to be made and decisions had not been easy.*
- (g) The Forum discussed Cordia.
- Kathryn highlighted that Julia McCreadie attended the last meeting, left her contact details and was available to approach on any ongoing issue.*
- Richard stated he had previously asked for Parent Council feedback on this and while this was minimal he was keen to set up a sub-group specifically to deal with school meals and asked anyone interested to contact him.*
- (h) Maureen stated she would provide Richard with the core budget figure per school which would be available end March/April and would be on the GCC intranet.
- (i) With regard to queries over funding applications Richard stated he would cascade this information to the parent councils.

5. AOCB

- (a) Richard stated a special newsletter with updated curriculum for excellence (CfE) information and useful references had been sent out to the parents and carers of all S3 pupils in Glasgow secondary schools.
- (b) Joanna Murphy advised Qualifications Plus Events were being held in the following areas and urged parents to attend.
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| Edinburgh | 05/03 |
| Glasgow | 13/03 |
| Aberdeen | 20/03 |
- (c) Richard again impressed upon the Forum the importance of keeping in touch and cascading information via the various communication methods available.

6. Date of Next Meeting.

Date of next meeting will be 20th March 2012.

Contact Us at:



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Glasgow Parent Council Forum



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