**New city-wide group for parents**

At a meeting on 22nd May 2018, the options for the future shape of parental engagement at city level were discussed.

The advantages and disadvantages of 4 options were deemed to be as follows:

**OPTION 1.** Constituted group with a small committee arranging agenda, minutes of meetings, booking speakers, keeping abreast of national and local initiatives. Meeting chaired by a member of the committee.

**Advantages**

* Mirrors Parent Councils
* Parent Led
* More flexibility in arranging
* Know that it works

**Disadvantages**

* Needs guidance
* Requires parents willing to take a lead role
* Needs partnership with the local authority

**OPTION 2**. Meetings arranged by local authority with strong input from parents. All practical aspects would be covered by the local authority e.g. booking venue, publicising meetings, suggesting agenda items etc. This could be a temporary arrangement to get the group up and running.

**Advantages**

* Builds good foundation for a later move to Option 1
* Both parties could contribute to agenda - a 50/50 agenda model

*Or* – Parental suggestions could take priority over local authority agenda items

* Administration covered
* More sustainable through changes
* Local Authority staff know who to contact for requested contributions
* Local Authority staff are aware of local and national developments
* Required knowledge of educational landscape is an integral part
* Parents can still drive priorities
* No immediate need for constitution

**Disadvantages**

* Not parent led
* Balance could shift towards local authority

**OPTION 3.** Local authority organises meeting with little input from parents and only Parent Council chairs (or substitute) are invited.

**Advantages**

* Parents and Parent Councils don’t need to do anything
* Parent Council Chairs would feel more obliged to attend

**Disadvantages**

* Local authority driven agenda
* Not much conversation

**OPTION 4.** 1 whole day meeting at a central location on an annual basis with invited speakers with 1 representative from each Parent Council in attendance. E-mail correspondence at all other times.

**Advantages**

* Little to organise
* Might be worth considering this as an add-on to 1 of the other options

**Disadvantages**

* Would not be a positive development for Glasgow parents. More suited to a rural context.

**The Way Forward**

The overall preference was for Option 2 with the longer-term aim of moving to Option 1.

Maureen McKenna and Kathryn Farrow to meet with parent volunteers to scope out meetings for the next academic year. Request to be sent when schools return in August for a small group of parents to be involved in this meeting. Aim to have good representation across areas and sectors.

Consideration given to how local area agendas can link with the city group.

Parent Volunteers will also be sought for a working group to update the Parental Involvement Strategy.

Communication & engagement will be key. Kathryn Farrow to discuss with Fiona Ross and consider inclusion of enhanced social media use. A parent at the meeting offered her expertise in marketing, communication and branding (Leanne McGuire).

4 meetings per year in September, November, February & May. Agreement that the first meeting will be held in Glasgow Gaelic School with discussion about venue to be ongoing.

Providing childcare at meetings was discussed but deemed to be too expensive and difficult to arrange.

Comprehensive training programme to support Parent Councils including new courses e.g. effective use of social media in the Parent Council context etc. Ideas for courses to be sought from Parent Councils across the city. Some training will continue to be offered in partnership with Connect.

Consideration to be given to annual parent conference showcasing good practice.

Existing GPCF social media accounts will require attention in light of these changes. Action to be taken once group has had first meeting and parents are willing to take on the task.

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