



MINUTES OF THE PARENT COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2008 following the AGM	Action By
<p>Present:, Gilly Innes, Emma Sowerby, Pippa Walls, Colin Howard, Aileen Mackay, Marian Ward, Michelle Stewart, Vivienne Seeley, Mrs Leuty, Gill Howard, Sharon Davidson, Louise Cox, Philip Lunts, Fiona McHoul, Lynn Tullis, Elsa Patterson, Kerry Clark (clerk)</p> <p>Apologies: Cllrs D Parker, J Paton-Day, Christine Proudfoot, Janice Douglas</p>	
<p>Following the AGM the Parent Council discussed Transforming Children's Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michelle Stewart and Gill Howard presented a summary from the open meetings they attended, detailing the implications for Melrose Primary School (copy of summary available if requested)• It is acknowledged that the Transforming Children's Services document is difficult to understand and SBC have put a deadline for responses to it in place for 27 October. We will have to work to get any objections/recommendations regarding the proposals to SBC before the October break.• Melrose will have a 'stand alone headship'. We will not be a joint headship or satellite school when the reduction of head teachers within SBC is reduced from 57 to 42. Head teachers will have no teaching commitment. We are likely to retain our 2 depute head teachers, but we will lose our 3 principal teachers. Has the rising school role been taken into account with the effect of management reduction?• The current 9 High School Clusters will become 6 Learning Communities with Earlston and Selkirk Schools being pooled together (15 primaries). These clusters will have 9 Principal Teachers between them, one for each area of the new Curriculum. It is thought that the Cheviot area will have 6 primaries, but will also have 9 Principal Teachers. Is this fair? Are some areas of the curriculum larger than others ie language – RME? How much of these principal teachers time will be spent in Melrose? Who will be carrying out the duties currently undertaken by principal teachers within the school?• Due to the freeze on Council Tax and because the Borders has an aging population some of the budget is being moved from Education to Social Services. SBC have also to take into account the National Government commitment to keep rural schools open despite not being given any additional funding from the Scottish Government. It was felt unfair that town schools have to "support" the rural schools especially when budgets are so tight and Melrose is one of the most efficient schools in terms of cost per pupil. The Melrose Parent	

<p>Council did not want to alienate themselves to other Parent Councils by taking this matter on themselves. Perhaps parent councils should get together to form a larger voice. Earlston High School Parent Council to be approached for their input for the future for our children once they reach High School age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has any consideration been given to the effect on pupils in connection with the changing curriculum? Are our children to be used as “guinea-pigs”? Staff morale? Career prospects? What will happen to current Principal Teachers? • The transforming children’s services appears to have a two-fold impact. The immediate effect of budget cuts and the more long term future. • Mrs Innes is very concerned regarding proposals for the budget for Additional Needs. We will need more clarity and information from SBC regarding flexibility of the 3 year term and use of the BDI in calculation. • We appear to have four options (a) do nothing (b) ask parents to respond individually (c) ask parents to sign a collective petition (d) Parent Council look into the process and content of the TCS documentation, discuss and report back to all parents. • A forum for all parents was proposed, however as no-one within school/parent council have answers to our many questions and issues, we would require our local Councillors to understand the concerns of the MPS parents. • Working group of Michelle Stewart, Gill Howard, Elsa Patterson and any other willing parents to be held on Monday 29 September and report to be presented at the next meeting. Local Councillors to be asked to attend. 	
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hallowe’en Parties to be organised by Michelle and Marianne • Feedback from Changes to School Hours to be discussed at the next Parent Council meeting as a number of parents are unhappy with the changes. School management and Parent Council acknowledge comments and advise that they are being taken seriously and are being addressed. • 	
<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS Wednesday 1 October 2008 at 6.30pm (transforming children’s services and changes to the school day) Wednesday 8 October 2008 at 6.30pm</p>	