

The Educational Institute of Scotland

Perth and Kinross Local Association

Minute of the 2000 A.G.M. of the Perth and Kinross Local Association held in the Queens Hotel, Perth, on **Tuesday 7th of March, 2000**, with the President, Mr. Scott Peddie, in the chair.

Apologies were received from E. McIntosh and C. Rose.

The President's Report:

Mr. S. Peddie said that he had enjoyed being in the chair this year. He felt that it had been a difficult year in which the Millennium Review had been overwhelmingly rejected by 98% of the membership. He said that the visits of May Ferris and John Patton, both of whom spoke to the Local Association on separate occasions, re-assured members. He enjoyed accompanying the President on his visit and tour of three local Primary schools. The next concern and possible difficulty we face might be the recommendations of the McCrone Committee. There are also the budget cuts, again. The proposed 5% staffing cuts are serious and sad. He said there will be many challenges ahead. Our Local Association also needs to find ways to encourage more members to come along to General Meetings. He wished to express his appreciation of the support of the membership, the Executive and in particular the Secretary.

The Secretary's Report:

Mr. C. Mackie reiterated the concerns that the President had mentioned, in particular the Millennium Review. Locally, the non-appointment of certain posts has been of ongoing concern and will be discussed in the upcoming JCC Sub-Group. The budget cuts, as they have for the past several years, continue to cause alarm and anxiety. The 'savings' this year are cutting into the lifeblood of Scottish Education. There are hidden redundancies due to termination of temporary contracts. This still represents members losing jobs. There are questions as to the future of the re-organised Education Department, now to be known as Children's Services, and the appointment of the new Director, to be in post on April 1st. This appears to be another challenge. We have successfully maintained a positive attitude at local level, through the good work of the JCC, to which the Authority has publicly expressed its appreciation. The Secretary also expressed his appreciation to the members of the JCC, the Office Bearers and the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer's Report:

Mr. B. Henderson reported that the Local Association has maintained roughly the same level of funds over the past year. There have been surpluses gained from interest on our current balance. The financial position remains healthy.

Finance Committee:

The following recommendations were agreed: (1) no rise in the local levy (ii) Secretary's Honorarium to rise from £1500 to £1600, Treasurer's Honorarium to rise from £1200 to £1600, Assistant Secretary's Honorarium to rise from £600 to £800 (iii) the services of Johnston, Logie and Millar, local auditors, would be retained (iv) it was agreed to appoint I.Scott as Website Manager with an honorarium of £800.

The Benevolent Fund Correspondent: Mr. I. Scott reported that problems are being experienced earlier now than in the past, principally due to debt and ill health. There exists a genuine concern that there are members who are entitled to benefit, but are unaware that the Benevolent Fund could be of assistance to them. He suggested that this matter of raising awareness of this support mechanism should be discussed at future Executive Meetings. He wished to especially thank Mrs. Isobel Pearson who has delivered Christmas gifts and Mr. C. Mackie for assisting in the employment matter which had been referred to the Benevolent Fund.

The JCC Correspondent: There has been a change of Convenor who has been encouraging the teacher members to widen their scope of discussion. The JCC is taking on more. Meetings have been more frequent on a wide range of issues, which the Directorate have been prepared to discuss. Sub-Groups continue to do most of the ground work - which has been very productive. Forms for assaults on all staff, not just teachers, and 5-14 Reporting have also been developed. As a result of the efforts of the JCC, seminars on harassment were delivered this year for the benefit of Headteachers and school representatives. Another issue being discussed is a support mechanism or procedure for those returning to work after long-term illness. All teaching unions are still represented and the EIS continue to dominate the sub-groups. Consultative Committees are being reviewed in a joint initiative with the Local Authority. The Education Committee is being re-organised and is to be called the Lifelong Learning Committee. Teacher members will continue to sit on this committee and vote on educational issues.

Health and Safety: B. Henderson reported that he and D. Stewart attend both the Corporate and Education Health and Safety Committees. The Corporate H & S Committee is being re-structured, however our status has been maintained. Various problems in schools have kept the Health and Safety Officer busy. However, there has been good rapport and success developing from this. The Local Association Health and Safety Representatives training was both well attended and successful. This is part of the continuing programme of training for Reps.

Election of Office-Bearers:

The following were duly elected: President - Doreen MacFarlane, Vice-President - Audrey McAuley, Past President - Scott Peddie, Secretary - Colin Mackie, Assistant Secretary - Jon Loptson, JCC Correspondent - Carole Blair, Treasurer and Membership Secretary - Bill Henderson Election of Executive Committee:

The following were duly elected: Valerie Campbell, Patricia Duncan, Avril Fulton, Sylvia Latham, Edna MacIntosh, Duncan Munro, Carol Rose, Ian Scott, Alastair Webb (one vacancy)

Delegates to National A.G.M.:

The following were duly elected: Carole Blair, Avril Fulton, Jon Loptson, Audrey McAuley, Doreen MacFarlane, Duncan Munro, (Reserve - Edna MacIntosh)

AOCB

None

The Meeting concluded at 7.50 p.m. with thanks to the chair.