

The Educational Institute of Scotland Perth and Kinross Local Association

Minute of the 2001 A.G.M. of the Perth and Kinross Local Association held in the Queens Hotel, Perth, on **Thursday 9th of March, 2001**, with the President, Mrs. Doreen McFarlane, in the chair.

Apologies were received from M McMartin.

The President's Report:

Mrs.D McFarlane said it had been a busy year, at both national and local level. The McCrone committee met and reported, and the subsequent agreement was decisively accepted by all teachers. However it would cause a significant increase in the need for local negotiations. The visit to local schools by Margaret Nicol, National President, was illuminating. Sandy Fowler, National Vice-President, reassured members on the McCrone proposals. The new Director of Childrens' Services, Bill Frew spoke to a good audience on how he saw his new role.

The President expressed concern that organisation within Perth & Kinross Education is still not settled, which makes local negotiations and the working of the JCC more difficult. The local executive would need to communicate effectively (in the light of McCrone) with members, especially in small schools and those in large schools who might feel isolated. She had enjoyed her year in office and thanked the Executive for their ongoing work.

Secretary's Report:

Mr. C. Mackie reported that the McCrone agreement was the major national development, but was concerned about the impact this would have on local negotiators to create many local agreements. P&K Education department did not yet seem to be anticipating the effects of the 35 hour week/CPD/JCC replacement. If headteachers were to impose new conditions, many grievances could occur. Further reorganisation within P&K Education is possible after the current external review is completed. The (now) annual round of threatened budget cutbacks appeared to put Instructors and others at risk again. The introduction of permanent contracts, by local agreement, has safeguarded many of these members. Cutbacks have been made in per capita funding for schools, which will compromise effective teaching.

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: (i) no rise in the local levy (ii) JCC correspondent's Honorarium to rise from £600 to £800, in line with Web manager and Asst. Secy. (iii) The services of BKR Haines Watts, auditors, Edinburgh was accepted as this was

now a requirement of the EIS HQ.(iv) Travelling expenses on EIS business to rise from 50 to 60p per mile. (v) Two CD writers to be bought for backing up computer data for Treasurer and Web manager(approx.£200). (vi) Storage files to be bought for Secretary and Web manager (approx.£250). (vii) New computer to be bought for Secretary (approx.£1200).

The Benevolent Fund Correspondent: Mr. I. Scott reported that all costs now come from local funds with no input from the National EIS. Christmas gifts (+ expenses) to retired members cost approx. £370. Two current members in difficulty due to long term illness were being supported. He wished the work of the committee be publicised on the LA leaflet and on the local website, and for school reps to be reminded. He thanked Miss Isobel Pearson for delivering the Christmas gifts.

The JCC Correspondent: Mrs. C Blair reported a busy year, with more frequent meetings. She welcomed greater consultation before matters went public, but this was increasing workload. She was concerned that the new Director of Education & Children's Services attends few JCC meetings. Issues raised over the year included:-

Conditions of Service : Introduction of more permanent contracts, return from absence procedures, monitoring of assaults on teachers, compulsory transfers, discipline & grievance procedures, implications of staffing cuts.

Education/training : ICT training, Curriculum panels, Higher Still/SQA, 5-14 strategy including new Environmental studies guidelines, supported self-evaluation.

Other : Budget cuts, Best value reviews, service plans.

The future was likely to be dominated by the effects of the McCrone agreement - a new local negotiating committee must have a substantial EIS presence.

She concluded with an appreciation of the work of all the EIS members of the JCC.

Health and Safety: Mr. D Stewart reported that the P&K Health & Safety committee now has an alternating chair. More activities were being Risk Assessed, increasing workloads. In case work, he found education officials at Pullar House to be very helpful, but the relationship with Property Services needed to be further developed. There had been one well-publicised case of fire alarms being switched off in a Secondary school during exams.

Election of Office-Bearers:

The following were duly elected: President - Audrey McAuley, Vice-President - Douglas Stewart, Past President - Doreen McFarlane, Secretary - Colin Mackie, Assistant Secretary - Scott Peddie, JCC Correspondent - Carole Blair, Treasurer and Membership Secretary - Bill Henderson

Election of Executive Committee:

The following were duly elected: Gordon Burns, Valerie Campbell, Patricia Duncan, Sylvia Latham, Alison MacKenzie, Duncan Munro, Ian Scott, Alastair Webb (two vacancies)

Delegates to National A.G.M.:

The following were duly elected: Carole Blair, Val Campbell, Patricia Duncan, Bill Henderson, Sylvia Latham, Duncan Munro, (Reserve - Scott Peddie).

(Douglas Stewart and Colin Mackie attend as Executive Council members.)

AOCB

None

The Meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m. with thanks to the chair.

