

The Educational Institute of Scotland Perth and Kinross Local Association

Minute of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Local Association held in the Dewars Rink, Perth, on **Wednesday, 5th March 2008**, with the President, Ms. Holly Conlon, in the chair.

1. **Apologies: J.Devine, D.McFarlane.**

2. **Minutes of last year's AGM.** Approved by the meeting

3. **Reports**

a) **President** (H.Conlon)

The new office premises were much more suitable for meetings with members, and for storage of documents. The meeting room at Algo was proving suitable for Executive and General meetings.

Conveyed her thanks to the efforts of Colin Mackie and Douglas Stewart in ensuring a smooth transition in the job of Secretary.

A highlight was the visit of the National President, Kirsty Devaney, her first visit to a Local Association.

The new campus developments offered better working conditions for some members from 2009.

Conveyed her thanks to the Office Bearers and members of the Executive in negotiations with P&K and in support of colleagues in schools.

b) **Secretary** (D.Stewart)

Conveyed his thanks to his predecessor, Colin Mackie, who served as Secretary for 17 years. However, much work in clearing out the archives to fit into the new office.

Many calls from members anxious over workload, innovations, indiscipline, management practices etc.

He wished success to the new Executive Director of Education at P&K, John Fyffe. The Education budget is likely to come under pressure.

The commencement of the IIL project with the building of several new schools in P&K was welcome, but many years behind the original schedule. Need for teachers to have a full input into the planning of these new schools.

Over the year, major areas of negotiation were in the Primary and Secondary Staffing Formula groups; over the “Managing Teacher Competency” guide: the restructuring of Guidance in Secondary schools. There will be an increase in substantive PT Guidance posts as a result of these negotiations.

Teachers’ Pay Settlement. A new national deal equating to 7.5% over 3 years was agreed, commencing April 2008. The SNCT will commission research into teachers’ salaries (given the erosion since the 2001 agreement) over the final year of this deal.

Lifelong Learning Committee elections. After delays, teacher elections are now being held. (D.Stewart (Primary) and W.Henderson (Secondary) appointed.)

Membership of the LA continues to grow to over 1500. However, it is becoming more difficult to recruit Probationers into the Union – many fail to appreciate its relevance. Issues such as pupil violence on teachers, intimidation by management and the issue of teacher competency should demonstrate that membership of a union is vital.

Participation. Members rely on an active Local Association and Executive, but seem to see the EIS less as a collective organisation they can contribute to, and more as an “emergency service”. The number of active members is dwindling, and this is an issue the Local Association will have to address.

He thanked all the members of the Executive and Graeme Campbell, Area Officer for their help over the year.

c) Treasurer (W.Henderson)

The accounts for 06/07 included an ex-gratia payment to the outgoing Secretary.

The accounts were approved by the meeting.

Current balance approx. £53,000

Treasure has had problems with computers and accessing records as new and old accounting software packages are not compatible.

d) Finance Committee

The Finance Committee had not yet met. The AGM agreed the following:-

- i) Local Association Levy to remain at highest allowed level. Approved by meeting.
- ii) Honoraria for Office Bearers to remain at current level. Approved.

iii) Auditors to remain as Haines Watts. Approved.

e) Benevolent Fund

The Correspondent, Doreen McFarlane was absent.

f) JNC Correspondent (A.McAuley)

The past year saw the introduction of the policy on use of mobile technology, especially phones in class. This needs to be evaluated.

Class size reductions to a maximum of 20 in P1 and in S1/S2 English and Maths introduced.

Promoting health & wellbeing. P&K has appointed two officers on fixed contracts. Aim to provide support to prevent absence where possible.

Revised Head Teacher appointment procedure introduced.

New Pupil Support (Secondary) – Guidance structure introduced.

“Practical Guide to Managing Teacher Competence” introduced – based on GTCS code of practice. Contains many checks and balances.

g) Health & Safety representative

Gordon Burns reporting on behalf of Bill Henderson:

Ongoing issues of accommodation and toilets in Primary schools.

Still await guidance on Excursions.

Managing absence – use by P&K of Capita with nurse based at Blackfriars.

4. Election of Office Bearers, Executive Committee and delegates to the National AGM

President	Duncan Munro
Vice President	Trish Duncan
Past President	Holly Conlon
Secretary	Douglas Stewart
Assistant Secretary	Scott Peddie
Treasurer	Bill Henderson

JNC Correspondent Audrey McAuley

Executive Committee Members:-

Gordon Burns

John Devine

Alison MacKenzie

Doreen McFarlane

Jennie Millar

Janet Ramsay

Ian Scott

Teresa Summers

AGM delegates:-

John Devine

Trish Duncan

Bill Henderson

Audrey McAuley

Teresa Summers

Douglas Stewart

(C.Rose On National Executive)

- appointed at Exec of 27/3)

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7.50pm, with thanks to the chair.