

The Educational Institute of Scotland

Perth and Kinross Local Association

Minute of a meeting of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the Local Association held in the Queens Hotel, Perth, at 7 pm, on **Wednesday, 15th June 2005**, with the President, Mrs Patricia Duncan, in the chair.

1. **Sederunt:** G.Burns, H.Conlon, R.Dickson, T.Duncan, J.Loptson, D.McFarlane, A.MacKenzie, C.Mackie, J.Millar, D.Munro, S.Peddie, J.Ramsay, I.Scott, G.Campbell, EIS Officer.

2. **Apologies:** V.Campbell, W.Henderson, A.McAuley, A.Moir, D.Stewart.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 18th May 2005 were approved.**

4. **Matters Arising:**

4. Review of Perth & Kinross Lifelong Learning. Maggie Allan, former Director of Education in South Lanarkshire to conduct the review.

Survey of P&K employees due out early in new session.

5(b). Nursery Schools. Staff to be redeployed are currently being informed of this.

Monitoring Learning & Teaching – proposed P&K protocol should match national EIS guidelines – this may need some further consideration.

7a7). Entitlement of part-time staff to time off for Public Holidays – enquiries being made of P&K.

5. **Reports:**

(a) **Perth & Kinross Lifelong Learning Committee** (25th May)C.Mackie reporting:

Report on Early Years Service. Several recommendations made.

Report on Primary Expressive Arts. Class teachers need discussion time with visiting specialists.

Consideration of the closure of St.Fillans Primary School deferred for one year.

Gaelic education unit to be established at Breadalbane Academy.

(b) **EIS A.G.M.** (9th – 11th June) T.Duncan/H.Conlon reporting:

Discussion of indiscipline – agreement about the problem.

Want increased resources to deal with the demands of social inclusion.

Pensions – desire to resist moves to raise the normal retirement age in forthcoming negotiations.

Want anonymity for teachers accused of offences against children until anything is proven.

Concern at barriers (both financial and workload) to uptake of Chartered Teacher programme.

Nursery classes should all have a Nursery Teacher.

Class size reduction – as the EIS is currently part of the Ministerial working group, it was decided to await its outcome before considering further action.

The Perth & Kinross delegation withdrew their amendment to motion on time off for LNCT joint secretaries. Council to investigate current position and report back.

Agreed to press for additional facility time for EIS reps to conduct their duties.

McCrone – arguments for improvements to personal time/collegiate time were resisted as a review of the whole 21st Century agreement is due in 2006.

(c) **Standards & Scrutiny Committee** (8th June) C.Mackie reporting:

New chair – Councillor John Lloyd (Independent).

Various HMI school reports considered.

EIS is now raising Health & Safety issues with the corporate and departmental H&S committees.

Statutory Performance Indicators – Audit Scotland comparisons of local councils. Sickness absence for teachers in P&K has increased relative to other councils. A P&K teachers sickness (absence) improvement plan proposed. C.Mackie warned of over-reliance on one year's statistics.

This Executive expressed concern that H&S reports were not forthcoming at committee meetings.

(d) **Meeting on Sickness Absence** (15th June) C.Mackie reporting:

Considered proposed teacher sickness (absence) improvement plan.

More responsibility proposed for Head Teachers regarding monitoring, return interviews etc. Need for training for Head Teachers. Role of Occupational Health Service – new remit being prepared. Need for information to go out to teachers on the support available.

(e) **School Estate Management Board** (9th June) C.Mackie unable to attend due to EIS A.G.M.

(f) **Treasurer's Report** W.Henderson absent.

Executive approved updated operating system (Windows XP pro) for Secretary's computer.

6. Programme of Meetings 2005/2006

Tuesday 20th September. Panel meeting on current issues.

Wednesday 23rd November. Jack Barnett, National President. (date to be confirmed)

Thursday 2nd March 2006 Local AGM.

Tuesday 25th April 2006 Motions for the National AGM.

7. Secondary Management Restructuring – update

HMI has identified Curriculum Support as a major issue in Perth & Kinross.

Secondary Heads are still keen on restructuring of Principal Teacher posts, but this view is not as widely held as previously.

8. Correspondence

a2) Make Poverty History rally in Edinburgh on 2nd July.

a10) Interactive whiteboards in schools – need for consideration of welfare of staff and pupils.

b1) IIL Coordinator posts. 2 vacant, to be advertised within P&K. Also to appoint IIL Coordinators for the two new Perth Primary schools.

c8) Home visits by teachers. Specialist home visiting teachers exist within P&K. Teachers in school should not be asked to make home visits.

c9) HT/DHT contracts – do expectations of work commitment outweigh the normal working week/year conflict with the McCrone 35hour week?

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Executive Meeting **Thursday 25th August 2005** Queens Hotel 7pm.

10. A.O.C.B.

Use of camera phones by pupils in schools. Need for P&K guidance. Discuss at next executive.

Suspension of teachers – during an investigation, this is seen as a precautionary act by P&K Council.

However, P&K does have a duty of care, given the stress any teacher is subjected to if suspended.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.50pm, with thanks to the chair.