

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 Dewars Rink, Perth, at 7 pm, on **Wednesday, 6th December 2006**, with the President, Mr Rod Dickson, in the chair.

1. **Sederunt:** G.Burns, R.Dickson, W.Henderson, A.McAuley, D.McFarlane, C.Mackie, J.Millar, D.Munro, S.Peddie, I.Scott, D.Stewart.
2. **Apologies:** H.Conlon, J.Devine, T.Duncan, A.MacKenzie, J.Ramsay, S.Simpson.

G.Campbell, Local Officer

It was agreed that a gift should be sent to Alison Mackenzie during her current illness.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 31st October 2006 were approved.**

4. **Matters Arising:**

8a (12) Planning for Human Influenza Pandemic – arrangements have still to be made.

AOCB CPD Event on Chartered Teacher Programme 14th November – 14 members and 6 speakers were present. A detailed description and analysis of the programme was presented.

5. **Reports:**

- (a) **EIS Council** (24th November) D.Stewart reporting:

Recruitment – good uptake by students but concern at numbers of Probationers signed up.

Motion put forward regarding dawn raids on asylum seekers. Should be highlighted by writing to MSP's.

A Curriculum for Excellence – Learning and Teaching Scotland has been commissioned to produce outcomes.

Role of Teachers in Nurseries – Education Committee continues to promote the value of the Nursery teacher in the Nursery setting. Classroom assistants are not teachers.

It has been agreed by the GTC that Probationers can move from 0.7 FTE to 0.7+ but strongly stated that this must be requested by the Probationer.

Employment Relations Committee: Legal representation required in 37 cases.

Advice and policy dealing with the misuse of camera phones in classrooms is to be produced

Collegiality – there are inconsistencies across Scotland. Local Associations are to be canvassed to assess how it has been implemented.

(b) P&K Lifelong Learning Committee (22nd November) C.Mackie reporting:

No questions asked regarding the very detailed Attainment Report which was presented.

HMI Reports on Alyth and Letham presented. C. Mackie commented positively on these reports.

(c) JNC Subgroup (1st December) A.McAuley reporting:

G Boland agreed to reissue copies of all agreements

Jobsizing of PT's of Music to be looked at.

The toolkit is to be looked at by G Boland, S Powell and C Webb.

Restructuring of Guidance: January deadline for consultation has been moved back to March. Aim of review of guidance is to address anomalies due to merging of APT's and PT's.

Nursery Education – falling birth rate has caused a decrease in numbers in P & K nurseries although partner providers' nurseries remain static. Although policy is not to cut teachers staff may be lost to certain nurseries due to a reduction in numbers

Review of Support Staff –the focus will be on Admin, Clerical, Technical staff and Business Managers. An important issue is how these roles can be evaluated. Annexe E will be used. May be rolled out to schools but has to go back to the Sub Group.

Teacher Working Time Research by Glasgow University Faculty of Education. Concern that workload issue would be lost.

Teachers Agreement for 21st Century – School agreements on “non-contact time” are now all in. For quality assurance purposes three Primary and three Secondary schools will be sampled.

Sickness Absence – Greg Bollard indicated new ‘Sickness Absence’ policy should be ready in April.

Statistics on incidents of Violence and Aggression – format has changed so statistics can be read more easily.

(d) School Estate Management Group (23rd November) C.Mackie reporting:

New figures worked out for primary schools capacities revealing some are very seriously oversubscribed.

Serious concerns expressed about accommodation and decisions need to be made urgently.

Lack of proper accommodation provoked discussion about its effect on the delivery of modern teaching methods promoted in “A Curriculum for Excellence”.

Budget cuts are to be made in Perth & Kinross and maintenance to be stopped with only core emergency response work being carried out.

(e) Reduction in Class Contact Group (4th December) D.Stewart reporting:

Responses have been very negative. A block system has not been successful.

M Anderson indicated that the matter would need to be revisited as it was not working.

(f) President’s Committee (31st October & 23rd November) R.Dickson reporting:

Main issue is the likely retiral of the Local Association Secretary, C.Mackie in the Summer of 2007.

Various options had been discussed and presented to the executive.

It was agreed that it would be for the Executive Committee elected in March to make the decision on how to ensure a smooth handover while remaining within the boundaries of the constitution.

Consensus that C Mackie and the LA had benefited enormously from the secondment arrangement - it would be a loss if this was no longer possible. However it would be the responsibility of elected members to decide whether or not to seek the continuation of this arrangement.

(g) Meetings of HT’s/DHT’s/PT’s Primary (2nd, 29th and 30th November) C.Mackie reporting:

C.Mackie delivered a talk on “Collegiality” to audiences of all HT’s, all DHT’s and all PT’s Primary. These had been well received, but the challenge was to translate apparent acceptance of the principles of Collegiality into reality in schools.

(h) Standards & Scrutiny Committee (6th December) C.Mackie reporting:

HMI reports will in future go to the full Lifelong Learning Committee.

Blairgowrie High School’s “follow through” inspection completed.

The 6 monthly performance report on Lifelong Learning was approved

(i) **Treasurer's Report** W.Henderson reporting:

Computer problems whilst preparing for Audit.

Auditor has come back with many questions on the accounts.

Funds stand at approx. £57,000.

Concern at costs of renting an office given our fixed income.

Office Bearers' honoraria should be declared on Income Tax returns.

6. Local Association Training

Training for new reps. is to be held on Friday 9th February. G.Campbell to send out invitations.

7. Correspondence

a2) National AGM delegates: 3 current Council members plus 5 LA delegates.

a11) Probationer Recruitment – still several within P&K not joined EIS

a18) EIS class size petition now in schools. Members are encouraged to get family and friends to sign.

Reps to be asked to circulate the petition to School Boards and PTA's.

b2) VAT on mileage claims. Staff are being put off claiming due to the complexity of the new system.

c3) Concern at video clips from classrooms being posted on the internet.

8. Date of Next Meeting: Executive Meeting Tuesday 16th January 2007 Queens Hotel 7pm.

Note change of venue

9. AOCB

It was agreed that the basis of distributions from the Benevolent Fund should remain as at present.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.05pm, with thanks to the chair.