

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 Algo Business Centre, Perth, at 7 pm, on **Tuesday 18th December 2007**, with the President, Ms Holly Conlon, in the chair.

1. **Sederunt:** G.Burns, H.Conlon, J.Devine, R.Dickson, T.Duncan, W.Henderson, A.McAuley, A.MacKenzie, D.Munro, S.Peddie, P.Philippou, I.Scott, D.Stewart. G.Campbell, Local Officer

2. **Apologies:** M.Mackintosh, J.Millar, J.Ramsay.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** held on 14th November 2007 were approved.

4. **Matters Arising:**

5a) JNC Subgroup: Emphasised need for policies to come to JNC before going to SP&R committee.

9) The Secretary has thanked Steven Smith for his work on the Executive and as a rep. at Crieff High.

5. **Reports:**

(a) **Lifelong Learning Committee** (21st November) D.Stewart reporting:

“Setting the Standard for Learning” document presented by C.Webb.

Feedback on schools from school improvement visits and from new Parent Councils.

Business Management Improvement Plan presented. However, school year does not fit into 2x6month blocks – need for cycle of committee meetings to reflect this.

Reports on HMI/ follow-up visits to Goodlyburn Primary School and Crieff Road Nursery.

The Head Teacher at Crieff Road emphasised the important role of teachers in the Nursery Sector.

(b) **EIS Council** (23rd November) A.McAuley/D.Stewart reporting:

Political Fund ballot given overwhelming approval from membership.

Class size reductions – need for monitoring of “flexible” operation of S1 & S2 English and Maths.

Workload issues – most teachers appear to be working a 45 hour week.

In some parts of Scotland, some new-build schools do not have designated staffrooms.

English as an Additional Language. Concern at effects of large numbers of non-English speaking pupils - need to monitor local authorities' provision.

Concern at level of Probationer recruitment.

SQA appeals – amendments to be made.

Curriculum for Excellence. Concern at increasingly “evangelical” tone and lack of consultation.

Camera phones – awaiting legal advice on teachers confiscating these.

Social networking sites. The EIS and GTC are looking at their use by teachers.

Education committee to look at quality of Nationally Accredited courses.

(c) JNC Sub-group (5th December) A.McAuley reporting:

Skills for Work – paper and presentation by P.McAvoy on current provision. These are mostly opportunities for work-related experience for 3rd and 4th year pupils. Money available for schools.

Learning Representative agreements presented by T.Duncan. EIS need to supply P&K with info on situation in other local authorities.

Dignity at Work (bullying & harassment) now contains an appeals procedure.

Working time agreements – need to have these in all schools. Need to disseminate good local agreements.

EAL provision in P&K discussed.

(d) Staffing Group meeting (12th December) D.Stewart reporting:

Review of schools' staffing for 2008/09. Generic job advertising for P&K – successful candidates would not need further interview for any school appointment in subsequent 3 months.

Staffing formulae in Primary & Secondary: report on comparative situations with other local authorities. In Secondary, P&K is in middle of rankings. However, P&K has fewer management positions in large Primary schools.

Supply staff still hard to obtain. Concern that available teachers are not being contacted.

Need for P&K to manage long term absences. Health & Attendance procedure has been launched. One new welfare officer has been appointed and another should be soon.

(e) **JNCT** (18th December) A.McAuley reporting:

Recorded Incidents of Violence & Aggression will in future be presented termly. Need for P&K to contact Health Authorities regarding pupils with mental health issues.

III – Business change document presented. This identifies the issues which will need to be addressed, e.g. community use, booking systems, child protection in dual use areas,