

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 **Thursday, 22nd February 2007**, with the President, Mr Rod Dickson, in the chair.

1. **Sederunt: G.Burns, H.Conlon, R.Dickson, T.Duncan, W.Henderson, A.McAuley, D.McFarlane, C.Mackie, D.Munro, S.Peddie, J.Ramsay, D.Stewart.**

G.Campbell, Local Officer

2. **Apologies: J.Devine, A.MacKenzie, I.Scott, S.Simpson.**

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 16th January 2007 were approved.**

4. **Matters Arising:**

4(5a) Probationers. J.Cessford has agreed that pressure should not be put on Probationers to work more than 0.7 FTE. It may be possible for Probationers to volunteer to work increased hours in the Summer of 2008.

4(7a11) Probationer recruitment. Secretary has written to Primary reps, and some increased recruitment has occurred.

4(7a18) Class Size Petition. There was a joint signing by the leaders of all the political parties in Perth & Kinross.

5(a) Perth Grammar School. R.Renfrew has moved from Head Teacher to replace H.McRae as advisor to the IIL project.

5(c) Nursery Teacher numbers have fallen from approx. 48 to 45 over recent years.

5(d) Reduction in Class Contact Group. The newly elected rep of Expressive Arts specialists, Paul Denny, is to attend the next meeting.

5. **Reports:**

- (a) **EIS Council** (26th January) T.Duncan reporting:

A “mini-manifesto” has been produced by the EIS for the forthcoming Scottish Elections. Concern at the Scottish Executive breaking their promise of class size maxima of 20 in S 1&2 English and Maths, to an average of 20 with a maximum of 29.

Contact with HMI to encourage their use of wider performance criteria in inspections.

Consideration of provision of occupational health advice for members seeking early retirement on health grounds.

(b) JNC (5th February) A.McAuley reporting:

Job-sizing. Head Teachers and PT's Music to be re-evaluated.

Incidents of Violence & Aggression. Meaningful statistics produced. Query at level of support offered to members off ill after incidents.

Secondary Management Restructuring. To look at other models of provision of Guidance/Learning Support in Scotland.

Appointments procedures. Looking at model in other areas, e.g. Falkirk.

Occupational Stress. Reluctance to appoint a Welfare Officer exclusively for teachers.

Mobile Phone misuse. Schools will have some flexibility in their policies. Exemplars to be sent out to schools.

ILL. Still no financial close.

Class Sizes in S1 & S2. Need for consultations with PT's English and Maths and with School Boards.

(c) Local Secretaries' Meeting (17th January) C.Mackie reporting:

Compulsory Transfer. Need to resist any changes to "last in first out" policy.

(d) Primary Management Restructuring Group (22nd February) C.Mackie reporting:

Any proposals are likely to be expensive, yet no budget has been allocated.

(e) Staffing Group (15th February) C.Mackie reporting:

Staffing Action Plan. C.Webb wants re-examination of staffing standards.

Appointments Procedures. The EIS will need to ensure the JNC continues to be the prime consultation body over any changes.

Supply Staff. Concern that, in some schools, pupils in Science subjects are not being taught by specialist teachers.

Class Sizes. It is hoped to fill most of the extra Maths and English posts needed by the appointment of Probationers.

(f) Local School Representatives' Training Day G.Campbell reporting:

Only 13 reps present, but this allowed the full participation of all. Found to be a worthwhile event.

(g) Meeting on Staff Consultative Committees

C.Mackie has drafted revised remits for SCC's. More flexible – cover general wellbeing of staff and all aspects of the corporate life of the school.

(h) Treasurer's Report W.Henderson reporting:

Funds stand at just over £50,000.

Accounts for 2005/06 have now been approved by the Auditors.

6. Nominations for EIS Council, Local Association Office Bearers, Executive Committee and AGM Delegates

EIS Council: T.Duncan, A.McAuley, D.Stewart

President: H.Conlon Vice-President: J.Millar Past President R.Dickson

Secretary: C.Mackie Asst. Secretary: S.Peddie Treasurer: W.Henderson

JNC Correspondent: A.McAuley

Ordinary members of Executive: G.Burns, J.Devine, D.McFarlane, A.MacKenzie, D.Munro, J.Ramsay, I.Scott, S.Simpson, P.Phillipou (rep at Perth High), (L.Reid – moving to a post outwith P&K)

AGM delegates: 3 members of Council (T.Duncan, C.Mackie, D.Stewart), H.Conlon, W.Henderson, A.McAuley, J.Millar, S.Simpson. AGM reserve: R.Dickson.

7. Correspondence

a4) Class size survey. Averages in P&K are S1 English 21; Maths 23

S2 English 25; Maths 25

b4) Draft Holidays 2008/09. Proposed term times are:-

Mon 11th Aug 08 – Fri 3rd Oct

Mon 20th Oct – Fri 19th Dec

Mon 5th Jan 09 – Fri 3rd April

(Easter Sunday 12th April)

Mon 20th April – Wed 24th June

(Extra week in Summer hols)

Start session 09/10 Mon 17th Aug.

c10) Class observation by a non-employee of P&K.

A private tutor had requested to observe a pupil with particular learning needs. Advice was given against allowing non P&K Council / HMI observations.

8. Date of Next Meeting: Executive Meeting **Tuesday 27th March 2007 Dewars Rink**
7pm.

9. AOCB

Winding Down Scheme. It was suggested that it was unfair that women who have had a career break of more than 5 years to have children (yet still have 25 working years) are excluded. D.Stewart would query this at the next EIS Salaries committee meeting.

Office accommodation. There will be an Organisation Committee meeting after the Executive following the AGM on 1st March to discuss the need for a local office.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.10pm, with thanks to the chair.