

Hutchesons' Grammar School Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Beaton Road on Monday 17th
November 2008

Present

Mr John Kyle (Chair)
Mr Alistair Carson
Mrs Elaine Lonergan
Mrs Yvonne Welsh
Mrs Fiona Godsman
Mrs Patricia Crawford
Mrs Wendy Crawford
Mrs Lindesay MacFarlane (Minutes)
Mrs Susan Wilson
Mrs Sheila Galbraith
Mrs Helen Smith
Mrs Karen McDonald
Mrs Jane Thomson
Dr Lesley Russell (57 Group)
Mrs Catherine Paton

Attending

Dr K Greig
Mr I Keter
Mr Brian MacBride

Apologies

Mr A. K. Denholm
Dr Sanjeev Chitnis
Dr Cherie Rodney

1. WELCOME

Mr Kyle opened the meeting and welcomed all the new members.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted as above.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting which was held on 8th September 2008 were read at the Meeting and approved.

Proposed: Mr John Kyle

Seconded: Mrs Lindesay MacFarlane

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. RECTOR'S UPDATE

I. Exam Results. A number of appeals were made and a significant number of pupils were awarded upgraded results. We now have 45 pupils with 5A's or more.

II. OSCR Report. The Rector reported the recent decision has been disappointing for the Trust. If, they wish to comply with the decision, they must reply by 28th January 2009. They will then have a nine month period to produce a plan and a further two years for the plan to come to fruition. If they decide against the decision they can appeal and make a legal challenge. At present the Trust has replied asking for numerical inaccuracies to be corrected and also for clarification on a further three points before they decide whether to comply. There is no guidance on how we are to satisfy their request for greater bursary availability ie whether we are required to give a greater number or to increase the total amount available. The Rector confirmed the school passed all other areas that were investigated. Each school involved in this pilot study was being looked at individually and all test criteria appeared to be subjective. At this stage there was no clarity regarding what was required by the school to pass. The Herald article has many facts completely wrong. It is confusing and contains many inaccuracies drawn from the Report.

There followed a discussion and the following points were noted:

The Report is in the public domain.

HGS do not award scholarships. All bursaries are for academic performance and all are means tested.

Bursaries are not paid from school fees. They are paid from a separate fund. (Although this has no relevance to OSCR)

If the Trust were to lose charitable status it would result in a significant loss of money.

OSCR has an appointed board of six members each appointed by the Scottish Government, all with a legal or financial background.

The Rector ended the discussion by concluding OSCR appeared to be trying to avoid bench marking within the piloted test group whilst he thought clarity and defined benchmarks was what we required.

III. OTHER NEWS.

The new additions to the Senior Management Team (Mike Martin and Joyce Beattie) were settling in well.

It was very pleasing that the first teams for boys and girls, in rugby and hockey, were all doing well.

Drama- S1 and S2 put on a strong performance in Oliver.

Music- we were encouraged to attend Colours of the Clyde, City Halls Senior School Music Evening- was not well attended. Winners and runners-up gave stunning performances of an exceptionally high standard and hopefully, with better advertising, next year they could attract more people to this event.

6. AGM 2008 - REVIEW

There was a parent attendance of 70 this year. The format was better this year and it was agreed to do something similar next year.

Fiona Godsman commented there was very poor uniform compliance on the evening. Acknowledging it was an ongoing daily problem getting pupils to conform to the school rules on uniform dress code. Fiona had been extremely disappointed the school did not make more effort to ensure pupils adhered to the rules when publicly representing the school.

7. CAREERS CONVENTION – Wednesday 4th March 2009

Catherine Paton is to represent HGSA in organising this event. Each fourth year pupil will be able to access up to six consultants on the evening. The database has been updated and now covers a broad range of career options. Due to a change of date in the usual social function the full committee will be available to help organize the event this year.

(Catherine Paton, Fiona Godsman, Susan Wilson, Sheila Galbraith, Helen Smith, Sanjeev Chitnis, John Kyle)

8. PARENTS PARTICIPATION EVENT

March 21st 2009 was provisionally held in the school calendar. This date now clashes with a fund raising Sports Dinner to be held on Saturday 28th March 2009, in the Hilton. The Development Department is hoping to raise in the region of £50,000 towards the new Sports Track.

Alistair Carson volunteered to co-ordinate a social function. The consensus was to aim for a summer family oriented function. A date in the school calendar could be obtained from Mike Martin.

(Alistair Carson, Elaine Lonergan, Yvonne Welsh, Cherie Rodney, Patricia Crawford, Lindesay MacFarlane)

8. 1957 GROUP UPDATE

An update was provided by Dr Lesley Russell.

The 1957 Group recently hosted their first Quiz Night. This was very successful and is to be repeated next year.

Helpers and donations (for the Tombola) were still being requested for the upcoming Winter Fair, Saturday 22nd November.

Spring Function will be a Ceilidh held on 31st January 2009.

Lesley reported the 1957 Group had now reached its fundraising target for the refurbishment of the Kingarth Street stage and was now requesting a new fundraising project.

The Bursar thanked Lesley and her group for contributing to the stage refurbishment.

10. AOCB

Other issues raised were as follows:

- I. P6 Hockey Showers – Patricia Crawford. Girls were not being offered showers after hockey in the morning. Boys are able to shower after rugby at the same time of day. The Rector to look into it.
- II. Advertisement Boards on Pollokshaws Road – Helen Smith. Content suitability was questioned. The Bursar confirmed the boards did belong to the school and the Trust had a contract with Décaux. The contract was due for renewal in 2009. At present there was no content control included in the contract. This could be amended in next year's contract agreement. Any comments should be directed to either the Bursar or Catherine Gillen.
- III. Suitability of School Sports Buses – Helen Smith. Were old buses still being used to transport pupils to and from sports? The Rector reported he was currently reviewing general bus use and was currently negotiating for a new contract. The Rector admitted some old buses were still being used and the school was being vigilant for sub-contracting older buses. The Rector affirmed the school takes transport safety seriously and hoped to resolve this issue. The Bursar reported the school has just purchased a new minibus for the senior school. We now have two 17 seater buses with seat restraints and reversing cameras.
- IV. Retiral – Wendy Crawford. Was Mrs McKie planning to retire? The Rector said she had not indicated to him any intention to retire this session.
- V. Kingarth Street Road Safety – Alistair Carson. It is mainly parents who continually double park outside the school entrance on the zig-zag lines. Karen McDonald reported the Eco Committee was tackling this topic in school. The Rector said he would discuss it with Mrs McKie.
- VI. Absence of Mr Denholm – Lindesay MacFarlane. It was noted that Mr Denholm had not attended any meetings in the previous academic year. The Rector and Bursar agreed he should be invited to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 19th January 2009 7.30pm – Founders Room, Beaton Rd