

**Hutcheson's' Grammar School Association**  
**Minute of the meeting held in The Founders' Room in February 2017**

Draft Minute

***Present***

Kenneth Ritchie (KR) (Chairman)  
P1 – Ingrid Jauhar (IJ)  
P3 – Julia Lavelle (JL)  
P5 – Sabbah Sheikh (SS)  
S1 – Roy Amner (RA)  
S3- Saman Khan(SK)  
S5 – Faiza Khan (FK)

P2 – Lizette Craig (LC)  
P4 – Martyn Campbell(MC)  
P6 – Audrey Mathers (AM)  
P7 – Karen Nowland (KN)  
S2 – Mark Toma (MT)  
S4 – Sue Redpath (SR)

**In Attendance**

Brian MacBride (FP)  
Fiona MacPhail (FM)  
Katy Chisholm (KC)

The Rector (CG)

***1. Apologies***

Prof B Williams (BW), The Bursar (IK), K Storrie (KS)

***2. Minutes from 14. 11..16***

The draft minute of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 was proposed by MT, seconded by RA

Matters arising from the previous minutes.

The Rector advised the meeting that boys in The Primary school can now wear long trousers from P4.

The Rector noted that it was not possible to select a single day on the current calendar it was relative easy to find information from the monthly lists of events but recognised the comment that the style was not necessarily intuitive and noted that there was regular consideration of ways of improving communication through the Website.

***2. Business Raised by Elected Members***

**Primary School**

Miss MacPhail confirmed that Mr Crompton, the new “Lollipop Man” had received appropriate training and that the primary pupils had been afforded advice at Assembly about crossing safely with lollipop man. She noted that the location chosen was in recognition of the footfall at or around “MacDonald’s” and in consideration of the location of the school buses depositing and collecting pupils at the inception and conclusion of the school day.

She agreed that the pupils should be reminded that they should walk to the point where Mr Crompton was working to avoid any risk from vehicles pulling out from the side of the road between Mr Crompton’s station and the junction of Kingarth Street and Pollokshaws Road. It was noted that poor habits in respect of road safety were frequently the responsibility of parents.

Miss MacPhail advised that through the School’s Council Mr McCrossan had introduced the Glasgow City Council “Safe Parking” scheme and that it was hoped that the influence of the

children on their respective parents would be more likely to bring about beneficial changes as they would encourage their parents to gain the “I’m a safe parker” stickers  
Miss MacPhail explained that encouraging community police officers to issue parking tickets might prove a double-edged sword as this might attract adverse attention to the school buses which, if required to park elsewhere, could cause more significant issues with pupil safety.

## **Secondary School**

A question was raised as to why S1 pupils are charged a fee, engrossed within The School fees, for text books when the majority of subjects don't provide a text book and those that do provide copies which are ripped or written on, second hand texts or photocopied work books.  
The Rector noted that some textbook inevitably become tatty through use and that where appropriate ad hoc replacement of books takes place. He noted that there seemed to be a greater propensity to make use of photocopied work books in Scotland. Increased use of Firefly and electronic PDF copies of work books should help this situation and ensure pupils receive a reasonable standard of workbooks. He opined the system for replacing books is not perfect but that The School aims to do its best.

A question was raised as to why the children not given completed copies of the class handouts so they can use these to study? The current practice requires they study from their own completed worksheets but if these contains errors, or if, for example, in the sciences the pupils didn't complete the experiments, they end up lacking information or potentially re-enforcing original errors.

The Rector explained that an important part of the learning process for children is that they study from their own notes. This notwithstanding, full answers should be available to ensure children are not inadvertently revising wrong answers.

The Rector undertook to raise this matter with teachers to ensure this happens.

It was noted that children in S.1 and S.2 continue to receive substantial amounts of regular class homework even during the two week period when class tests are taking place.

The Rector advised that the principal exams are set at the end of academic year and that no homework was given at this time.

Clarification was sought on The School rule about wearing hoodies and training pants and a request made that the rule be relaxed to allow children to travel to and from home games on a Saturday wearing these items? Otherwise, it was suggested, these costly items never seem to get used.

The Rector confirmed his preference school uniform be worn when travelling to and from school sporting events and noted that as sports kit was often soiled or soaked whilst playing it was preferable that pupils had their uniform available. He agreed to check the reported inconsistency in following this general rule amongst different sports and between girls and boys.

Further to comments at the previous meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 on Sports' coaching and development it was noted that additional, adverse comments had been received from parents in S4-S6 raising concerns at the apparent lack of direction in the coaching of school hockey teams compounded by a lack of timeous and adequate responses to individual inquiries.

The Rector explained that he needs any such concerns to be specific. He encouraged parents with particular concerns or views that these be e-mailed to Mr. Lang and copied to him.

He assured the meeting that there would be no prejudice caused to any pupil's chances of selection where legitimate concerns were presented for consideration.

A question was raised as to why, when the preliminary examinations for the certificate courses begin almost immediately at the start of term could these be scheduled before the Christmas Holidays?

The Rector responded that the period immediately in advance of the Christmas Holidays is “prime” teaching time but that children are fresher, more rested and potentially better prepared for examination after the holiday.

The Rector explained that no exam leave was afforded the pupils in sixth year sitting the Advanced Higher prelims. as The Curriculum for Excellence anticipated testing is an essential element of the teaching programme and that this should not necessarily require a significant interruption in study in the middle of an academic year?

The School does not publish and promote the Advanced Higher results. Whilst there is no reason this could not be done it should be noted that as many pupils have unconditional offers for university placements as a result of very good Higher results there is a propensity to make a lesser effort with these subsequent exams.

### **Whole School**

A question was raised as to why The school required to be closed for some pupils on Founders’ Day and further if there might be a means whereby this event might be made more inclusive of all years as a day of celebration rather than as a day off.

If the Founders’ Day service were held in the afternoon it would reduce the time lost to pupils to a half day rather than a whole day?

It was noted that in Glasgow Academy the equivalent event was attended by the Whole School despite the restricted participation for those who were accommodated in the nave.

The Rector noted he would love to be able to take whole school to Glasgow Cathedral and is investigating if this could be option. He suggested he might discuss this with other schools who use The Cathedral with a view to use of a screen to broadcast the service beyond the Quire screen. KR opined this might prove difficult given the arrangements which govern use of the Cathedral. As an alternative The Rector suggested he might consider involving the primary school children in some sort of service of commemoration at The School. It was noted that traditionally all staff were expected to attend Founders’ Day and that this had precluded leaving part of The School open.

It was asked that ,rather than pupils being excused to accommodate The School entrance tests, these be scheduled for a Saturday (as is reportedly the case in other schools) to avoid the need for working parents to incur the cost of additional child care.

The Rector and Miss MacPhail explained that the current arrangements are very efficient and optimize the use of staff time in the monitoring and marking of these tests. Consequently, whilst recognising the inconvenience for some parents, at present, there are no plans to change.

The School would not consider a reduction in the annual fees in recognition of the additional week’s holiday now proposed for October which it was noted, will, for some, precipitate additional child care costs as there is no reduction in teaching days. The annual holidays remain at the same level but these have been re-arranged in a fashion considered conducive to using the available teaching time more effectively and increasing the benefit to pupils through more effective periods of leave.

It was suggested there was at present no consistent approach to communication with parents in relation to school trips in particular for trips abroad where parents would welcome confirmation of safe arrival and updates on arrangements.

The Rector noted that he does not require teachers to use twitter or other social media whilst on trips and this remains a decision made by the individual teachers. In respect of arrival times on return he will try to ensure adequate updated information is provided.

In addition he undertook that The School will try to ensure groups of at least 2 or 3 pupils are together on airline seats.

In response to questions, concerns and observations belatedly transmitted to The Rector for his attention he advised the meeting The School had been spending a significant amount of time on anti-bullying initiatives and working with pupils to encourage correct and appropriate behaviour.

The Rector noted with regret that all schools have bullying issues and assured the meeting that he and all staff members were determined to educate the children that bullying is unacceptable. He opined that schools can always do more especially in relation to inappropriate, anti-social use of social media and children needed to be properly advised and warned of the potential prejudice, which could be irreversible, which might arise from imprudent use of social media.

In response to comments from those present and in particular in relation to a reported, unresolved instance of bullying amongst pupils as young as P.4, he further advised that any parents worried about specific issues should speak to staff members and where appropriate and necessary or if dissatisfied with initial responses raise concerns with his deputies and then with him. He opined that generally staff members are trained to deal with incidents whereas, generally, children and parents are not.

In response to a further question on the process undertaken and the evidence required before parents might be invited to remove a child from The School he advised that every situation is unique but that he had confidence that staff members with a distinct pastoral remit had an instinct for what felt right and what reaction was appropriate.

The Rector noted that he would be happy to discuss directly with individual parents any issues affecting discipline and behavior within The School and noted that there was an inherent danger when such matters were shared electronically that information might be inappropriately shared beyond the School community, for instance with The Press, and used mischievously to the detriment of The School or individuals.

With reference to an incident in The School when police had been called, the possible use of SMS to inform parents as part of emergency procedures was raised.

The Rector noted that all options are currently being considered and assured the meeting that The School will try to ensure appropriate, effective and timeous communication at all times but in particular should any urgent situation arise.

It was suggested that unless of particular urgency questions to be raised at future meetings must be received at an agreed point in advance of the meeting: otherwise these should be carried forward to a future meeting.

### **3. Rectors Report**

The Rector reported a number of staff changes namely that a new, 5-day, part time Librarian had been recruited from East Renfrewshire where her post was being made redundant and Mrs. C Smith Year Tutor for 2<sup>nd</sup> Year has left to become a Depute Head Teacher at Wellington School in Ayr

The Rector advised the meeting that he had attended a very successful Burns supper organized in London by The FPs' Club.

The Rector advised the meeting that he had started "tweeting" and that these could be found "@hutchierector"

He noted there had been a very successful "Open Art Studio",

Drama department put on successful Pantomime, that both the U16s and U18s rugby teams had enjoyed success in the "Plate" and "Cup" competitions with the respective finals being played at Murrayfield stadium and that the U18s Hockey team had won at West District competition.

He noted that Mr. Keter, The Bursar, had tendered his notice and will leave The School at conclusion of the summer term.

He noted that Brian McBride had been elected as the new FP Council President.

The School has appointed a Digital Design and web officer Sarah Jayne Macintosh

The Rector joined the audience of another edition of the BBC "Big Questions" programme hosted by Nicky Campbell. . This was not the first occasion on which this programme has been broadcast from The School.

#### Staff Moves

As a result of the secondment of Mr MacDougall to a new post as Depute Rector responsible for Alumni Relations & Development his former post as Depute Rector for Ethos has been filled on a temporary basis by Mrs. Marie Windows.

Consequently her substantive post as Head of History will be filled by an acting Head of History namely Dr. McQueen

Mrs. Reid, one of the Matrons at Beaton Road would now be involved in counselling only rather than the generic duties of a Matron and these would now be assumed full time by Mrs. Johnstone.

The First Minister Nicola Sturgeon had visited the school and had met with exchange students from the Erasmus programme.

In addition to the European visitors under this scheme The School was hosting four exchange students visiting from Colorado.

It was noted that the annual S6 Talent show is scheduled to take place on 8 March 2017

The Rector was asked if he would consider revision of the criteria applied for gaining school colours as there remained a disparity amongst sports.

There was no opportunity for boys to be awarded colours for rugby other than through representing The School in the First XV. Thus the boys who had distinguished themselves in the under 16 competition The Rector had advertised were not awarded colours whereas in hockey and football it was possible to be awarded colours in 4<sup>th</sup> Year.

The Rector noted that he was enthusiastic to pursue a wider recognition of achievement amongst pupils and that successes were already celebrated.

#### 4. Primary Report

Miss Macphail reported that the P1 Nativity and P7 Dance very both enjoyed by staff and pupils

The Christmas Fayre had been enlarged this year and included stalls which had been provided by some parents in addition to those organized by the pupils. The event was very successful and had raised £1583 for The Schools' chosen charity, The Prince and Princess of wales Hospice

The toy sale organized after the Christmas holiday had raised an additional £453 for the charity.

P1 & 2 pupils enjoyed a Burns supper

P6 pupils participated in a Scottish Opera Workshop

The Annual Scots Verse Competition took place, the verse being judged by The Chairman of The Board of Governors and the associated music competition by Mrs Stevenson

P2 “Katie Morag” afternoon tea was a great success and attended by a number of parents and grandmothers.

The Google Expeditions Team provided demonstrations of virtual tours which allow the children to view, in an interactive fashion, places otherwise inaccessible including a virtual tour of The Moon.

The “App.” would be provided by Google free of charge but the children would need smart ‘phones to use this. Miss MacPhail advised that staff members were now considering how best to fund provision of the required ‘phones. Amongst the options being considered was a “smart phone amnesty” i.e. the voluntary donation to The School of smart ‘phones no longer in use.

Miss MacPhail advertised that Mrs. Waugh had spoken about The school’s Junior and Mini Duke schemes at a S.C.I.S. conference and thereafter, in response to the significant interest expressed, hosted a training course at Kingarth street for representatives from 20 independent schools. A number of these schools have now introduced these schemes.

The theme for this year’s Book Week was the works of Roald Dahl with Teachers and pupils dressing as characters from his books.

P3 has the annual “Romans” show coming up which links with one of the topics studied This year’s Primary P7 show will be a production of “Aladdin” and Miss MacPhail noted the pupils had been afforded an opportunity to work with the Hopscotch Theatre Company in preparation for this.

It was noted with some disappointment that there had been no item on The School Website about the “Santa Dash” through Glasgow in December. A significant number of teachers pupils and parents had participated in this and there had been “Team Hutchie” banner displayed. The Rector acknowledged that this item must have slipped through the net and undertook to investigate the possibility that electronic donations could be made for such events where there was a notable participation by The School by way of a link through a site such as “Just Giving”

**5. Governors Remarks-** The Chairman of The Board of Governors had submitted his apologies for the meeting and no remarks had been intimated for transmission to The Committee. KR noted this was The Chairman of The Board of Governors’ birthday and recorded The Committee’s birthday good wishes.

**6. 1957 Group**

In the absence of KS, KR reported that the annual Quiz night had been very well attended with thirteen teams participating and successfully raised £756.51 for this year’s School charity.

**7. FP Remarks**

Mr MacBride reported that The FP Club had held a very successful dinner, the first for 6 years on 10<sup>th</sup> December ’16 in The House for an Art Lover in Bellahouston Park. 90 people had been in attendance and had thoroughly enjoyed the meal music provided by three former pupils and

speeches by The Rector and Mr Strang, a former senior depute rector. He noted that the next event was provisionally scheduled for March 2018.

Mr MacBride noted that the FP Club now has an official Facebook page and that if there were matters which The FPs club could promote information could be sent in the first instance to Fraser MacDougall, the club secretary.

It was requested that former pupils of Park School and Laurel Bank school who were now through amalgamation included as former pupils be provided with information about these events.

The Rector noted that he had asked Mr Jim MacDougall, as part of his new rôle to examine how the FPs Club, The 1957 Group and H.G.S.A. could all work together to support The School.

## **9. Sub Committee Reports**

### **Constitution**

Mr MacBride advised that with much technical assistance from Mrs Lonergan Black he now had all elements required for proper consideration of the proposed constitutional changes tabulated in one document.

He undertook to provide copies of this to The School for consideration and hoped now to make quicker progress. The Committee endorsed his express wish that The Rector, The Chairman of The Board of Governors and the subcommittee might meet as soon as convenient.

### **Social**

Mrs Khan noted that in respect of The Dinner to be held this year on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 at Marriot Hotel Glasgow that 70 tickets had been sold but that there was a need to continue promoting this event. The School has already sent e-mails to all parents and has placed information on its Facebook page but it was anticipated that the information might be distributed again, perhaps at the start of the summer term. As The school did not wish to distribute flyers as had previously been requested, it was agreed that Posters could be displayed in both the Primary School and Miss MacPhail to put on Homeroom. A larger number of tickets needed to be sold to meet the minimum number of places required by The Hotel and it was noted that The KR would require to sign the contract this week.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Year Career's Convention**

KC advised all arrangements in The School for the forthcoming Careers' Convention were in place. At present there remained approximately 20 consultants as yet unconfirmed. KC asked that all confirmations for consultants be transmitted to her by 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 when final email correspondence will be despatched listing the consultants who are still required whereupon all members of The Committee would be asked to help fill these gaps.

## **10. A.O.C. B**

It was noted that Mrs. Conroy has intimated her resignation from the Association. In response to a request sent to all representatives to seek a volunteer to be co-opted until the end of this academic year, Mrs. Shazma Shafi has volunteered. It was noted that as there had been an interruption of a number of months since Mrs Shafi demitted office as an elected representative there appeared to be no impediment to her eligibility for co-option. This was approved by committee.

## **11. Date of next meetings – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 7.30pm**

This meeting will just be for elected members only.

**Date of next Committee meeting: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017**