

**Hutchesons' Grammar School Association**  
**Minute of the meeting held in The Founders' Room on 19/9/16**

***Present***

Kenneth Ritchie (KR) (Chairman)  
1957 – Kathryn Storrie  
P2 – Lizette Craig (LC)  
P5 – Alan Hair (AH)  
P6 – Audrey Mathers (AM)  
S2 – Elaine Lonergan (EL)  
S4 – Sue Redpath (SR)  
FP -Brian McBride (BM)

***In Attendance***

Katy Chisholm (KC)

***Apologies***

S3 – Dr S.Khan, Miss MacPhail (FM), The Rector (CG), The Bursar (IK), The chairman of The Board (BW)

(It was noted that The Rector, Miss MacPhail and The Chairman and The Bursar had previously indicated a preference not to attend all of the extended schedule of meetings for the current academic year and that their absence had been intimated and agreed in advance on this basis)

***1 Minutes of the meeting held on 29/8/16***

***Accuracy:*** Amendments to

P.1, item 2 “was a significant number” not “were”

P.2, item 4, line 2 “ his teaching discipline is in biology” rather than “was”

P.3 line 5, insert “the” between ”with” and “pastoral system”

P.4 line 4 replace from “position” with “His former position has now been advertised”

P.5 item 9, line 6 “all information should be e-mailed”,

P.6 AOCB line 4 remove “the” and in the lists of current members P.6- “Toby” is spelt “Tobey”.

***Items 3- 7 of this Agenda did not proceed in the agreed absence of The Rector, Miss MacPhail and The Chairman of The Board***

**8. *FP Remarks***

BM reminded The Committee that the F.P.s' Club will hold a dinner on 10th December '16 in The House for an Art Lover. This will involve a technical link to F.P.s in overseas locations where simultaneous social events will take place.

It was agreed with KC that an electronic copy of information pertaining to the organization of the Careers Convention be sent to BM. He in turn will distribute the details to Former Pupils who might be willing to act as consultants at the forthcoming event in March 2017.

It was noted that three George & Thomas awards being presented this year.

The first of these will be awarded to Leon Smith and the ceremony for this will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> October when he will make a private visit to The School

The second ceremony will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> October when Gabi Lewis will make a visit to The School.

The third will be awarded to Imtiaz Dharker and the ceremony for this will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

## **9. Sub Committee Reports – Careers Convention**

KC Advised The Committee that due to other commitments and events that week, The School cannot accommodate next year's Convention on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 as had been suggested.

Having discussed the possible options including re-arranging The Committee meeting scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> February it was agreed to preserve the scheduled meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017 which avoids too close a proximity to the February School's holiday and to schedule the Convention for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017. This will maximize the time available to The Committee to secure consultants.

KC explained the rationale for the proposed changes to the lists of consultants noting that there were a number of options previously provided for which the interest was so small or unpredictable that there no longer appeared to be justification for their inclusion. These explanations were readily accepted by The Committee. Miss Chisholm added that where any pupil evinced particular enthusiasm for a career not include in The Convention selection that there remained the possibility of approaching others for additional interviews.

KC noted that all documents would be approved and issued as soon as practicable after 17<sup>th</sup> November by which time the preliminary, preparatory work with the pupils will have been undertaken.

At the request of The Committee KC agreed to use any appropriate opportunity to disseminate information electronically and subject to confirmation to place information on the School Website.

[KC exit]

## **Social**

It was re-iterated that the 2016 "Leavers" dinner had proved to be a huge success and there was consensus that every effort be made to capitalize on that success.

There was preliminary discussion on the form which a further such event should take.

It was noted that there were potential, additional complications in respect of the timing of the dinner in the summer term of 2017 as Ramadan began before the SQA schedule of examinations would be complete. It was noted that if a dinner were to be held during Ramadan that proper provision would require to be made to allow those observing a diurnal fast to participate and to be afforded the option of eating at the permitted point in the evening.

It was recognized and agreed that following the forthcoming AGM, The Social sub-committee needs to begin planning in earnest for any event in June 2017.

There was some further discussion over the range of parents to whom this event should be advertised and offered. It was noted that the restriction to "leavers" parents made it difficult for Committee members representing Primary and lower secondary parents to participate in promotion of the event. This was balanced with the view that the rationale for the 2016 dinner remained attractive as, for a number of years, there had been no particular social event for parents of children about to quit The School.

It was suggested The School be asked to afford access to the final 6<sup>th</sup> year leavers' assembly to parents. Such an invitation with even a modest refreshments might provide a specific social event for the parents of those leaving The School if The Committee decided that any summer social event be open to a wider range of parents.

It was suggested that the/pupils could put together a "memory booklet" of their time at Hutchesons' to be issued at that event.

KR noted that to a certain extent this was already the case as successive sixth years have published a yearbook which had often been distributed at the final assembly.

KR agreed to raise this matter with The Rector.

## **Constitution**

All elected members had received the most recent revision of The Constitution.

LC asked about the current expectation and recommendation in respect of the role of elected teacher representatives from both Kingarth Street and Beaton Road? It was noted that when it had been confirmed this provision remained extant in the 2011 Constitution the previous rector had asked that the provision be removed as he believed staff may feel uncomfortable participating in a meeting where members of the SMT might be responding to challenges and because he could perceive no benefit from their inclusion.

BM reiterated that this provision was not an innovation and was already in the current constitution. KR noted that having asked two members of staff who had previously participated in Committee meetings no such reservation was expressed. He further noted that the provision within the current constitution made provision for such elected members but that this was no guarantee volunteers would be forthcoming. In respect of Dr Greig's reservation about the benefit which might accrue from such participation he further opined that having a member of staff in each part of The School might have proved of signal benefit last summer when The Dinner was being organized as it would have provided a link to both staff groups and might have encouraged staff to attend. The Committee was content this provision should persist.

In respect of The Association Chairman's service as a governor it was noted that the wording of this clause had been amended at the instance of The Chairman of The Board and The Bursar making clear that unless he or she declined this service the expectation was that he or she would be "nominated to serve" rather than "who serves" as it was acknowledged that it remained a matter for the whole HETS Board to accept any nomination passed for its attention by its Nominations Committee.

KR initiated discussion on electronic voting in respect of the elections and how it would actually work. BM noted that we should make every effort to move toward an electronic voting system as this should significantly improve the participation in elections. KR agreed to seek clarification on the efficacy of using The School website to support an electoral process.

It was suggested that the revised Constitution could be placed on a HGSA Facebook page.

BM noted that the publication of a Facebook page for the FPs had proved very successful and that The School was now making contributions to the discussions which appeared on this site. KR opined that The School website remained his preferred option for transmission and receipt of information as it seemed reasonable that parents could find all pertinent information about The Association on The School website.

It was noted that there might be merit, pending clarification of the capacity of the School website to host elections, to amend the wording of the proposed, revised Constitution to be clearly permissive and not mandatory in respect of electronic elections and to allow the current physical collection of ballot papers to persist in interim until such time as a safe and satisfactory electronic system was in place.

It was agreed that the final draft should be sent to Rector as soon as practicable for publication on the Association page of The School website sufficiently in advance of the forthcoming A.G.M. to conform to the notice provisions of the 2011 Constitution.

The grateful thanks of The Association was noted in respect of the efforts of all members of the sub committee.

10. **AGM**

13<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm at Beaton Road Assembly Hall

Documents to be placed on The School website for parents to consider, as required by the current constitution, were discussed . The Draft letter advising parents of the meeting and the agenda were considered in detail and KR noted a number of suggested changes to be made prior to dissemination through The School e-mail system.

KR also undertook to confirm with Mr Hanif that he wished to continue to represent S5 and was willing to stand in the forthcoming election were one required and to confirm with Mr Campbell that he was willing as anticipated to continue as the representative for P.4

11. **Date of next meeting – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November**