

**Hutchesons Grammar School Association**  
**Meeting 22.02.16**  
**Founders Room**

Minute

***Present***

Kenneth Ritchie (KR) (Chair)  
P1 – Lizette Craig (LC)  
P3 – Martyn Campbell(MC)  
P4 – Alan Hair (AH)  
P5 – Audrey Mathers (AM)  
S1 – Elaine Lonergan (EL)  
S2 – Saman Khan (SK)  
S3 – Sue Redpath (SR)  
S5 – Shazma Shafi (SS)

***In Attendance***

David Hadden (DH)(Social SG)  
Fazia Khan (FK) (Social SG)  
  
Miss Chisholm (KC)  
Dr Greig (KG)  
Mr Keter (IK)  
Professor Williams (BW)

***Apologies***

Kathryn Storrie (KS) 1957 Group  
S6 – Lynn Rankin (LR)  
Miss Macphail (FM)

**1. *Adoption of Minutes from 9.11.15***

The minute of the latest meeting was proposed and seconded by acclamation

**2. *Matters Arising*** – No matters were raised which were not covered by the instant agenda

On behalf of the committee, KR congratulated KG on his recently announced appointment. K.R advised the Committee that he had not canvassed questions for the Rector in advance of this meeting as he had anticipated that much of the discussion would have been around the revised Constitution. He noted that whilst making the arrangements for the proposed continued A.G.M. on 4<sup>th</sup> February he had be advised that as some of proposed changes directly involve members of staff KG had asked that a meeting take place to discuss the proposal before the document is place on The School website. KR Undertook to meet with KG, BW and IK but suggested that this should involve members of the sub-group who had been involved in the discussion and drafting. KR undertook to send suggested dates for a meeting but stressed that it was important this take place as soon as possible to allow the draft document to be circulated to the parents for their consideration.

As this and the instant requirement for detailed discussion of the arrangements for The Careers' Convention were anticipated to take a significant amount of time KG was invited to make his report.

KR invited written comments but KG suggested that the proposed meeting would allow line by line consideration of the document.

**3. *Rector's report-*** In the absence of previously gathered questions KG reported as follows:-

Website Progress – KG advised that the new website should go live in a matter of weeks. This would be a slimmed down version of the current website with approx. 50 main pages with clearer links to information. He noted there had been some unexpected delays project which were not attributable to the school. KG told the meeting that the original deadline had been extended but that the new website could go live in a matter of weeks once approved. The improved features included a better calendar and a new on-line payment facility.

Events this term – KG noted a range of events taking place in the school over the coming weeks. Amongst these he noted in particular the Music Competition featuring a first performance using the new grand piano purchased for the Assembly Hall by pianist Susan Tomes who will be the judge for this year's event. This will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> February. On the same day the School's under 18years team will play in the "Shield" Rugby Final at Murrayfield.

The annual S3 drama competition will be held in The Drama Studios on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

The annual Sir Alexander Stone Memorial Lecture would be given by Nicola Benedetti followed by a performance involving Nicola and the School orchestra. The Rector advised that this will be a private event.

In contrast KG noted that at Founders Day parents would be most welcome. This would feature a talk from Prof Robert Crawford of The University of Saint Andrews, a former pupil of The School.

KG noted School visits had taken place prior to February Holidays involving Nicola Sturgeon and prior to this the sales manager for Tunnocks visited the senior school.

KR invited any questions for Rector

*(a) AM explained a number of parents were asking if the whole school needed to be on leave on both Founders Day and the Entrance Test Day?*

KG explain that on Founders Day it was logistically not possible to have S1-3 attending school because of the number of teachers involved in taking the other pupils to Glasgow Cathedral. When asked if he could look at Primary School not being off that day he noted that the P. 7 children were attending the Commemoration Service and that many of the staff of the Primary School attended.

In respect of the Entrance Test Day , here again the number of staff involved would preclude those pupils not sitting the test being in school. AM asked if the school could look at a Saturday being assigned for this purpose as this was the practice adopted in other schools. KG stated again that in current format pupils not sitting test could not usefully be in school and, whilst not excluding the possibility entirely noted that on Saturdays a number of staff other than those of the P.E Department were regularly involved in supporting children in sporting activities.

*(b) Nut Products in school vending Machines?*

AM asked if the school was a NUT FREE school? KG replied this was not the case. AM stated some children have severe allergies to nuts and that she understood there to be a prohibition on bringing nut products into the Primary School. Further discussion took place during which it was noted that by the time children entered the senior school pupils would recognise and be able to avoid eating things they were allergic to.

4. **Primary Report** – In Miss Macphail’s absence there was no particular matter which was to be reported by the The Rector

5. **Governors Remarks**

BW advised The Committee that the next scheduled meeting of The Board was not until 30.3.16 but in interim he and the Chairmen of the Board’s sub committees were Actively considering the recruitment of a new Rector. The post has been advertised and the closing date for applications set for 29.2.16. Depending on notice period required by the successful applicant an additional interim appointment may need to be made from amongst the current school staff.

6. **1957 Group Remarks** – In KS’s absence KR advised there was no particular matter which she had asked to be reported to The Committee.

7. **FP Remarks**

BM advised that an FP Dinner is to be held on 10.12.16 at House for An Art Lover. In Bellahouston Park. He also noted that this was to be organized as a “virtual dinner” Linking up with F.P. at locations worldwide.

He noted that the FPs’ Club had established a “Facebook” page set to go live in 2-3 weeks through which it was hoped to improve significantly the quality and frequency of communication between the FP Council and the members.

KR suggested the Careers’ Convention sub-committee business which was the other important and instant item of business for this evening be discussed before the reports of the other sub-committees.

KR asked BW, KG and IK if they wished to remain for these parts of the meeting and all declined.

*[exeunt BW, KG & IK]*

8. **Sub Committee Reports – Careers’ Convention.**

KC advised The Committee of the number and description of the consultants still lacking for 4<sup>th</sup> March.

It was noted by the sub-committee that there remained certain options offered to or requested by the pupils where there was a perennial difficulty in securing appropriate participants.

In the absence of certain members of the sub-committee volunteers were sought and received to seek consultants to fill the gaps.

KC re-iterated the previously advertised arrangements for the evening, asked that the members issue reminders to those consultant whose agreement they had secured and confirmed that a vegetarian option was available for the dinner preceding the event.

KC thanked the members of their efforts to date and asked that if they became aware of any changes or cancellations that these be intimated to her as soon as possible.

*[exit KC]*

### ***Social***

DH reported that the “Leavers” dinner is booked for 3.6.16. At present, approximately 100 + parents had committed to attend along with some S6 pupils who were joining their respective parents. DH advised that he had asked Mr Martin to pass on invitations to staff. KR recorded thanks to all involved in precipitating such a tremendous response to this inaugural event and noted that he had been delighted that the response generated to date had required that he sign a second contract with The Grosvenor Hilton as a larger venue was now required than originally booked. DH noted that in particular the efforts of FK should be recognised as she had been relentless in her pursuit of parents and had secured the lion’s share of the parents now attending.

### ***Constitutional***

It was very disappointing for all members of The Committee that the Association had not been able usefully to conclude its continued A.G.M. but it was recognised that as the proposed revised Constitution had not been published on The School website there would have been only a limited purpose in proceeding given the, as yet unspecified, concerns of KG, BW and IK had not been intimated to the sub-committee or discussed.

The members of The Committee agreed that it was very important that a date be agreed for sub group to meet KG, BW IK and any other representatives of The School or Board of Governors to achieve progress in this matter prior to Easter Break.

KR agreed to canvass the availability of the members of the Sub group and to provide if possible as many as 3-4 dates when such a meeting might take place

Assuming the objections or reservations can be identified and addressed it is hoped the A.G.M. can be continued at an appropriate date in the summer term.

9. ***AOCB No additional point of business were raised***
10. ***Date of Next Meeting – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30pm***