

James Gillespie's High School Council

Annual General Meeting

Minutes Tuesday 2nd December 2008.

7pm School Library

1. Attendance

Amy Abeyta, Barbara Aitken, Maret Bekmetov, Pat Brichen, Norman Brown, Jo Clayton, John Forsyth, Diane Gallagher, Nigel Goddard, Ann Henderson, Arthur Hendry, Kate Katagiri, Penny Long, Tom Macintyre, Barbara McPherson, Sheena Purdom, Helga Rhein, Lois Rollings, Claire Soper, Vivienne Swan, Niels (?),

2. Chair's Remarks

Nigel Goddard, Chair, opened the meeting.

The Chair's report included:

Good progress made with the School regarding communication, in particular picking up on some work that could be done jointly with incoming S1 parents, and joint work completed on the Home Study policy.

Noted that our lobbying, with regard to the disproportionate heating costs at JGHS due to the dilapidated heating system, had achieved some results. Costs for all heating bills will be borne centrally, instead of from each school's devolved budget.

The School Council meetings had covered a range of topics, and the recommendation was to continue with the structure of meetings, including a topic with speaker(s).

The student reps were thanked for their engagement with the School Council.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the 2007 AGM were moved as a correct record. Mover Kate Katagiri, Seconded Barbara Aitken. AGREED.

Matters arising:

A question was asked about the Scottish Government's proposals for a new Parent body. Whilst JGHS Council had not received any information so far, it was felt that this should be picked up on following the AGM. Parents will be kept informed.

John Forsyth reported on the meetings attended with regard to the Edinburgh City Council's policy regarding non-resident parents. DHT Marie Chetty has also been attending meetings. After initial discussions regarding a policy, and an agreement that the School Council would assist with arranging an area wide meeting to hear from the City Council, the policy document did not appear to have been finalised.

It was agreed that the School Council should seek clarification on progress; suggest that the final policy document should be made available on the website; and correspond with local councillors on the matter.

4. Treasurer's Report

Tom Macintyre presented his report. It was noted that the budget allocated to the School Council was not sufficient to cover the range of activities, in particular regular

newsletters and communications. However, parents had assisted, for instance with hand delivery of materials, and the School Council was building up an e-distribution list. Four hard copy newsletters had been produced.

The Events Group had requested proposals from Dept Heads in School for grants from the money raised. This had been well received in school and monies had now been allocated.

The Accounts were approved, subject to audit.

5. Nominations for Officers

Chair: Nigel Goddard

Proposed by Tom Macintyre, seconded Sheena Purdom
No other nominations. Nigel Goddard agreed as Chair.

Vice Chairs:

Alpana Mair

Sheena Purdom

Both agreed by the meeting, with no other nominations.

Secretary: No volunteers or nominations

Communications Officer

Ann Henderson agreed by the meeting

Kate Katagiri, Vivienne Swan, Penny Long., also agreed to contribute through sub Group. Communications Group to cover Secretary duties meantime.

Treasurer

Tom Macintyre – agreed.

The Events Group will meet and agree a link person with the Officers meetings.

Auditor: Robert Inder - agreed (apologies recorded for the meeting)

JHGS Trust: Reps Chris McKinnell and Sue Clarke. Chris had sent apologies to the meeting and indicated that he could not continue. Sue Clarke gave a brief report of some of the activities. Jean Knox was the new Development Officer.

Nominations were sought for a representative to join Sue Clarke, and the meeting agreed that Barbara McPherson would take this up.

6. Head Teacher's Report

Alex Wallace gave a report. This included welcoming the developing good relationship with the new School council, noting changes that had been made as a result, with the School council providing a better route for communication with the parent body. There had been mutual benefit from staff coming into the specific topic discussions. More information was given regarding the Thematic Weeks in School, for instance the recent Mandela Week.

The AGM formal Business concluded.

AOB – An update was given by the School Council officers on the Wave 3 Schools and the current stage of consultation. By 18 December it was expected that the Wave 3 Schools would be ranked in terms of need, by the City Council.

The Feasibility Study would be lodged in the School Library for further examination. It was agreed that the parent body would be kept advised of developments in the year ahead.

END OF MEETING.