

EIS Meeting Local Association Minutes
Secondary Schools Support Service Building
7.1.15

14.1:0 Constitution of the meeting:

Chair: G Joyce

Minute: T Barker

Present: Teresa Barker, Wendy Cowan, Karen Farrell, Lynne Dougan, Gavin Hunter, Lindsay Hunter and Gordon Joyce.

14.1:2 **Apologies: Rosie Dempster, Graeme Wright**

14.2:1 Minutes Accuracy:

Minutes agreed as accurate-

Proposed: Gavin Hunter

Seconded: Lynne Dougan

Matters Arising from Previous Minute

The meeting held scheduled for 10th December did not go ahead as there was not a quorum.

Expressive Arts Team (Point 10.5:8)

Gavin Hunter supported members at a meeting with line manager, Shona Wallace, on 16th December 2014. Discussions were productive and included agreement that further meetings would be required to confirm the new structures and responsibilities within the team. Recent changes to the management of the team were discussed and clarified. Staff seemed reassured somewhat by discussions.

TU Involvement in Business Case Model (Point 13.3:4)

GH was still awaiting response from David Leng regarding his request to discuss this.

14.3:1 Secretary's Update:

Partnership Working Group

Group met on 18th December 2014. The policy/procedures for the appointment of non promoted teaching staff was agreed. Changes included the removal of references to other documentation and materials and referred readers instead to

"current SNCT advice" to avoid the constant need for updating information. This now has to be agreed at the next LNCT meeting before it becomes agreed policy. Some elements of appointment procedures will remain discretionary e.g. the need for applicants to teach during observed lessons. All such ratified policies are held on the SNCT website. A small working group was set up to consider the details of the policy and procedures for the appointment of staff to promoted posts before it is considered by the PWG. This will tie in PT, DHT and HT appointment procedures. GH is to be part of this working group.

Linked to this discussion, KF suggested the setting up of a local LNCT website which may be more accessible for members and help to engage members locally. GH to look into this in more detail when time becomes available.

14.3:2 Shared Services Project Board

JTUC met to discuss the SSM but Clacks. EIS did not secure a place on the board. One representative from the teaching unions and two from the other unions were appointed. However, GH was able to observe the meeting with Maggie Nesbit as the teachers' union rep. There wasn't much detail to report but David Leng and Val Desousa were involved from the management team and the process was projected to be finished by end of February 2015. Regular updates would be given by Ernst & Young who would be managing the process only, with no input to the task itself. Focus groups had been suggested for consultation with staff to gauge response. After the proposal, the council would then be given approval before a consultation process would begin. It was agreed that EIS involvement would be best saved for this stage of the process. Further decisions will take place after the consultation phase has been completed.

It was suggested that it might be useful to secure additional facilities time during this consultation stage of proceedings, to ensure adequate time for the potential increased workload this might bring. TU involvement is about ensuring the process is conducted properly.

14.3:3 Budget Proposals

Contentious aspects of proposed cuts involved the approval of compulsory redundancies and the relocation of community access points to schools. These were met by general disapproval by councillors. It was also voiced that any attempt to propose changes to the provision of nursery teachers would not meet with approval either. With these aspects removed, councillors approved a consultation exercise on the model proposed, to be completed by the end of February 2015.

14.3:4 LNCT Information

Cancelled LNCT for December 2014 meeting has not been re-scheduled.

14.4:1 Treasurer's Update

Accounts now in order after an email outlining some discrepancies regarding outstanding cheques had been resolved. GH to ensure GW receives his cheque.

14.4:2 Insurance Cover

The EIS provides insurance cover for council members, LNCT members and Learning Representatives who may be using their car for EIS business. KF confirmed she had ensured the following members were named for cover purposes: GH, LH, RD, GJ, GW, KF. KF also reminded executive members that the EIS also provides some cover for staff cars damaged on school grounds.

14.4:3 Accommodation for AGM

GJ has provisionally booked accommodation in Perth for attendees. KF to top up EIS credit card to ensure funding is available to pay for the rooms. Five rooms had been booked, with two council places being fully funded already.

14.5:1 Learning Rep. Update

A Professional Update CPD Event is being organised for 28th February 2015. Three workshops will be available for staff and cover various aspects of the PU process. The GTC, Susan Quinn and Kim McGillivray will be running these events and delegates will have an opportunity to rotate around all three workshops focusing on aspects such as using the standards to evaluate,

using the online GTC resource and the PU process. Executive members were asked to promote this event in school.

Linked to this discussion, GH to ensure the new PU Policy and PRD procedures have been amended appropriately and to be ratified at next LNCT meeting.

14.6:1 Supply Cover

LD raised concerns about the continuing lack of supply staff available locally. Nursery teachers are often being removed from nursery classes, to cover within primary school classes where cover is not available. Although they are supernumerary, it is felt that this causes ongoing disruption to nursery classes. Supply cover continues to be a standing item on the LNCT agenda and it will be raised at the next meeting, with impact on nurseries included in the discussion. The rate of supply pay for teachers is dependent on the level of engagement and may be one of many issues impacting on availability of supply teachers.

14.7:1 Insurance for Executive Members

See earlier minute 14.4:2.

14.8:1 Membership Engagement

LD raised the issue regarding the need to raise the profile of the EIS in schools and to try to improve member engagement. A newsletter for local members was suggested as well as a local website. It was agreed that workload is a factor in this but ironically, protecting members from excessive workload issues was a primary concern of the union. It was suggested that Local Executive meetings be held in schools to encourage attendance by reps. and members. GH will also send out an invitation to reps. to remind them in plenty time of ABM in March.

14.9:1 AOCB

John Patten, local EIS fellow, is to organise a Fellows Lunch. The local executive agreed, as a donation, to fund the lunch and one drink per person. GH to attend on behalf of the local executive.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 18th February 2015, 4.15pm, SSSS.

