

JORDANHILL SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE 28th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF JORDANHILL SCHOOL held on Tuesday 19 September 2017 in the Main Assembly Hall.

PRESENT:-

Mr Alexander (convenor) and 80 company members.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2016 were approved. They were proposed by Mrs Fraser and seconded by Ms Wishlade.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that would not be covered in the reports and financial statement to follow.

3. BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORT

The convenor welcomed parent and staff members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He shared highlights from the Annual Report summarising KPIs, challenges and the excellent achievements delivered in the last year.

Mr Alexander commented on the continuing financial challenges faced by the School as the pressure on public sector funding continues and indicated that the School and representative Board members had met with colleagues in the Scottish Government over the course of the year to discuss the School's budget and recurrent grant. Discussions have been challenging but constructive and have allowed the School to demonstrate to Scottish Government both the very high levels of efficiency already in place and the school's continuing approach to secure best value. It seems inevitable that there will be further reductions in real terms in the recurrent grant with consequent impact on the range of services which the school can offer.

The convenor introduced Mr Gavin McLellan, Director of Development who has been appointed to deliver a major fund raising strategy linked to the centenary and the wider aspirations of the School.

The convenor thanked all Board members for their support over the past year, the senior management team, teaching and support staff for playing their part in delivering an excellent education service and reflected on the excellent value added to the pupils' educational experience at the School. He extended a very warm thank you to Board members who were departing following a 6 year term, namely Mrs Fraser, Ms Wishlade and Ms Oliver.

Mr Alexander advised it was his privilege to represent parents on the Board and work with senior School colleagues, engaging in though provoking discussion for the benefit of all the pupils of the School.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The treasurer, Ms Wishlade, gave a summary of the Financial Statement for 2016-2017 and outlined salient points from the Income and Expenditure Account for the year.

She commented on elements of restricted funding directed to specific purposes and the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102) that had affected the School's financial statements over the last few years. FRS102 changed the presentation of information and handling of the School's permanent endowment (buildings), the new treatment and inclusion of a sum of money attributed to accrued holidays and changes to disclosures relating to pensions. Ms Wishlade concluded that these changes were accounting constructs that did not impinge on the day to day running of the School.

Ms Wishlade confirmed the Board's confidence in the School's financial management and commented that finances formed a discussion point at every Board meeting. She thanked the Bursar and her team.

The audited accounts for the year 2016-2017 were approved:

Proposed: Mr Daye
Seconded: Mr Anderson

5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

A resolution to appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as Auditors for 2017-2018 was adopted.

Proposed: Mrs Fraser
Seconded: Dr Kelly

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

The convenor thanked Mrs Fraser, Ms Wishlade and Ms Oliver for their contributions as parent members and office bearers to the Board of Managers as they retire from membership.

New appointments are:

Parent Members

- Mrs Julie Carrie, Mr Neil Francis, Mr Joseph McKenna and Ms Susan Jeffrey who all commence their first term of office.

Staff Members

- No new appointments have been made to staff membership for 2017-18.

7. RECTOR'S REPORT

Dr Thomson delivered a presentation which addressed the following key areas:

- National Context
- Key Successes
- SQA Results

In his introduction he explained that in order to maximise the time available for questions he would not talk directly to the annual report on the assumption that all members had or would read it.

Dr Thomson highlighted the School Governance Consultation and Fair Funding Review and the challenges of the economic environment. Scottish Government had confirmed that the status of Jordanhill School remains unchanged.

He provided an overview of the key successes of 2016-17 namely: the Chinese Language Centre; benchmarking reviews; the Digital Learning Strategy including Office 365, Parents' Online Booking System and a new web site; achievement of the Gold School Sports Award and the upgrade to facilities.

Dr Thomson noted that the SQA results for 2017 are the best on record and commended our pupils and teachers for their hard work and commitment in delivering such success. He presented some virtual comparator information which reaffirmed that the attainment of all categories of pupils is notably better than what might reasonably be expected.

Dr Thomson offered an update on some items that will involve parental engagement this year, namely new national assessments and how we will report results to parents; this will be a focus of engagement in November.

He concluded by thanking parents for their ongoing support offered to the School.

In response to questions from the floor:

- (i) How often the School expected to meet the Scottish Government?
Dr Thomson confirmed historically once a year however engagement has been lacking in recent years. We expect more meetings going forward.
- (ii) How will the School address the economic challenges regards finances?
Dr Thomson advised that a range of benchmarking reviews had been completed or were underway. These indicate that the school is very efficient, has a lean curriculum model in the senior phase and that the cost per pupil is significantly lower than national norms albeit making direct comparisons in difficult. The Fair Funding Review may inform the budget setting process in future years. However, the school has responsibility for a very wide range of functions and costs which will not feature within this review.
- (iii) Has the school considered offering summer schools or similar initiatives to generate income?
The Rector advised that this would be challenging as current staffing levels would not support such initiatives. The Director of Development will be considering a wide range of income generating initiatives. A clear separation will be maintained between the delivery of core education which is the responsibility of Scottish Government through the recurrent grant and activities that might be supported by the EA Trust.
- (iv) Is the Grant Aided status of the school secure?
As indicated previously, SG has confirmed the school's status following the Governance Review of Scottish Education. No political party has mooted any change in status. The Governance Review and Fair Funding Review are predicated on greater delegation to schools. Any change which reduced the autonomy of Jordanhill School would not be accord with the general direction of policy.
- (v) Will there be any change to the catchment area for admissions?
Dr Thomson advised that the policy of the Board for some 15 years has been to see a modest expansion in secondary. This would lead to further efficiencies. While there is

sufficient teaching accommodation, any expansion would require additional funding to pay for the necessary teachers. In the current economic environment Scottish Government does not see this as an immediate priority. As the School is vastly oversubscribed the view of successive Boards has been that to increase the number of addresses in List 1 would be counter-productive. There are no plans to do so at present.

- (vi) Why is there a cap on numbers participating in the Duke of Edinburgh programme?
The Rector advised that capacity is limited by staffing and health and safety factors. A grant application for funding had been unsuccessful. Any expansion would significantly increase costs to parents. There are however many other providers out with the School who can provide places to pupils.

8. AOCB

None.

Convenor _____

Date _____

PTA Annual Report

Dr Jones gave a short report on the PTA and highlighted key projects and items that the PTA had supported in the past year and outlined the detail in the PTA financial accounts and statement, noting that income raised last session was £11,000 and there were some very well attended events. She thanked everyone who contributed to the PTA activities and supported them.

Dr Jones encouraged parents to get involved in the PTA and encouraged them to bring forward any new suggestions for School fundraising via the PTA and confirmed it was a rewarding and fun way of supporting initiatives that ultimately benefit their children and all pupils.

Mr Alexander thanked the PTA on behalf of the Board for their support and efforts in working for and with the School.