

JORDANHILL SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE 29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF JORDANHILL SCHOOL held on Tuesday 18 September 2018 in the Main Assembly Hall.

PRESENT:-

Mr Alexander (convenor) and 106 company members.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017 were approved. They were proposed by Mrs Munro and seconded by Mr McKenna.

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 offered positive feedback received from the Parents' Conference and shared the Board's desire to continue to listen to the views of parents and encourage engagement to drive learning and improvement.

Mr Alexander highlighted aspects of the Annual Report and encouraged all members to review it to understand 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 from 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 whilst also seeking to deliver national education priorities. It is 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 thanked members for their contributions to the crowdfunding for our school pitches with over £12,000 raised and commented on the 'Striving Higher' campaign and journey the school is taking through its Development function 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 Mrs Munro, Board member who is departing following a 6 year term.

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

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The treasurer, Mrs Carrie, gave a summary of the Financial Statement for 2017-2018 and outlined salient points from the Income and Expenditure Account for the year.

She commented on elements of unrestricted income and restricted funding directed to specific purposes and the impact of the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102) on 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 treatment and inclusion of a sum of money attributed to accrued holidays and disclosures relating to pensions. Mrs Carrie commented on the school's spending on digital strategy.

Mrs Carrie 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 2017-2018 were approved:

Proposed: Mr Daye

Seconded: Dr Kelly

5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

A resolution to appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as Auditors for 2018-2019 was adopted.

Proposed: Mr Alexander

Seconded: Mrs Munro

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

The convenor thanked Mrs Munro for her contributions as staff member to the Board of Managers as she retires from membership. He also confirmed the re-election and appointment of existing parent members.

Re-appointments are:

Parent Members

- Mr Alexander and Mr MacRae who commence their second term of office.

Staff Members

- Mr Gerry Sludden joins the Board staff member for his first term of office.

7. AOCB

None.

8. PTA

The convenor offered thanks on behalf of the Board and School to the PTA for all the support they have offered in the last year to providing opportunities and supporting projects to benefit pupils. He highlighted the upgrade to the fitness suite and S6 common room as particular successes in 2017-18.

9. RECTOR'S REPORT

Dr Thomson delivered a presentation highlighting successes in some key areas:

- Rights Respecting Gold Award
- STEM Partnerships with Jacobs
- Modern Languages
- School Estate - new pitches
- School Gold Sport Award

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 results of the Primary Parents Survey which was conducted in June 2018 and also the highlights of the Staff Survey conducted in June 2018.

He provided an overview of the key performance indicators associated with the surveys and areas of strength and presented graphs on trends over the past 16 years. He noted that all comments had been read and that constructive feedback is always welcomed.

Dr Thomson then went on to talk about the economic downturn and its impact on the School budget which has reduced by £500k in real terms over the last 10 years. He discussed the resulting reduction in teacher numbers and the steps taken to manage away the deficit projected for 2018-19.

Dr Thomson talked through alternative ways going forward and presented options to the members on how to tackle the shortfalls. He also spoke about the School's 'Striving Higher' campaign and philanthropic giving. This requires a culture change and the support of the parent body. The rector encouraged parents to speak openly and feedback on their views regards these options.

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

In response to questions from the floor:

- (i) What assumptions has the School made in the example offered on regular giving?
Dr Thomson confirmed this was a whole school figure, i.e. our target sum is the result of every parent contributing £10 per child per month, however it is understood that not all can afford this, whilst others can afford more. A parent further commented that he felt this was a very reasonable ask.
- (ii) Would the Scottish Government cut the budget to the School if parents signed up for regular giving?
Dr Thomson advised no, the money donated would not fund any core education and it would be managed via the Educational Amenities Trust.
- (iii) How do we give? Is there a process or system set up? Will this be formalised?
Yes, visit our website for ease of giving and further communications would follow tonight's AGM. Mr McLellan, Director of Development expanded on his role and the journey the School is on regards engaging alumni, trusts, organisations and parents.
- (iv) Are we to expect that the £10 a month this year would increase year on year?
No, this will be sufficient for at least 5 years and will allow some reserve to be sustained.

- (v) There is a lot of communication that comes out from the school and messages are often lost – parental comment.
Dr Thomson acknowledged the challenges. The school uses a combination of targeted e-mails, e-bulletins, the school app for more general messages and the web site. Paper communications are used where a physical copy is useful to families and, in particular, when some written consent or agreement is required.
The school does try to minimise the number of communications, but it is not feasible to manage this centrally due to the range and complexity of activities and events.
He encouraged families to sign up for the app as this provided a key channel of communication in the event of power cuts and inclement weather.
- (vi) Is there any update on the CALA Homes development, we are concerned by the pollution that will be caused by the traffic?
The rector advised he had been contacted by CALA today and a meeting is being set up with the School shortly.

The meeting closed.