

**Minutes of the 137th School Council Meeting of KGV
Wednesday 26th November 2008 at 6:00 pm in Conference Room of SRC**

Present:

Council Members:	Paul Varty (PV)	Chairman
	Ed Wickins (EW)	Principal (Secretary)
	Andrew Sortwell (AS)	ESF Representative
	Michael Guilford (MG)	Ex-officio Community Representative
	Robert McRobbie (RM)	Community Representative
	Roger Nissim (RN)	Community Representative
	Simon Tsang (ST)	Community Representative
	Sarah Cook (SC)	PTSA Representative
	Kim Anderson (KA)	Parent elected Representative
	Catherine Chan (CC)	Parent elected Representative
	Michael Lintern-Smith (MLS)	Parent elected Representative
	Deborah Eaglestone (DE)	Staff Representative
	Ashley Tranter (AT)	Staff Representative
	Geoff Wheeler (GW)	Staff Representative

In Attendance: Peggy Ng (PN) Clerk

Apologies: David Grady (DG) Staff Representative
Joy Man (JM) Support Staff Representative
Marcus Chiu (MC) President of Student Council
Adrian So (AS) Vice President of Student Council

Items

Action

KG 137.1 **Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from DG, JM, MC and AS.
- 1.2 With the new parent elected representatives on board there were brief introductions around the table.

KG 137.2 **Minutes of the 136th Meeting held on 24th September 2008 (SC/0809/MM1)**

- 2.1 Council agreed that the typo under the third bullet point of 4.2a 'physiology' should read as 'philosophy'.
- 2.2 The Minutes of the 136th meeting held on 24th September 2008 were approved after noting the clarification in 2.1 above.

KG 137.3 **Matters arising from the Minutes**

- 3.1 Site Redevelopment Planning – EW and colleagues from the Performing Arts team visited Renaissance College and Discovery College and are planning to visit Canadian International School.
- 3.2 To be in line with Octopus card security system, some sort of identification cards for Council members is recommended. EW to organise. EW
- 3.3 Questions of a general nature concerned with staff renewal of contracts were prepared and EW has responded to staff representatives.
- 3.3 Thankyou letter to MG has been dealt with. EW publicly thanked MG for him being a great supporter to KGV.

Items

Action

KG 137.4

Principal Report (SC/0809/1/1)

4.1 Council received the report noted above. EW briefed the Council on the report.

4.2 CIS/WASC

A paper on Progress in Philosophy and Objectives (Principal Report – Appendix A) was tabled. This paper will be discussed by the Leadership Team on Thursday 27th November and a wider discussion will take place across KGV community through staff meeting, PTSA meeting and Student Council. Hopefully this can be finalised by the end of next months. Council members are encouraged to comment on this document by email to EW / GW over the course of next month.

All

Part 1 (Gathering the data) and the Resources sections are coming to a conclusion.

There was a general discussion on the questionnaire survey results for Governance and Management section. Some of its key issues can be put forward in the agenda of next meeting. There was a discussion on the Insurance programme arising from Standard Eight of the survey. AS to find out the summary of the cover of the insurance programme and email to Peggy for circulation to all members.

EW

AS

The Policies on Exclusions and Complaints are considered very helpful. There being no adverse comments, Council endorsed these two policies for KGV school. They will be published on the website.

PN

Volunteers from Council members are needed to sit on the Steering Committee and Curriculum Committee.

All

CIS/WASC team is coming back in March 2010.

4.3 Challenge Week

Council acknowledged the work done by Richard Bradford and Rachael Woollett for managing the Challenge Week activities. EW to pass on the message to them.

EW

4.4 Future School Events

Council members are invited to the future school events. Responses to be sent to PN. GW flagged 'Guess the Profession' to Council on the afternoon of 14th January 2008.

4.5 Learning Support Centre (LSC)

Way Forward group meeting minutes were published. Council noted that Carol Saunders and Jane Angwin had done a remarkable job in changing the atmosphere in the LSC. EW to circulate the report and minutes and Heather's feedback by email.

EW

Items

Action

KG 137.5 **PTSA Chairman Report (SC/0809/1/2)**

- 5.1 Council received the report noted above. SC briefed the Council on all of the items including the Arabian Night market, Divali Lunch, Carol Concert etc.
- 5.2 Carol Concert - it is a non ticket event and first come first served. International food will be served afterwards.

KG 137.6 **ESF Reports**

- 6.1 **Latest Report dated 10th October 2008 (SC/0809/2/3) and 6th November 2008 (SC/0809/2/4)**
- 6.2 Council received the reports noted above. AS briefed the reports.
- 6.3 Chinese Curriculum
One of our teachers, Vivienne Fung, was involved in the Primary review. How we as a Secondary School are responding to this report will be put in the next School Council meeting as a separate item for discussion. EW to invite Ita Lam to join the next meeting. EW
EW
- 6.4 Venue change for the training of Councillors – AS to confirm. AS
- 6.5 KGV Higher Education destinations will be circulated to Council when they have been collated. EW
- 6.6 US university applications – with increasing number of US university applications, Council suggested that it is worth thinking about offering central support for this process. AS to feed back to ESF. AS

KG 137.7 **Reports of Sub-Committees**

- 7.1 **ESF Diploma Sub-Committee (SC/0809/1/5)**
Council received the report noted above. SC briefed the meeting which mainly focused on the Advanced Diploma. Members recognised that the work done by the Advanced Diploma students was impressive and practical. It is suggested that the review is shared with the School Council once the results are out.
- 7.2 **Staffing Sub-committee**

A copy of the Staffing Sub-Committee notes was tabled. GW briefed the meeting.

Teaching Staff issues
 - One teacher's contract was subsequently confirmed not being renewed. Council members acknowledged the issue and understood the situation and were sympathetic for the situation. That teacher is clear on the procedures and where to take his/her grievances. Teacher Reps thought that there should be something more detailed and transparent in the process such as the ESF Exclusion and Complaints policies. AS to forward the message to HR. AS

Items

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- There was a general discussion on the issue and it was noted that the decision was made based on balancing staffing and curriculum requirements.

- Events
Pedal Kart was a great success.

Moustaches growing competition in November – male teachers took part in it for charity.

Support Staff issues

Support Staff report (SC/0809/1/6) - Council noted the report and had no comments and questions on it.

7.3 Premises Sub-committee (SC/0809/1/7)

Council received the report noted above. RN briefed the meeting.

- Summer works 08 was satisfactory.
- KGV Redevelopment
Lead Consultants Bids – Four presentations were done today by four architects. Given the fact that ESF Facilities Department is basically responsible for all premises facilities work in all ESF schools and the funding and finance comes under the Finance Department, John Stewart and Rob Bennett were also involved in the whole process. Decisions will come out beginning of next week. The architect appointed will take and manage the project right through to completion. Construction work is aimed to start in the summer 2010 and completed building to be handed over in summer 2012.

7.4 Finance Sub-committee (SC/0809/1/8)

Council received the report noted above. ST briefed the meeting.

- There is a total saving of about HK\$2.4M. The issue of how to spend this money on capital projects will be approved by the Finance Sub-committee. A menu of items will be finalised by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and be taken to the Finance Sub-committee for approval.
- 1-1 Learning Programme – the funding issue is to be brought back to the next School Council meeting.
- The attempt to vary the terms of the Peace Memorial Scholarship is still under way. The Chairman explained the situation as below:
 - ⇒ Established in 1920s with an endowment made.
 - ⇒ Now held and managed by HKSBC Trustees on behalf of KGV.
 - ⇒ Beneficiaries - boys of English nationality who wished to take up the farming or sciences, or more technical subject of sciences.

EW

Items

Action

- ⇒ This was taken to court in 1950s with a view to amending the beneficiaries, and there was some relaxation and redefined.
- ⇒ Currently a central fund about £15,000 to be distributed.
- ⇒ Hasn't been awarded to any students at least 10 years.
- ⇒ Equal Opportunities Commission viewed that if boys are the only beneficiaries it may contravene the Ordinance, but there are certain exemptions within the Ordinance, one of which involves charities.
- ⇒ The trustees advised us to take legal advice on this issue.

Hopefully this can be clarified and awarded to a student by next year's Speech Day.

Council suggested that the School keeps Rob Bennett at ESF informed of this scholarship.

AS

7.5 **Student Reps Report**

Student Reps being absent, there was no verbal report given to the Council.

KG 137.8 **Chairman's Business**

- 8.1 Recent financial tsunami may have some impacts on students leaving and shortfall in school fee payment. ESF is keeping an eye on the two issues. There is no indication of a numbers drop-off although normal drop-offs are anticipated in January. There has been an increase in the enquiries about the financial hardship scheme.

KG 137.9 **Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Parent Reps raised the issue of school visits. GW replied that some legitimate visits for Y6 parents have been organised recently. Something much more formal, e.g. Open Day is being looked at.
- 9.2 MG expressed that he enjoyed having been on the School Council for 26 years. His first association with KGV was a cricket match in October 1953. MG thanked EW for the letter and would be very pleased to help the School whenever the School has the need. Dinner with Michael Guilford will be on 17 or 18 December 2008. PN to email Council.

PN

KG 137.10 **Date of Next Meeting**

- 10.1 Council noted that the next meeting will be held **15 minutes earlier** for taking some photos. The date of next meeting is scheduled for **25th February 2009 in the Sarah Roe Centre Conference Room at 5:45 pm.**

All

The meeting ended at 8:22 pm.

Peggy Ng
Clerk to School Council