

HARRIS ACADEMY FP ASSOCIATION



Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Monday 21 April 2014 at 7pm

Harris Academy, Lawton Road, Dundee

Members Present (22):-

Honorary President:- Rosemary Matheson-Dear

Honorary Vice-Presidents:- Mabel Cruickshank; Margaret D Fraser; Joyce Wood; Joan Yeaman

Office Bearers:- John Baxter (President); Dorothy Drummond (Vice-President & Treasurer); David J Wallace (Association Secretary); Isobel Colligan (Social Secretary)

Members of Council:- Sylvia Alexander; Fay Burke; Prof Ian C Colligan; Janice Oram; Anne Simmers; Fiona Smart; Freida Soutar; James Thewliss (Head Teacher)

Ordinary Members:- Margaret Mill; Marion Milne; Michael Mulford; Mary Train; Dr William Yeaman

1. Welcome

The President welcomed everyone to this, his last as President, Annual General Meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from the following members:-

George McWalter; George Flett; Jacqueline Brown (Findlay); Grace Henderson; Mildred Mottashaw

3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 22 April 2013 & Matters Arising

3.1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes were taken as read and acceptance was proposed by Janice Oram and seconded by Anne Simmers.

3.2. New School

The Head Teacher addressed the Meeting on this ongoing matter and circulated two A4 photographs of the developing site taken on the preceding Thursday (17 April 2014). He summarised the situation since the last Annual General Meeting. The School had been offsite since 29 June 2013 and obtained access to Lawton Road on 18 August 2013. The contractors began to strip the 1931 building from July onwards and full clearance was achieved by Christmas. Ever since the contract began the contractors have been running ahead of schedule, the main reasons being the mildness of the winter with less than the usual rainfall and the fact that the 1931 building was erected virtually on bedrock so that any rain falling did not turn the site into a quagmire. Following clearance of the

site shortly before Christmas, the southern part of the former South Playground had been raised by 5 to 6 metres to create a levelled flat site. There will be a public footpath running round the western boundary of the school to connect with the route through the Jungle, which will be substantially upgraded to a standard suitable for public use. The contractors have been pouring concrete and setting the foundations (which are now complete) for the new building. A high crane is on site, steelwork had been delivered and was now being erected. The next deadline was to have in place by Christmas 2014 a wind and watertight building in which internal fitting out could begin. Regarding retention of certain parts of the 1931 building, a large quantity of sandstone from large sections of the former frontage was stored on site and the clock tower was removed by crane to be stored in a warehouse in Dundee until reinstatement and integration in the new building. As far as the progress of the new building becoming a school is concerned, the School are about to enter into a series of discussions with the contractors in relation to the way in which they will have the building fitted out in detail. The School is in possession of an impressive computerised "fly through" version of the school and he had hoped to bring it along for showing but a great deal of preparatory work still has to be done with it to make it work properly for the whole school. It should be available in the next 5 to 6 weeks. Various rooms for Science Laboratories and the Home Economics Department will be shown kitted out as intended. He will show it to the Association on large 3D screen when it becomes available. Discussions will commence soon as to the way in which the public areas of the school are to be fitted out. This affects the Association in view of its desire to have some commemorative item, perhaps of a stained glass nature, placed in the building. It is premature to discuss that at the moment, but it is his view that it would look best in one of two areas, namely, either in the Central Assembly Hall display area of the school, or alternatively (which is his preference), somewhere in the Entrance Area into the school. There will be a large open covered foyer area leading on to a restaurant (which will not be a commercial restaurant, but a training restaurant for the Home Economics Department to be used within the Community and the Educational Community of Dundee), and this area would be most open to public view. He will revert to the Association with clear guidance when more is known as to how the public areas will look.

Regarding the Lawton Road Building they have been perfectly comfortable in it since the start. The priority in the 18 months before removal from Perth Road was to ensure that on 18 August 2013 there was a Teacher in every classroom ready to teach and to ensure that the Pupils' education continued without interruption despite the removal from Perth Road. That intention was achieved. On 22 April 2014 discussion would commence on the rationalisation of accommodation in the Lawton Road building over the next two years and how, through that, they prepare to return to Perth Road. With the benefit of a year in the present building they now have a clearer idea as to how it can be used to maximum effect. ICT will also form an important part in the development of the school. When the School returns to Perth Road there will be a minimal number of desktop computers and the majority of learning through ICT will be on laptops, tablets, and smart phones. It seems inefficient for children not to be using devices which they are carrying in their own pocket and which are much more sophisticated than anything the Education Authority can provide for them. If Pupils require a computer to assist with learning then they will use their own smart phone or tablet or retrieve one from a cupboard. This will provide a more sophisticated way of learning. The Head Teacher took a question about the comparison with a school in the US where children all have a laptop and do not require to carry books. He responded by saying that that is a long term matter and meantime his intention was to ensure that the available *per capita* funding was used to maximum benefit without waste.

- 3.3. Publication Committee
Ian Colligan reported on behalf of this Committee, formerly known as the Editorial Committee but now more grandly entitled the Publication Committee. The members of the Committee were working hard in the background, sifting through all sorts of information from School Magazines and Log Books. The original plan had been to produce a booklet but recently it was proposed that a series of pamphlets on various topics be produced and interested FPs could buy those which interested them. He invited any Members who were interested in joining the Committee to come forward.
- 3.4. Web Site
The Association Secretary's Report (see Item 4.2) contains a report on the FP Web Site.
- 3.5. Burns Evenings (Paragraph 8(d) of said Minutes)
The Social Secretary comments on the Burns Supper in her Report (see Item 4.3).

4. Reports

- 4.1. President
The President felt that, on the whole, the Association had enjoyed a successful year. Members had enjoyed the events, but, sadly, numbers at Quarterly Lunches were falling from the 60s to the 40s. The average age of Members attending Lunches was increasing but this was not a reflection on the quality of the actual lunches. It could be seen from the Membership List that people who had left School in the 1960s and are now retired simply are not joining the Association. He thought that the lack of support from the local press did not help. He knew that Morgan Academy FP Association run Men's Lunch at Inchtute Hotel approximately every two months and the number present is usually around 50! The male attendance at the Association's lunches is less than 8! In conclusion he thanked all those who had supported him during his period of Office, including Office Holders and Members of Council.
- 4.2. Association Secretary
The Association Secretary read his report, which is attached. He also thanked all those who had been of assistance to him in his first year as Association Secretary, particularly Isobel Colligan, the previous Secretary, and the Head Teacher and his Staff.
In response to his request that he be informed of hospitalisation or death of Members, Margaret D Fraser announced the death of John Speed that day (21 April 2014), after an illness.
The Head Teacher also added that this year's Prizegiving would take place on 27 June 2014 in Dundee West Church, Perth Road, Dundee.
- 4.3. Social Secretary:-
The Social Secretary read her Report, which is attached. Further comment ensued on the following matters listed in the Agenda:-
- 4.3.1. Quarterly Lunches, including post Armistice Ceremony Lunch
The Social Secretary wondered whether the June Quarterly Lunch should be abandoned, given that there is usually another social event of some description in that month. Numbers at the June lunch have been falling. The Meeting agreed that

proposal. The President observed that it is too late to cancel the June lunch this year. This decision would take effect from 2015. The Head Teacher commented that in view of the fact that a substantial building should be in place in Perth Road by June 2015 it might be possible to arrange access for Members as part of an event. The Social Secretary also suggested a review of the charge to Members for Quarterly Lunches. The last increase (to £15) took effect in September 2011. The Invercarse Hotel charge and administration charges have increased. After discussion, it was agreed that the price to be levied from September 2014 will be £16.

4.3.2. Wine & Cheese Evening

The Head Teacher confirmed that he would arrange for a showing of the Present Pupils' video of the "old" School, which he described as a Drama within the School, and by the time of the event he will have a video of the fly-through of the new building which can also be shown on the evening. He also offered copies to Members at a modest cost to cover preparation and materials and orders should be placed through the Association Secretary.

4.3.3. Burns Evening or its replacement

Consideration was given at the Annual General Meeting held on 22 April 2013 as to whether a Burns Supper should take place every year (Item 8(d) of the Minutes). It was unanimously agreed that the practice of holding annual events should continue, particularly because of the high quality of the entertainment which had been arranged, and which, it was generally agreed, had been enjoyed by all those present. The Social Secretary commented that the last function's ticket price of £18 would not cover the cost next time due to the increase in charges from Invercarse Hotel (from £14.00 to £14.45). Expenses had been pared to the bone last time and considerable savings had been made, but the same situation could not be guaranteed next time. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the ticket price could reasonably be set at £20.00.

4.4. Treasurer

The Treasurer produced her Accounts for the past year and provided Members with explanations in respect of several of the entries. The balance at the bank had increased from £2291.61 on 9 April 2013 to £2697.57 on 31 March 2014. A copy of the accounts, examined and found correct by Fiona Smart, is attached. There were no questions from Members on the accounts and they were unanimously approved. The Treasurer thanked Council Members for their support during her time as Treasurer. In particular she wished her thanks to Fiona Smart for all her help and advice to be minuted.

5. Membership Fees

The President explained that in terms of the Constitution which was approved at the Annual General Meeting on 22 April 2013 the Fees for Ordinary Life Membership and Associate Life Membership of the Association require to be reviewed and fixed at the Annual General Meeting in each year (Article 7.1 of the Constitution). Since the Constitution came into effect last year such fees had never been fixed under the present Constitution. An explanation was also given as to the difference in status between Ordinary Members and Associate Members of the Association (Articles 4.1 and 4.2 of the Constitution). The present charge levied for each class of membership is £20.00. It was finally agreed unanimously that the charges for the year 2014/2015 shall be as follows:-

Ordinary Life Membership
£20.00

Associate Life Membership
£20.00

6. Election of Office Bearers

6.1. President

The outgoing President nominated the present Vice-President, Dorothy Drummond. Joan Yeaman seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, Dorothy Drummond was elected President.

The new President took the chair and paid tribute to the outgoing President. She realised it would be difficult to follow him but would do her best to carry on his good work. On behalf of all present she thanked him for being President over the last 7 years. He had always had the good of the Association at heart and despite having to contend with more than his fair share of ill-health he had been a loyal and conscientious Member of Council. His support and helpful advice were much appreciated. He had spent a considerable amount of time working on the Archives as a result of which the Association was better placed than our cousins in the East End who lost everything in their fire. He carried out his duties with humour and was always keen to share his amusing anecdotes at Lunches, Burns Suppers, and other events. His wife, Merelyn, also deserved the thanks of Members for supporting him despite her own many health problems. It was known that he hoped to continue as a Member of Council and it was certainly the case that he would be very welcome. The President concluded by conveying the Association's heartfelt thanks and its very best wishes to him and his wife. The President's remarks were met with general acclaim. The Head Teacher, on behalf of the School, offered congratulations to Dorothy Drummond on her election as President. He observed that while the Association obviously acted for its Members he appreciated that it also acted for the benefit of the School and its Pupils. He thanked John Baxter for his years as President and his unfailing presence at School Events. The President then stated that she was sure the Meeting would agree that John Baxter be offered the post of Honorary Vice-President but he gracefully declined as he still wished to actively contribute to the work of the Association and have voting rights as a Member of Council if he were to be elected.

6.2. Vice-President

The post now being vacant as a result of Dorothy Drummond becoming President, she asked for nominations for this post. There being none, John Baxter offered to accept the post until someone else could be found in his place. This was unanimously agreed.

6.3. Association Secretary

David J Wallace agreed to continue in the post for another year. This was unanimously agreed.

6.4. Social Secretary

Isobel Colligan agreed to continue in the post for one last year. This was unanimously agreed.

6.5. Treasurer

The post now being vacant as a result of Dorothy Drummond becoming President, she proposed Freida Soutar as Treasurer. Rosemary Matheson-Dear seconded the nomination and it was unanimously carried.

Fiona Smart agreed to continue as Examiner of Accounts.

6.6. Ordinary Members of Council

The following existing Ordinary Members of Council were unanimously re-elected:-

Sylvia Alexander; Fay Burke; Prof Ian C Colligan; James Elder; Janice Oram; Anne Simmers; Fiona Smart.

The Constitution provides for up to 10 Ordinary Members of Council so there are 3 vacancies. Fay Burke proposed Michael Mulford but he declined for the coming year at least. There were no other nominations or offers and no further appointments were made.

7. AOCB

7.1. School Captains representation on Council

The President explained that a suggestion had been made at Council that, with the Head Teacher's approval, the School Captains be permitted to attend Council Meeting as co-opted members, the intention being to increase mutual interest between the Former Pupils and Present Pupils. The Head Teacher signified his agreement and added that he thought it a good idea. The proposal was agreed unanimously. The Captains will be invited to the meeting of Council in September 2014 (date still to be fixed).

7.2. Margaret Fraser asked if any provision had been made for the display of Archives etc in the new building in Perth Road. The Head Teacher informed the Meeting that the open areas will have limited space for this purpose and suggested the matter be raised by Ian Colligan at the Project Board. Consultation of Archives not on display will be possible in a suitable room. At present the Archives are in safe custody.

8. Conclusion

There being no further business the Meeting closed with the usual Vote of Thanks to the chair(s).

HARRIS ACADEMY FP ASSOCIATION



Report by the Association Secretary to the Annual General Meeting

Monday 21 April 2014 at 7pm

9. MEMBERSHIP

9.1. Existing Membership at this date

The registered Membership is 365 but this cannot be guaranteed to be correct. There are cases where Members are suspected to have died but we have not been informed. Others have gone missing through unannounced changes of address.

Of these 365 Members, 175 receive information by email, but 118 are "postal". The balance either does not wish communications or are "missing".

9.2. New Members

Sadly there is only one new Member, namely, Lucie Cook, who attended School 2004-2009. We welcome her to the membership and hope to see her at some point.

9.3. Deceased Members

George Thomson (16 June 2013), Gladys Hood (20 July 2013), William Japp (28 November 2012), Audrey Brown (11 October 2013), James Proctor (3 December 2013), Moira Edwards or Stalker (28 March 2014), and John G Speed (21 April 2014).

9.4. Intimations

Will Members please advise the Association Secretary regarding any sort of event affecting any Member, particularly hospitalisation or death, so that appropriate action may be taken.

10. PAST EVENTS

10.1. Quarterly Lunches (June, September, and December, 2013, and March 2014)

The Quarterly Lunches were held as usual in Invercarse Hotel, Perth Road, Dundee, on the first Monday of each of the above months. The Social Secretary will address the meeting on this matter, which is within her domain.

10.2. Quiz Night (6 June 2013)

This took place in the Hall of the 1931 School Building. The Social Secretary will address the meeting on this event which is within her domain.

10.3. School Prizegiving Ceremony (26 June 2013)

This was attended by the Office Bearers of the Association. The Principal Speaker was Graham Donaldson who also presented the Prizes, the Head teacher addressed the Assembly, the Rev D Randall conducted the religious part of the proceedings, and musical input was supplied by the magnificent School Wind Band, conducted by Miss Audrey Bird.

10.4. Armistice Ceremony (11 November 2013)

This moving Ceremony took place in the Entrance Hall of the School Campus at Lawton Road. As usual, the Head Teacher welcomed the assembled Pupils and FPs (the latter actually being very few in number, which was disappointing), the President, John Baxter, responded, and the religious aspects were conducted by Rev Andrew Greaves. Rory Allardice played the Lament, Gordon Laird, Hon Vice President, laid the wreath on behalf of the Association, and the School Captains, Nadia White and Jamie Croan, laid the wreath on behalf of the School. The Last Post was sounded by School Pupil Oscar Holm-Huxley, and the School Wind Band, again conducted by Miss Audrey Bird, accompanied the Hymns. Afterwards Former Pupils repaired to Invercarse Hotel for an informal lunch and enjoyed the company of the School Captains.

10.5. Annual Carol Service (19 December 2013)

A large and enthusiastic congregation supported the Annual Service, which took place in Dundee West Church and was conducted by Rev Andrew Greaves. All sections and ensembles of the School Music Department turned out to provide accompaniment to a magnificent evening of Praise and Music, with Readings by the Pupils and the Head Teacher.

10.6. School Carol Concert (20 December 2013)

The Head Teacher decided to hold an impromptu Carol Concert in the Entrance Hall of the School and it was attended by a large number of School Pupils and a few FPs. Once again, Rev Andrew Greaves conducted the religious aspects and the School Wind Band, again conducted by Miss Bird, provided the musical accompaniment.

10.7. Burns Evening (27 January 2014)

This was held at Invercarse Hotel, Perth Road, Dundee. The Social Secretary will address the meeting on this event, which is within her domain.

10.8. School Spring Concert (26 March 2014)

A Spring Concert was held in the Music Centre, Bell Street, Dundee. The sizeable audience, which included a good number of FPs, were treated to a wonderful display of musical talent. The PT Music, Miss Shelly Findlater, the instructors, and the Pupils, deserved the highest praise for staging such a brilliant Concert which was thrilling from start to finish and although it would be unfair to single out particular performances the level of ability was, in some cases, quite extraordinary

11. NEW HARRIS ACADEMY

The Head Teacher regularly attends Council Meetings *ex officio*, for which the Association is grateful, and he always updates Council on progress and developments. Ian Colligan continues as the FP Member of the Project Board. The Head Teacher will address the meeting on the latest position.

12. FP WEBSITE

The FP website at www.harrisfps.co.uk steadily gathers support and continues to enjoy a pleasing number of hits from many parts of the world. It attracts on average, 50 visitors per day. Only 5% of visitors are finding the site as a result of a Google Search. Common search terms are 'harris, academy, dundee' but this suggests that much could be done to improve SEO (Search Engine Optimisation). A handful of visitors are referred from the school's main website but the majority of visitors (85%) have found the site by entering the address directly - perhaps through a bookmark (which suggests recurring visitors) or by reading the address somewhere else (printed collateral?). The most popular section is the "Gallery", with "Where are you now", "Features", "Notices", "Articles" and "Future Events" not far behind. The average time that visitors spend on the site is 52 seconds which although not very long, can be attributed to a number of factors and shouldn't be taken as 'bad'. The content relating to the School and Present Pupils has been increased in the belief that it may encourage more Pupils to join the Association when they leave School. Members are once again invited to contribute material to keep the site "live" and interesting. Reunions are seemingly taking place without advertisement on the site, which seems silly.

13. FUTURE EVENTS

13.1. Cheese & Wine Evening (19 June 2014)

The Social Secretary will deal with this matter

13.2. Quarterly Lunches

The Social Secretary will deal with this matter

13.3. Armistice Ceremony

Arrangements will be intimated later.

13.4. School Carol Service

Arrangements will be intimated later.

13.5. Burns Evening 2015

The Social Secretary will deal with this matter

HARRIS ACADEMY FP ASSOCIATION



Report by the Social Secretary to the Annual General Meeting

Monday 21 April 2014 at 7pm

As Social Secretary I would like to convey my thanks to all the members of Council who assisted me with the organisation of the various events throughout the year. In particular I would like to thank Sylvia Alexander, Ian Colligan, David Wallace and Dorothy Drummond for their help with the Burns Supper. I would also like to thank Mr Thewliss, the School office staff, the staff from the music department, the school captains in 2012/13 and 2013/14 and a good number of pupils who have been involved in providing us with such excellent entertainment. Thanks are also given to the management and staff of the Invercarse Hotel for their excellent service.

Quarterly Lunches

The lunches have been held in the Invercarse Hotel, Perth Road on the first Mondays in June, September and December 2013 and March 2014 at a cost of £15.00 per head. The number of attendees were 40, 49, 43 and 44. Although they have been enjoyed by everyone there, it has to be acknowledged that while the numbers are remaining relatively static, we are not seeing any increase in the population of those coming along. The Invercarse Hotel has been booked for the lunches on the first Mondays in June, September and December 2014 and the first Monday in March 2015 but with increased charges for the coming year it will be necessary to consider the implications for the Association.

Quiz Night

This event was judged to be a great success and it is hoped that it will be repeated at some time in the future, possibly in 2015. Almost 100 FPs and guests attended. The winning team was from Morgan Academy!!

Burns Supper

This departed somewhat from the usual format both in seating and entertainment. It was felt that round tables might afford a better opportunity for social interaction rather than the traditional long tables. FP Jimmy Lockhart addressed the haggis which was piped in by Rory Allardice, now also an FP. Our main speaker was Mrs Sheena Wellington who entertained us with her "Love Affair with Burns". The entertainment was provided by pupils and staff from the School's music department, students from Dundee and Angus College and Mrs Bobbie Ramsay. Reported feedback from those in attendance has been entirely positive. The school captains attended as guests of the Association. The Invercarse Hotel has been booked for Monday 26th January 2015.

Cheese and Wine Evening

A Cheese and Wine Evening has been arranged for Thursday 19th June 2014 at 7pm in Harris Academy, Lawton Road. Tickets which are priced at £5 per head will be available from the beginning of May and there have already been enquiries about this event. I will send out tickets to those who send a stamped addressed envelope. They will also be on sale at the June lunch. This will give those attending the opportunity to see round the school in its temporary accommodation. Once again we are indebted to Ms Findlater, the staff and pupils of the music department for agreeing to come along to entertain us. It is hoped that a short DVD of the former school premises and a fly-through of the future building will be available for viewing.

