



## 55 Army Education Centre Group

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### MINUTES AND RECORD OF DECISIONS MADE AT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (SGC) MEETING MON 6 FEB 12

Present	Lt Col Bob Pickford Mr Martin Ainsworth Mr Andrew Armstrong Maj Kevin Price  Mr Doug Munro Sqn Ldr Ben Campion Ms Faye Linley Mr Rory O'Connor  Capt Jon Moss	Episkopi Garrison Comd School Principal Vice Principal/Head of School OC HQ Coy, 2 YORKS - vice Maj Grieve SAEO (C) Akrotiri Representative Staff Representative Parent Representative/Head SSAFA Cyprus 55 AEC Gp	Chairman       Secretary
Apologies	Mrs Jan Othen Mrs Helen Colvill Mr Tim Penton-Voak Mr Phil Robertson Maj Grieve	Parent Representative Parent Representative Parent Representative Director AFF Cyprus 2 YORKS Rep	

#### ITEM 1 - CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance, particularly those who were in attendance for the first time.
- The Chairman remarked that he had written to Neil Roberts, the previous Vice Chairman for his efforts on the SGC for the last 3 years.
- The minutes were reviewed and the following items discussed:
  - Sqn Ldr Campion raised the issue of healthy eating. The choices available for the Tuck Shop in the school were still not as healthy as they could be. The principal stated that the agency dealing with this from UK had been abolished although it was still important and was covered on the PSHE syllabus. Andrew Armstrong stated that he was

unable to change the nature of the food on offer due to the restrictions of food safety and the lack of proper facilities in which to prepare food. (Food is prepared off site and brought in.) There is currently no other way of providing hot food and the scheme here in Episkopi is set up differently to that at KRS. Doug Munro remarked that there may be scope to improve facilities but there could be no money to pay for a caterer.

- The Chairman then thanked the school for their help in filling toiletry bags for those returning on Decompression.

- The minutes were then approved as a true and accurate record.

## **ITEM 2 - UPDATE REGARDING SGC TORs/SUB COMMITTEES**

- The Chairman stated that he would hand over as Chairman to his successor, Lt Col S Burton, the new Episkopi Garrison Commander (Gar Comd) and also asked for a volunteer as Vice Chairman to bridge the gap. Rory O' Connor volunteered to undertake the post.
- The Chairman then gave a detailed synopsis of the history regarding TORs to the committee, stating that its role had never been adequately defined in TORs from HQ SCE. These had been asked for from HQ SCE on several occasions but had never materialised, despite this SGC being described as one of the 'best in SCE.'
- Doug Munroe then gave some of the background that SCE was committed to giving greater freedom to schools however this might require a stricter governance framework. He also stated that the Chief Executive of SCE was currently rewriting the TORs however; a date for their promulgation was unknown. The revised TORs will be subject to consultation.
- Sqn Ldr Campion remarked that the role of a school governor here was significantly different to that in the UK, particularly in the areas of budgetary supervision, discipline etc. He also said that the TORs would determine the questions OFSTED would ask on the inspection and that we would fail if the oversight was insufficient.
- Andrew Armstrong then remarked that there was already sufficient oversight, particularly budgetary, from the SCE chain of command, but was prepared to discuss in broad terms how the budget was spent, without focussing on minutiae.
- Martin Ainsworth remarked that the purpose of the SGC was to put the school at the centre of the community agenda.
- The Chairman then concluded the discussion surrounding TORs by saying that they were 'eagerly awaited' from SCE after their rewrite.

## **ITEM 3 - SCHOOL'S RECENT PERFORMANCE – RESULTS AND REVIEW**

- The school's recent performance was summarised by Martin Ainsworth, outlining the previous OFSTED inspection which had graded the school as 2/1 (Good/Outstanding). He also described the SCE inspection regime which had checked the school over the last year.

- There was also discussion about whether SCE would come out of OFSTED.
- Andrew Armstrong then gave a detailed breakdown of the school academic achievements for the previous year (See Enclosure 1). This outlined how the figures could be skewed by small numbers, however, this did not mask the excellent performance, particularly those who got 5 GCSEs A\*-C. There was also a nil drop out rate which was particularly impressive.
- Martin Ainsworth then remarked that the schools results would not be seriously affected by the government's changes in recording achievements (The Bacculaureate) and that there would be no 'playing games' to massage achievement figures.

(Details of the Bacculaureate can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/qualifications/englishbac/a0075975/theenglishbacculaureate>)

- Andrew Armstrong then detailed the A Level results. Again, they could be skewed by small numbers; however, the value added scores were impressive.
- There was then discussion on apprenticeships and the regarding the changes brought about by the 16-19 agenda and the prevention of NEETS (Not in Education, Employment or Training). SCE have employed a Partnership Officer, Sharon Sammy, who will start work in Cyprus in Jun 12 and will drive the issue forward.
- Andrew Armstrong stated that 100% of the students who chose university got it.
- Andrew Armstrong stated that the Value Added Index was particularly impressive as the school always aimed for 1 grade above the CATs prediction.
- Maj Price asked if there was any significant difference in achievement because of the arrival of the battalion.
- Andrew Armstrong stated that Alex Kerr had had done a huge amount of work regarding the tracking of pupils in order to assess this, including their starting standards and their subsequent achievements.
- The Gar Comd summarised the discussion by thanking all the staff for their efforts in achieving such results.
- Faye Linley then gave a presentation regarding My Stickers and the system used to reward achievement. The new system had several benefits;
  - Parents could see student's achievements.
  - Students could compete in competitions and buy items with their points.
  - Faye then asked for the involvement of the SGC in widening the scheme. The Gar Comd asked for Faye's email (FL@sjs.ac.cy) to be

included in the minutes so that SGC members could contact her. The Gar Comd asked Sqn Ldr Campion to tap the resources of RAF Akrotiri in order to scope more prizes for the scheme and he would do the same for Epi Garrison.

- Martin Ainsworth stated that Faye had been working on this for over a year and wished to thank her for her efforts.

#### **ITEM 4 - SCHOOL LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE**

- Martin Ainsworth then explained the school development plan and the progress towards it (See Enclosure 2). He explained that the plan was on target, as described, and that it was all about learning. Both schools were graded as good/outstanding and that staff CPD was concentrating on teaching and the quality of teaching. There was then a discussion about Moodle (on-line learning) and its availability in St John's, which was due to be later in the school year.
- The Gar Comd concluded discussions by stating that the SGC would continue to monitor progress against the plan.

#### **ITEM 5 – ROLE OF SGC**

- (Discussed in Item 2)

#### **ITEM 6 – CYPRUS/WSBA SITUATION UPDATE**

- The Chairman then outlined a number of points regarding garrison matters:
  - The closure of TPMH was discussed and the changes are likely to start from Oct/Nov 12.
  - The Cyprus Review Study should mean that BFC/SBAAs are 'safe' until at least 2020.
  - The numbers of personnel coming through Decompression was discussed (21/22k in 2011) and had recently passed the 100k mark in Nov 11.
  - The packing of over 8,000 wash bags by the school with SODEXHO was an excellent example of partnering and what the school does for the wider community.
- The Chairman stated that he felt it important to share these updates with the schools.
- Major Price then gave an update from the RIB:
  - TRB Deployment – currently unlikely.
  - Individuals are currently forward as continuity but not in large numbers.
  - In May there is to be a medal parade.
  - Jun/Jul C Coy was likely deploy to Jordan.
  - Apr – the Bn is likely to deploy to Bastion for RSOI.
- The Gar Comd then gave an outline of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.
  - Thu 31 May 12 - AM Investiture

- Thu 31 May 12 - PM Cocktail Party
- Fri 1 Jun 12 - Party in the Park at Happy Valley

**ITEM 7 – SGC TRAINING DATES**

- 6 Mar 12 – Details to be promulgated by Secretary.

**ITEM 8 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Mentioned the forthcoming handover of command at RAF Akrotiri.
- The changes at TPMH may have an effect on the school due to the demographics of the staff and the ages of their children.
- The Chairman asked the Andrew Armstrong for permission to park the school buses under the new contract in the school grounds at night, which was agreed.
- Andrew Armstrong asked to be made aware of any up coming exercises as he had been unable to complete the OP WIDEAWAKE due to staff already being in class.
- The meeting concluded with Martin Ainsworth thanking the Gar Comd for all his efforts as Chairman of the SGC and his drive in making the SGC relevant. This was reiterated by Doug Munro and all the committee for all his efforts on behalf of the school.

**ITEM 9 - DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

- The next date for the St John's SGC is TBC (likely to be Jun 12). The meeting closed at 1630 hrs.

**JD Moss**

JD Moss  
 Capt  
 2IC 55 AEC Gp/Secretary St John's School SGC

Enclosures:

1. School Exam Results.
2. School Learning and Development Plan.

Distribution:

Chairman  
 All SGC members  
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