

Summary Report of the Discovery College School Council
Thursday 23 April 2015

Present: Alfred Wong, Frederic Guiral, Kitty Cheng, Mark Beach, Pat Romano, Stephen Peaker, Vivian Cheung

Apologies: Simon Wong, Catriona Tuimaka, Jason Edwards, Jennifer Ho, Margaret Burnett-Hinch

1 Changes to MYP Certification at Discovery College

Adrian Gan (MYP Coordinator) presented to the School Council the rationale behind the school's decision not to continue with the MYP Certificate in 2015-16, based on two major philosophical concerns on how the Certificate will be awarded through the introduction of eAssessment, which will:

1. Marginalise the creative subjects of Music, Visual Art, Design and PE by only counting the top score across all of them; and
2. A two-hour onscreen examination for four subjects: Mathematics, Sciences, Language & Literature, and Individuals & Societies. This will be the only assessment that 'counts' for these subjects.

Under the IB's current process, a school submits samples of students' work across all eight subject areas and the Personal Project, and the IB determines whether these meet their standards. The future awarding of the MYP Certificate will be based on a student's performance in 6 of the 8 subject areas plus the Personal Project.

The School Council was assured that the decision not to adopt the eAssessment would in no way disadvantage future students heading to overseas school or tertiary institutions, and that the College would continue to monitor the situation and review its decision if necessary.

The School Council agreed that the changes do not align with the values of the school in providing a holistic, balanced education, and that the move to a one-off exam structure would seriously disadvantage a majority of students across the school. The School Council endorsed the College's decision not to adopt the eAssessment structure from 2016.

2 Finance & Property

The canopy repairs for next 3 years as set out in the Index Group recommendations were discussed. This cost needs specific School Council approval despite already being included in next year's budget (14/15 – repair cost of \$1.534m; 15/16 – repair cost of \$1.056m; 16/17 – repair cost of \$1.698m).

Summer works 2014-15 – Tender process for the replacement of the Lower Ground Floor EPDM surface has been completed. Two final tenders met the requirements and tender interviews have been completed. Both tenders were within 5% of each other, with one company determined by the sub-committee as the preferred tenderer (they were the lower tenderer, are currently doing the Foreshore development and have a track record with ESF schools).

ICT Casper software – This is an annual cost to the school that required School Council approval.

2. Principal's Report
DC Admissions Policy

Following the last School Council meeting, the ESL Directors have determined that DC must re-introduce the ESL Kindergarten priority, effective immediately. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Council has no power in this decision and would recognise that this would be done.

Foreshore Development

The development of the foreshore continues apace, with the expected completion date being mid-May, some 2 weeks earlier than first predicted. The sub-soil drainage has been installed, as has the asphalt layer. The shock surface and laying of the artificial turf are the last two major items to be completed. The DC PTA has agreed to pay for the installation of a shade cloth, shade trees, drinking fountain and storage sheds, to the tune of HK\$500,000.

The College is planning a low-key opening of the Foreshore on Wednesday 20 May, assuming that the work is completed to schedule.