

Summary Report of the Discovery College School Council
Thursday 21 November 2013

Present: Charles Wong, Elspeth Shaw, Jason Edwards, Alfred Wong, Vivian Cheung, Pat Romano, Robert Chaytor, Marcello De Guisa, Mark Beach

Apologies: Frederic Guiral, Maggie Hinch, Ernest Lin

1. ESF Board Report of 23 October 2013

Discussion on changes to the ESF/ESL admissions policies and the link to fewer applications across all schools for 2014-15. ESF schools also increased their application fee to \$2,000. DC's application to raise the application fee to \$1,600 has yet to be approved by EDB.

2. Finance & Property

The Profit and Loss Accounts to 31 August 2013 were approved.

Bad debt was discussed and whether or not this was written off and budgeted for. There is a small group of parents who have not paid the NBL and a need to clarify how this debt will be managed. The School Council asked for a process and options to consider how these unpaid fees will be addressed in line with the Student Enrolment Form, and whether that includes the possible option of exclusion.

The DC facilities department will liaise with ESF Facilities to identify a company who can pick up the annual checking and maintenance of the canopy.

3. Staff Recruitment, Appointment, Growth and Wellbeing

All teaching staff with contracts expiring at the end of this academic year will be offered new 2-year contracts for August 2014.

The annual School Council and Staff Chinese New Year Reception is scheduled for Wednesday 29 January.

4. Student Learning & Welfare

2012-13 MYP Certificate results were very pleasing, with an average grade increase over 2011-12, and with all DC statistics higher than the world averages. A summary has been presented to parents in the 2012-13 DC Annual Report.

A review of the Y6-Y7 transition for students highlighted some excellent practices, including:

- The linking of units of inquiry
- Transition days
- Familiarisation of students/teachers
- The use of a transition workbook that carries over from Y6 into Y7
- The ability of the College to pass on assessment and pastoral information of students
- An extensive buddy system to welcome and induct students new to DC

5. Principal's Report

There are currently six spaces (one in each primary year level) being reserved for Corporate Nomination Rights students. These spaces have been held since the start of this year without success. The Council felt that, given the current financial situation, it is not sensible to continue to carry these non-fee paying spaces and decided to go ahead with enrolling new students into these position for the start of Term 2.

6. DC Finances

A discussion was held over the responses to the ESL/Parent meetings held over the past three weeks. The decision-making around the suggestions that arose from the meetings fall roughly into 3 areas of responsibility:

- ESF
 - Writing off the DOA
 - Extending the DOA
 - Selling of ESF assets
- ESL
 - Extending the break-even point
 - Changing the repayment agreement into a rental agreement
 - Repay interest only with principal re-payment at a later date
 - Guaranteed representation on the ESL Members Committee
 - Treating all ESL schools under a common approach

- School Council
 - Nominations Rights
 - Application of the NBL

The School Council will move quickly to work alongside ESL to explore the options presented by the parent community, including pursuing guaranteed DC representation on the ESL Members Committee. It is important that accurate financial modeling be done as soon as possible around all the options.

7. AOB

Renewal of Principal's Contract - The renewal of the Principal's contract is on a two-year basis. Mark Beach was employed in April 2007 and his initial contract was until August 2010, to allow time for the school to be established. He is currently in his third contract, expiring in August 2014. The School Council is required to approve the contract renewal for Mr Beach before it goes to the Directors of ESL. The Council voted unanimously to renew Mr Beach's contract.

Parent Reps - Kimberly Whiley was not re-elected as a Parent Rep this year. The School Council, however, felt that her input and expertise was valuable, particularly as the Staff Recruitment, Appointment, Growth and Wellbeing Sub-Committee has two new members. A recommendation was passed to invite Mrs Whiley to attend Staff Recruitment, Appointment, Growth and Wellbeing Sub-Committee and full School Council members to the end of this academic year.