

Report on the 29th October 2014 Island School Council meeting

Membership and proceedings of the Council

Malcolm Gibson stepped down as Chair of Council, having completed the maximum period allowed under the ESF constitution. He is kindly remaining on the Buildings & Development Committee. As the former Chief Design Officer for the MTR, his expertise will be of great value for Island School's new building project.

Shalini Sujanani retired as a Parent representative on Council having completed the six years allowed under the ESF constitution. She will continue to attend meetings until a replacement Parent has been elected.

Other members stepping down after completing their terms of service were Toni Hatherly and Amani Sue.

The new Council comprises:

- Community members: Robert Gibson (Chair), Denise Kee (Vice-Chair), Stuart Miller and Cecilia Chan
- Teachers: Helen Evans, Kevin Lester and Andrea Walsh.
- Parents: Sonali Laul (PTA Co-Chair) and Susan Finder with one position to be filled by election. Christine Brendal (PTA Co-Chair) will, where possible, attend Council meetings when Sonali is absent.
- Support Staff: Betty Tsu
- Students: Joe Hodson and Jane Wright
- ESF Representative: Chris Durban
- Principal: Chris Binge

In addition Rebecca Yip, the School Business Manager, attends meetings.

Details of Council members are on www.island.edu.hk/community/council . Any messages for Council should be sent to schoolcouncil@online.island.edu.hk

A survey of the views of last year's Council Members was considered with 'communications' being the issue discussed. The main contact of Council with Parents is through the PTA. Council will post a note of issues it discusses on the School website after each meeting. The Council will meet staff who joined this year at its 14th January meeting.

The Council discussed the terms of reference, membership and agenda of its committees. These will be worked on in the next month and finalized at the Council meeting on 14th January 2015.

The committees are:

1. Buildings & Development.
2. Curriculum, Exams and Higher Education.
3. Finance.
4. Human Resources.
5. Risk Management & Critical Incident.

Matters considered at the 29th October meeting

1. **Principal's report:** The Principal reported on the operation of the school and recent successes. It was noted:
 - a. **Ensuring the safety of the current Island School Building.** Safety nets have been installed and expert advice obtained to ensure the building's concrete, which is aging is safe. The Principal will write advising parents. (Now issued- see <http://island.edu.hk/sites/island/files/UpdateOnSchoolBuildingSafety.pdf>)
 - b. **The impact of Occupy on school bus times.** We expect School Buses will be back to normal times after Quest week. The School will be making announcements on this.
 - c. **Enrolment:** The School has a full complement of students.
 - d. **Development & Redevelopment Office:** Jacqueline Archer (year 7 parent) and Mei Lai are joining Island School to set up this office. The Principal will write informing the School Community of the details.
2. **Island School Accounts** for the year to 31st August 2014 and budget for the year to 31st August 2015 were approved.
 - a. The only significant variance from last year's budget was a \$793,000 cost over-run on providing sport and adventure activities for Year 9 to 11 pupils under the new 'Escape' curriculum. This was predicted and the cost for this year was planned from the surplus of last year. This is a key part of the education provided to these year groups and is budgeted to continue with improving efficiency elsewhere providing the funding.
 - b. The school currently has reserves of about \$1.7 million which is low but adequate.
3. **Design work on the New Island School Building** is proceeding well and is monitored by the Buildings Committee.

J Robert Gibson; Island School Council Chair