

Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers
Wednesday 27 September 2006

The Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers met on Wednesday 27 September 2006, in the offices of the Scottish Executive, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh. Liz Lewis was in the Chair.

Present:

Teachers' Side	CoSLA	Scottish Executive
Malcolm Maciver (EIS)	Councillor Charles Gray	Liz Lewis
Jack Barnett (EIS)	Councillor Margaret McCafferty	
Maggie Anderson (EIS)		
Eric Baillie (EIS)		
Douglas Mackie (EIS)		
John Black (EIS)		
May Ferries (EIS)		
Alan Munro (EIS)		
Albert McKay (SSTA) (sub)		
David Eaglesham (SSTA)		
Jane Packman (NASUWT)		

Joint Secretaries

Drew Morrice (Teachers' Side)
Stephanie Walsh (Scottish Executive)

In Attendance

Terry Gray (CoSLA Secretariat)
Ruth Campbell (Scottish Executive Secretariat)
Christine Pollock (CoSLA Adviser)
Gordon Smith (CoSLA Adviser)
Louise Wilson (Teachers' Side Secretariat)
Dougie Atkinson (TAC Team)

Apologies

Donald Henderson (SEED)
Ronnie Smith (EIS)
Peter Hay (CoSLA)
Cllr Maureen Talac (CoSLA)
Cllr Andy Anderson (CoSLA)
Cllr Peter McNamara (CoSLA)

Liz Lewis opened the meeting by welcoming all those present. The Committee then joined her in formally welcoming Cllr Gray as CoSLA Joint Chair and also thanking Terry Gray for his contribution to SNCT work and wishing him well in his new post.

1. Minutes

The note of the last meeting held on 17 May 2006 was approved.

2. Matters Arising

In relation to item 9, Report from the Induction Implementation Group, the teachers side confirmed that at present there was no further interest in the matter. The issue may be returned to should the GTCS have any further evidence for change.

3. Notes of Joint Chairs and Extended Joint Chairs meetings

The committee noted the notes of the Extended Joint Chairs of 30 August 2006 and Joint Chairs meeting of 14 September 2006.

4. Reports from Working Groups

Conditions of Service

SNCT noted that there had been timing issues in producing the Conditions of Service Handbook. Further work was required to incorporate a number of changes received from the readers' group. It was agreed that it was important to ensure the quality of the document and that the revised handbook should be signed off by the end of March in readiness for a 1 August implementation date.

Support Staff

It was noted that this group had not yet met and that there had been difficulties in arranging dates for the Joint Chairs visits. It was hoped that these visits would take place in November. The group would also be producing best practice guidance to be considered at its next meeting.

LNCT Review

The committee approved the change in strategy in obtaining feedback from local authorities regarding working time agreements. The committee agreed that the original timelines might be difficult to achieve and that progress reports from all local authorities should be requested by the end of January. Joint Secretaries to inform councils.

4. Workload Survey

SNCT approved the publication arrangements for the Workload Survey Report produced by Glasgow University and the SNCT workplan. The committee noted that some of the recommendations were already in hand but that the workplan might require some expansion to assist the relevant working groups. It was agreed that more time was needed to reflect on the findings of the research, and that the Joint Chairs and the SNCT should return to this again, after time has been taken to consider the responses.

5. SNCT Circulars

SNCT 47 was homologated.

6. Job Sizing

The committee considered the matter of wider release of the Job Sizing Toolkit in light of a recent ruling by the Information Commissioner. It was agreed that to use the toolkit effectively appropriate and thorough training would be required. It was therefore deemed inappropriate to allow open access. The matter should be kept under review and copyright should be sought prior to release of any disks. The Committee remitted the issue of copyright to the Joint Secretaries to develop further.

7. Date of Retirement

The Committee considered a draft circular 48 from the Joint Secretaries in relation to the effect of recent age discrimination legislation on the Scheme of conditions. This would be incorporated into the new scheme however in the meantime a circular should be issued. Joint Secretaries to make the necessary amendments and issue.

8. Chartered Teacher Scheme

The Committee considered a paper from the Chartered Teacher project group regarding criteria for access to the Chartered Teacher Programme. It was agreed that there were a number of issues which might require further clarification. It was agreed that in the first instance the Chartered Teacher group should consult independently with key stakeholders and the matter remitted back to SNCT should the group determine that any changes might be required.

9. Any other Business

None

10. Date of next meeting

Ms Lewis formally closed the meeting and agreed the date of the next meeting 13 December 2006 at EIS office.

11. Audit Scotland

Following the meeting the committee discussed the Audit Scotland report. The issue would be returned to at a later date.