



THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

REPORT TO THE BOARD

FOR THE MEETING ON 17 MAY 2011

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

1. Our New Chairman

- 1.1 We welcome our new Chairman, Carlson Tong, who took office on 3 May 2011. Carlson held a successful press conference on 6 May and has already visited ESF Centre's offices to meet staff. He has a programme of school visits planned for the forthcoming term.

2. School Activities : Summer Term

- 2.1 Schools returned for the summer term on 3 May 2011. This is a very short summer term (school finishes on 30 June) and there will be considerable pressure on schools to get all the usual summer term's jobs and activities done.
- 2.2 Several primary schools will be holding PYP Year 6 Exhibitions, which are enormously time-consuming because of the group research students have to carry out before actually displaying their findings. We will try to give Board members the opportunity to see some of the exhibitions during their school visits as they encapsulate what enquiry-based learning is all about.
- 2.3 Secondary school examinations for the IB Diploma and iGCSE/GCSE started right at the beginning of term. We hope to avoid typhoons and serious rainstorms, which can make the examinations difficult to manage.

3. Subvention

- 3.1 The Subvention Steering Group has met twice and identified some basic principles to underpin its work.
- 3.2 A meeting for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer has been arranged with the Secretary for Education, Michael Suen, and Senior EDB officials. We hope that greater clarity about the way forward will emerge from that discussion.

4. Fee Increase

- 4.1 The fee increase application for ESF schools has been submitted for the Education Bureau's approval in the usual way. We have been notified that the Concerned parents have mounted a campaign to try to persuade the Bureau not to approve the increase.

5. Education

5.1 Applied Learning Evenings

Two parent sessions will be conducted on 19 May at Bradbury School and 26 May at Beacon Hill School with Advanced Diploma Coordinators and Higher Education people from schools. Invitations have been sent to parents through schools. These evenings have been organized at the request of the Committee of Parents and will outline the opportunities being provided for students interested in pursuing an Applied Learning pathway.

5.2 Secondary CPD day

A full day of professional development around the theme of Inspirational Learning will take place on 11 May. The curriculum group chairs have created some outstanding opportunities for colleagues.

Highlights are:

- HKUST Science Conference for science teachers. Innovative work in the world of engineering to include: Medical Imaging, the New Mobile Generation, Nano-electronic Fabrication, Robotics, Drug Delivery and many more led by university professors.
- Director of the International Centre for Beijing Opera to give a workshop on the Opera to cover a range of areas including context, history, makeup, costume, etc.
- Design and Technology workshops in two universities with workshops led by professors and a trip to Shenzhen factories to see product design and realisation
- Music – Gifted and Talented Day with guest prodigy, Warren Lee.
- The Chinese, Psychology and Maths groups also have sessions led by university professors from across HK.

5.3 Developments in Numeracy

5.3.1 During Term 1 and Term 2 of this academic year, 200 primary school teachers have been involved in professional development through the Mathematics Learning and Teaching for Success Organisation. The programme offered by Mathematics Learning and Teaching for Success Organisation is aligned with the philosophy of the IB/PYP. Each workshop was held over two and a half days and teachers were separated into two groups, Year 1 to 3 teachers and Year 4 to 6 teachers. The feedback from both workshops has been very positive. Teachers felt that they had a stronger understanding of what inquiry teaching looks like in mathematics. They also spent time working with expectations of planning on the PYP planner, flexible groupings, using literature in mathematics, assessment strategies and strategies to help students construct their understanding.

5.3.2 In January John Marwick was appointed Mathematics Adviser. This appointment came in between the two Mathematics Learning and Teaching for Success courses. One of the main focuses of the role has been to carry on the professional development that MLATS sparked and to support the embedding of the key principles discussed throughout the programme. Another focus has been supporting teachers with implementing a new curriculum document – “The IB Scope and Sequence for Mathematics”. This has been started with the adviser working closely with schools through the three stages of written curriculum, taught curriculum and assessed curriculum.

The Mathematics Adviser has worked more intensively with three Primary Schools in Term 2. These schools were supported for a variety of reasons such as:

- Mathematics was already an area of strategic focus for the year.

- The school was getting prepared for the PYP authorisation visit and had started to implement changes to its systems.
- A school was preparing itself for the second IB Evaluation visit.

Throughout the advisory work done in Term 2, many examples of excellent practice have been identified. ESF has the capability to build an online learning portal through the 'Teachers Hub' on Gateway. One major focus area for Term 3 and next year is to build this platform into a vital resource bank of planning, video examples of quality teaching and learning and resources from professional development. This has started and will be promoted so that teachers can contribute and make it as effective as possible.

6. Finance

- 6.1 Over the last couple of months, a lot of time was spent on preparing the budget and identifying cost savings opportunities with the rest of the Senior Management team. Results will be presented during the Board meeting.
- 6.2 Since we informed the parents of the mandatory direct debit method of settling tuition fees, we have received 1714 completed direct debit forms which accounts for 39% of the population of parents for which direct debit has not already been set up. We are in the process of following up with the rest of the parents.

7. Human Resources

- 7.1 The number of resignations and non-renewals is 85 (Primary 26; Secondary 28; PI schools 20; and ESL Kindergartens 11). For the purpose of recruitment, there are 155 vacancies among which 49 are newly created posts and 21 posts are vacancies caused by the knock-on effect of promotion and internal moves. As of today, 140 vacancies have been filled, out of which 103 are newly joining teachers and 37 are movements between schools. At present, 15 posts are waiting to be filled (Primary: 3; Secondary: 8; PI: 4).

8. Development and Communications

8.1 Fundraising and Communications

- 8.1.1 Following the success of the ESF Marketing Competition which took place at Renaissance College in March, with financial sponsorship from the HK Government's Efficiency Unit, the winning team will enjoy a job shadowing opportunity in June with three of the top marketing agencies as part of the sponsorship arrangement coordinated by the Development Team.

The Jockey Club Sarah Roe's *Adopt-A-Book Campaign* ran from mid-December 2010 through May 2011 and has raised more than HK\$200,000 to purchase some 1,300 books for the school library. During the campaign, major donations were received from The Society for the Relief of Disabled Children, Clearwater Bay School and Rotary Clubs. The Campaign was also promoted through Swindon Book and Commercial Press book stores. The campaign will continue until the end of school term.

On 2 April 2011, the KGV Gala Dinner was held at Langham Place Hotel with some 280 guests. The overall ESF community came to support the event, with school principals, teachers, parents, school council members and alumni in their finest suits and gowns raising money for KGV capital works. Live and silent auctions helped

generate additional money for the school, with a total sum of \$650,000 raised from the event.

- 8.1.2 News coverage included academic excellence achievement in iGCSE results and various inter-school sports events. Special media attention was given to Peak School as they celebrated their 100th anniversary with an “Edwardian Party” costume day which attracted media interest with our students reliving the Edwardian days with games and bakery savouries.

With the recent earthquake/tsunami in Japan, ESF schools collectively help raised funds for the victims in Japan. A sum of \$550,000 was raised and news was shared with the media on the collective effort.

Continued support has been given to the Education team for publications required for curriculum development.

The ESF website was updated on a regular basis so that the latest news could be broadcast to the community.

9. Facilities Development

- 9.1 We are pleased to note that, after a rigorous procurement process (including reviews by the Major Building Projects Committee, the Finance Committee and the Board) the main contract for the KGV project was awarded to Sun Fook Kong, a long established Hong Kong contractor, on 21 April 2011. Preparatory works are now underway in advance of commencing demolition works at the school campus over the summer break.

- 9.2 KJS Perth Street campus successfully made the transition to the temporary premises at Hung Hom over the Easter break, with classes starting on 5 May 2011. The premises were refurbished in a period of two and a half months for a cost of HK\$19 million. The school seems to be very pleased with the result. The project is preparing to go out to tender for the main contract works subject to Board approval, which is a separate item for discussion at the Board on 17 May 2011.

- 9.3 Preparation for the annual summer works programme is well underway with the majority of tenders prepared, issued and returned. This crucial aspect of our business as usual operations takes a great deal of planning and teamwork between the schools and the Facilities Department at ESF Centre.

10. ESF Educational Services Limited

- 10.1 There was strong demand for English and Spanish language camps during the Easter holidays, attracting over 200 children. Also over Easter, multi sports camps and single sports clinics proved popular again.

- 10.2 ESL will be hosting its first ESL (English as a Second Language) Conference on May 17th at Renaissance College, under the theme of “Best Practice in Teaching and Testing English in HK Schools and Language Centres”. The keynote speech will be presented by local English language specialist Dr. David Nunan, Emeritus Professor at the University of Hong Kong. He will be joined by other leading academics and local ESL experts. The conference has attracted 100 teachers from local and international schools, universities and language organisations attending, and is intended to provide an opportunity to foster links amongst professionals within the ESL community of Hong Kong.

- 10.3 ESL hosted a “Cambridge @ Your Centre” seminar in April that was attended by representatives from over 60 language schools and organisations around Hong Kong. The aim of the seminar was to increase awareness of ESL as an authorised Cambridge Exams Centre and to encourage language centres to run summer programmes and enrol their students in ESL’s Cambridge Examinations for young learners of English.
- 10.4 Following a curriculum review, the kindergartens plan to adopt the IB PYP programme and have submitted applications for candidacy. The authorisation process is likely to take two to three years and, assuming acceptance of their applications, would commence at the start of the new school year.
- 10.5 ESL ran a programme of IB Finals revision courses during the Easter holidays, at West Island School. During the two week period, ten two day courses were run, offering maths, the sciences, Business and Management, Economics and Psychology. Enrolment came from students within ESF, from other schools in Hong Kong and a few came from overseas to attend. Feedback from teachers and students has been positive.

Heather Du Quesnay
9 May 2011