

SAHISA AGM Minutes 2018

1. Welcome

Patrick Lees: Welcomed the Heads in attendance and recorded good wished for Ft. Angus Patterson who is recovering. PL is Acting Chair in AP's absence. Patrick encouraged all to extend an invitation to their Governors to attend the combined conference in October, in Sandton. He also appealed to all to receive contact details of honorary heads so that they can be invited to the JHB Conference, especially as it is in Gauteng and many may be able to attend.

Peter Habberton (RD): called for schools not yet registered without response from GDE to contact the RDs so that Confidence to take this forward in her meeting with related authority.

2. Election of Office Bearers in Central Region

Peter Habberton (RD) conducted the process.

The current Chair, Fr. Angus Paterson, has requested to stand down from this responsibility and is not standing for re-election. Angus was thanked for his excellent service to the membership during his Chairmanship. Patrick Lees, the current Vice-Chair, has indicated his availability for re-election and is willing to stand for the position of Chair.

Members of the Regional Committee and delegates to the SAHISA Council are elected for a three-year term and may stand for re-election once, thus serving a maximum of six consecutive years in office. None of the current members of the Regional committee are at the end of their current three-year term, and all have indicated their willingness to continue to serve. Presuming the Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected from the current committee members, nominations were requested prior to the AGM for the vacant portfolio. The constitution does not prescribe the number of members that are elected onto the committee.

The current committee is as follows:

Chair:	Fr. Angus Paterson (standing down)
Vice Chair:	Patrick Lees
3rd Council Member:	Heather Blanckensee
Secretary:	Alison Scott
Senior Schools Rep:	Lisa Kaplan
Prep Schools Rep:	Jakes Fredericks
ECD Rep:	Debbie Meyer
LSEN Rep;	Dave Bester
Pretoria Schools Rep:	Madeleen Gorst-Allman

Committee Member: Ann Owgan
ISASA Central Chair: Laretta Theys

Regional Directors: Peter Habberton; Pauline Jackson; Theo Buccoli

Peter Habberton called for nominations and then confirmed the following appointments:

Chair: Patrick Lees
Vice Chair: Jakes Fredricks
Prep Schools Rep: Senele Majolo

3. MW: **Calendar 2020**

MW shared, with some hilarity, how he the received role from Paul Eddy 16 years ago. MW leaves to start at Parktown Boys. MW also managed one final prank on the room.

3 Term:

Term 1: 15 January - 9 April
Half Term: 28 February - 2 March
Term 2: 5 May - 31 July
Half Term: 29 June - 6 July
Term 3: 1 September – 3 December
Half Term: 16 October - 19 October

Some debate was held over the June timing of the midterm break.

Mrs Lisa Kaplan will take of the Calendar Committee.

WATCH OUT FOR CHALLENGED IN INTERSCHOOL SPORT WITH DOE SCHOOLS

4 Term:

Term 1: 15 January – 20 March 2020
Term 2: 14 April – 12 June
Term 3: 7 July – 18 September
Term 4: 6 October – 2 December

4. Panel Discussion: Lebogang Montjane led the panel iro questions for protecting our independence.

PL: Where can the school state that it is an independent school and parents can leave.

LM: the only grounds in which you cannot terminate contract is non-payment of fees during an academic year. Terminate as soon as you possibly can when you see trouble. Communicate your processes clearly. CPA_ parents can give you 20 business days' notice if you renew contracts annually. Rather go on a continual contract notice. Parents are contesting refusal for admission legally.

GB: What are our rights iro admission?

LM: Do not right down reasons for not admitting, rather state that it is not, in your professional discretion, in the best interest of the child.

MW: What to do when a child is a boarder and has committed a misdemeanor but in the middle of the academic year and cannot stay?

LM: No child is entitled to an elite education.

Dainfern: To what extent do we engage or entertain the MEC's office on an internal school matter?

LM: watch that MEC doesn't overstep/ hold the line on independence:

- ✓ *Register independent schools*
- ✓ *Hold independent schools accountable for what they are committed to in registration*

SM: easy to say that you are overstepping the bounds, but politicians will exploit their boundaries and schools land up in the media.

LM: Please call ISASA! Request an email and offer to respond accordingly.

MW: get 'on sides' with the person in Education Department that you have to deal with.

PE: St Johns incident a year ago and MEC got very involved; grandstanding; has subsequently not attended a meeting with independent schools. What reason does he give for not attending?

CD: he is busy.

Politically connected parents are leveraging their sway and connection with the government departments. LM committed to write a letter that schools can send to their parents i.r.o. the rights and responsibilities of independent schools. This will also be printed in the Independent Education.

SM: parent pulled out phone- showed Julius Malema and threatened Selwyn; this parent has contacted everyone and harassed them. Parents will go to every extent to harass and leverage their connections.

TN: politics of independence can be racialized. We should interrogate how this is understood; encourages heads to include our parents so that they feel that the school belongs to them; especially if they are politically connected – how are we including them; do they feel that they belong so that they talk to us at school and not go to an official.

LM: many parents are first generation independent schools and need to be supported in understanding the subtleties that protect independence, e.g. IEB.

PH: Ensure a transformation and diversity in the process.

RMc: St Peters picked up unconscious bias and chips on shoulder coming into school via the children. Had to start with getting parents on board; what worked was a programme called “My Story” where parents get together and share in a forum – where they’ve come from, how they got to St Peters and the issues they face. Started as a very small group 12-14 parents; gained momentum; interns/ old boys/ various focus points; What does the school mean to them? Had to realize that there are things that the school has to change – things that are hurting people.

PH: Keep culture of the school alive – promote the functions to bring the parents in;

JF: How do we ‘on board’ people - staff and parents? We can fight the MEC but we need to be honest with one another – watch that the school is welcoming (e.g. look at walls and photos on the walls). We are proud of our history and traditions – but how do we present this to new black parents? We need good hard conversations with parents and staff. Let’s not wait for a wound to fester and remedy the issue.

LM: What is our hidden curriculum?

PL thanked the panel for their input and also their general support at ISASA.

5. General

PL thanked Ivanka Aquisto for hosting at St Andrews, and closed the meeting.