**Upstart Scotland – Board Meeting minutes**

**7th May 2022**

**43 Thistle Street**

Present: Sue Palmer, Kate Johnston, Carol Craig, David Ashford, John Frank

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|  | **Action** |
| 1. Apologies  Willie French, Dawn Ewan, Tam Baillie, Jennifer Gall |  |
| 2. Minutes of last meeting  The Minutes were agreed. Proposed by Kate Johnson, seconded by David Ashford. |  |
| 3. Matters arising  No matters arising. |  |
| 4. Chair’s Report  SP updated the Board on her written report.  Toni Guigliano had sent a draft proposal for his SNP local group to take to Conference, and this had been circulated to Trustees. The Board discussed his proposal, specifically whether we were happy that it suggested a kindergarten stage reaching to age six, and whether it should openly criticise the SNSAs. It was agreed that the SNSAs were a major stumbling block and, if Toni felt they should be mentioned, we would go with his judgement. We would ask, however, that he should adjust ‘six’ to six/seven.  Once the proposal was finalised, KJ and SP would use social media to identify people who might be able to find support for it in their local SNP groups. DA would galvanise support in Skye.  Since submitting her Report, SP had an article published in TES (Scotland) on the top-down hierarchical nature of Scottish education, and the importance of raising the status of early years. | SP  KJ & SP  DA |
| 5. Vice-Chair’s Report  KJ enlarged on her written report.  It was agreed that Upstart would greatly benefit if Ali Laver were to take over management of the local groups and KJ will organise a Zoom meeting with her and other interested local groups soon.  She would also look for new people to take over the Instagram account, preferably young mothers who would be able to appeal to parent’s interests.  The Anna Ephgrave event scheduled for May has been postponed. | KJ  KJ |
| 6. Treasurer’s Report and Data Protection  DA reported about £13000 available in the bank, as shown in the accounts he had circulated previously. There may be a delay in auditing the Upstart accounts this year as our usual auditor is ill but it will be undertaken soon.  There was nothing to report on data protection. |  |
| 7. Forthcoming online AGM (18-6-22)  It was agreed that this year we will cover the business section of the AGM first, to get it out of the way before the presentations by Debby Wason of Public Health Scotland and Lynn McNair of Froebel Futures. There would then be time for discussion of (a) the presentations and (b) Upstart’s next moves (which would include asking people what Book Group topics they would like covered)  SP said that about 150 people had registered so far and we should continue to promote the AGM via social media.  There is space on the Board for another two people so we will give information about this (and details of how Trustees should be proposed) along with the papers to be circulated to attendees in June. | KJ, SP  SP, JG |
| 8. The Quest for a CEO (paper from Jackie Brock, attached)  As reported in the written report from the Chair, the Cattenach Trust had offered to pay for Jackie Brock to help SP draw up a job description and would then help us find a ‘funding consultant’. A paper drawn up by Jackie after their first meeting (and circulated to the Board) set up some criteria for a successful applicant and these were universally agreed. There was discussion of how many hours per week we should employ the CEO, and it was agreed that around 2½ days would probably be suitable, but we’d know more when the job description was complete.  SP would ask her to proceed with her plans for determining what is required of a CEO. | SP |
| 9. Possible research project on vertical grouping at Maisondieu Primary School  As reported in KJ’s written report, the headteacher and early years staff of Maisondieu Primary School in Angus are keen to introduce vertical grouping for the 3 to 6 (and later, possibly, seven-year-olds). KJ had made contact with academics at Dundee University to investigate the possibility of a research interest in this project. In a Zoom meeting, they had expressed great interest but explained that it all depended on our being able to secure funding.  JF outlined how research projects usually work. Once a principal investigator (PI) been identified at the university to conduct the research, Upstart and the school should get together with him/her to identify the ‘answerable question’ of the research. Ideally, it should be undertaken within a year. The minimum funding required would probably be about £50,000 and Upstart would have to approach educational research bodies.  KJ offered to investigate possible funders and JF said he would look at their previous funding records and advise which would be the best to approach. | KJ, JF |
| 10. Partnership in the Lily Pad (paper from Lynn McNair, attached)  It was agreed that Upstart would be happy to be listed as a partner in the Lily Pad project for an EY hub, as illustrated in the paper sent from Lynn McNair. SP said she would inform Lynn. | SP |
| 11. AOB  No other business. |  |
| 12. DONM  Date of next meetings: AGM 18-6-22, to be followed by late September Board meeting.  CC said she would send round a google poll for the latter. | CC |