



Promoting learning Chinese and about China in Scotland

苏格兰中国教育网络

Chair: Simon Macaulay SCIO Registered Charity Number SC046171 www.scen.info

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Friday, 31 May 2019 at 1.30pm

Grangemouth High School, Tinto Drive, Grangemouth, FK3 0HW

Present:

Simon Macaulay, Chair of SCEN
Morag Anderson, Vice-Chair of SCEN
Antonella Sorace, University of Edinburgh/*Bilingualism Matters*
John Macmillan, Eric Liddle Centre
Fiona Pate, independent education consultant/ex-HMIE
Sandie Robb, RZSS/*Beyond the Panda*
Rosemary Mitchell, SCENN Trustee
Nathan Woolley, CI University of Glasgow
Olivia Contini
James Brodie, CBBC
Jack Simpson, SCEN Trustee/City of Edinburgh Council
Margaret Alcorn, consultant
Lewis Hanley, SCEN Youth Committee

Apologies:

Bethan Owen, City of Edinburgh Council
Donald Macdonald, James Gillespie's High School, Edinburgh
Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, President of SCEN
Susan Waugh, Scottish Government
Yuwen Fortune, Jordanhill School, Glasgow
Natascha Gentz, CI University of Edinburgh
Fhiona Mackay, CISS, University of Strathclyde
Wing Yan Ng
Archie McGlynn
George Roberts, Mile End School, Aberdeen
Keir Bloomer, consultant
Chemara Jones, SCEN Youth Committee
Colin Mitchell, SCEN Company Secretary
Suzanne Scott, RZSS
Michelle Macleod, CI University of Aberdeen

1 Welcome and Apologies; Welcome to new members of the Advisory Council

Simon Macaulay welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly new members, and attendees introduced themselves around the table.

2 Presidency of SCEN

Simon Macaulay intimated that Lord Wilson is standing down from this role. He will however be attending the Youth Summit in November at which he will make a major statement re the importance of Mandarin and the role of SCEN. Judith McClure has accepted to become the new President and she will attend the Youth Summit where the transition will take place.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 7 December 2018

With the correction to the spelling of the name Wang Hù (Hanban/RZSS) and the addition of Fiona Pate's name to the list of apologies, these were passed as an accurate record.

4 Matters Arising

Simon Macaulay reported that the plans for Hatching Dragons to work in Edinburgh were currently on hold. Developments have been slower than anticipated.

Fiona Pate reported on mandarin in 1+2 as follows: "The L2 must be available as a National Qualification in the secondary school and is generally the language children carry on into S1. However, additional guidance around the L3 states that, where children have a solid L3 experience over P5-P6 which gives them the opportunity to achieve at second level, they may choose to study the L3 in S1, instead of the L2, where the L3 is also available as a National Qualification in the senior phase. This supports greater diversification of languages. There is a further update for the L3 which is about to be published. This allows for greater flexibility in the ways in which the L3 may be introduced in the BGE at secondary school. Increased flexibility around the L3 and around progression into S1 can support growth in the study of Mandarin and other languages beyond the L2."

Fiona also raised the issue of partnership working and the potential for SCEN to want a rep from Education Scotland on the Advisory Council. There is a Development Officer who links with CISS who could fulfil this role. This was welcomed as a good suggestion. Fiona will follow up with the DO, Shona Hugh. She indicated that ES are happy from their end for this link.

5 **Meetings of Trustees (30 January and 16 May)**

Simon Macaulay reported that there had been a focus on the implementation of Archie McGlynn's review with reference to:

- developing student voice
- organising events across Scotland (breaking out of the Central Belt)
- developing partnership working
- increasing the number of trustees, including a Mandarin speaker
- appointment of administrator to support the work of SCEN (interviews scheduled for next week)
- expansion of the Advisory Council with reps from the Youth Committee

Simon has been discussing with James Brodie new sources of funding support and a bid has been put together for submission to businesses/companies. (There will be a report back to trustees in due course.) Extending the geographical range of events has cost implications as does the employment of an administrator. John Macmillan indicated that the Eric Little Centre has just appointed a new fundraising manager. He is happy for trustees/members of the Advisory Council to look with them at the options that exist. (John has access to a funders' database.) James Brodie pointed out that this would complement his direct approach to corporates. There was discussion on SCEN considering joining the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).

Sandi Robb indicated that RZSS can offer a free venue for SCEN events, albeit still within Edinburgh, the Highland Wildlife Park having no big spaces. The zoo facilities can accommodate up to 180 people. Previous use has been made of these for which SCEN was grateful. Rosemary Mitchell pointed out that schools are the best bet for free venues.

6 **Youth Committee, Youth Forum and Ambassadors**

Rosemary Mitchell reported on a successful Youth Form earlier in the day.

The summit in November is now being planned. In terms of young people's input, with no other Lewis Hanleys in the wings, having worked his way up through the ranks, there is a group of young people keen to be involved. It has been agreed that there will be no single chair in order to spread the opportunities and the experience. Each young person has completed a profile for the SCEN website. Communication has been raised as an issue with a strong body of opinion for a *WeChat* group. Lewis said that social media was more used by young people than e-mail and was more likely to be looked at. Fiona Pate raised potential issues with *WeChat*. *WhatsApp* is deemed to be a safer more secure platform. She undertook to check this out. Margaret Alcorn has used *WhatsApp* in liaising with young people in South Africa and also raised *Instagram* as an option. Lewis suggested trialing this.

Rosemary confirmed that a small executive committee has been set up to work on the Youth Summit with a meeting penciled in for 1.30pm on 27th June at Abden House.

Simon asked Lewis for a perception of his year. He reported that he had enjoyed it but felt that school had [rightly] taken precedence over SCEN, a group approach could operate on a rota basis for meeting, etc. Margaret Alcorn spoke in favour of the group approach as the loss of the drive of one-person can impede speed and a group better ensures there's no imbalance of input.

There were seven schools represented at today's forum with new ones from the Falkirk Council area. Lots of new faces were present from Grangemouth High School with its interest in Mandarin and trips to China.

Fiona Pate raised the question of formal recognition/accreditation for young people's involvement. Colin Mitchell has suggested a Leadership Award. (In Lewis's case, this would cover the volunteering element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.)

Margaret mentioned that EVOC has been helpful in giving leads or information, especially re safeguarding issues, appropriate technology. John Macmillan raised the question of SCEN linking with Scotland's youth agency, *YouthLink Scotland* (a question he had asked at the cross-party meeting on 29th May). The organization had managed the Scottish Government funds for the Year of Young People and its experience would also be helpful re social media issues. He also mentioned Young Scot and the national youth work awards for which there were very strong possibilities of nominations from SCEN. Discussions are possible re a national award linked to our aims. Lewis said that accreditation for participation might also facilitate young people being allowed out of school for SCEN events.

7 **SCEN events from January 2019**

7.1 SCEN input to Cross-Party Group on China (30 January, 27 March, 29 May)

Rosemary Mitchell fed back on this in Colin's absence, Colin being joint secretary of the group. Young people have been involved in talking about opportunities through CISS and, most recently, on the work and opportunities of SCEN. Both meetings went well and were well received. (James Brodie and Olivia Contini also spoke alongside Lewis Hanley and other Lasswade High School pupils.) The next meeting is scheduled for a date in September yet to be confirmed. Simon pointed out that Judith McClure was secretary of the group for a time and this is a useful continuing link for SCEN.

7.2 Developing Mandarin: Regional Models for the Future, University of Edinburgh South Hall and Confucius Institute (29 March)

Simon Macaulay reported on this conference which was arranged in conjunction with Ann Robertson who had spoken at the morning plenary alongside James Brodie. Breakout groups (the hub school model (Lasswade)/SWIRE group with Moray House input/the volunteer scheme in East Lothian/Midlothian and George Heriot's) were in the afternoon. It was a successful event although not as well attended as was anticipated. (Eventbrite can overstate attendance as people don't always see through their attendance when there is no charge involved.) There was a good spread of participants including from Glasgow and Angus as well as more local with an opportunity for discussion and the sharing of good practice.

7.3 Chinese Teaching Club (10 May)

Jack Simpson reported back on a better than anticipated attendance, again with participations from a wider radius (Aberdeen, Glasgow, Perth & Kinross, Edinburgh). Attendees appreciate the opportunity to share practice given that many feel isolated as the only Mandarin teacher in their school. They also bemoan the lack of commercially available resources that exist in other foreign languages. Sandie Robb asked Fiona Pate if CISS produces, like e-books, would help. Fiona responded that the CISS regional steering groups were looking at pooling resources. Fiona also felt that Mandarin teachers should be encouraged to be part of wider languages groups. Sandie drew attention to the RZSS materials (Advanced Higher work mon endangered animals and online study). She is working with CISS to form a programme to be delivered by Hanban teachers. Jack confirmed that the next CTC meeting will be in Glasgow in September. Redacted minutes will be put on the SCEN website with the possibility of the list of resources discussed at the last meeting being extracted for more immediate access.

8 SCEN planning for Autumn 2019

8.1 SCEN Lecture (Linda Yeoh) tbc

Morag Anderson reported that Linda Yeoh was not available and that we had approached Paola Subbachi, former economist at Chatham House, lecturer at the University of London, author of *The People's Money: How China is building a global currency* and a director of the Scottish Mortgage Trust in which connection she will be next in Edinburgh on 13 January 2019 when it is hoped to hold the lecture at the RSE. John Macmillan asked for topics for this event going forward. Antonella Sorace suggested research into language learning; Fiona Pate a link to young people; the hopes aspirations and changes over

the years of young people in China. Olivia Contini could have contacts for such future lectures.

8.2 Youth Summit, EICC Edinburgh (Friday 8 November)

Rosemary Mitchell intimated that the summit would follow a similar format to previous summits. (See Item 6.) The invite to schools to take part will be coming out soon from the organising committee.

8.3 Developing Mandarin: proposed conference/event in Aberdeen (Autumn 2019?)

Simon Macaulay reported that he had visited Aberdeen on 27 May, visiting three schools and the Confucius Institute. Despite the constraints there is a desire to expand. Oldmachar Academy, the university library and Robert Gordon's College all offered a venue for this proposed conference/event. A planning group has been formed and is hoping to meet at the end of June. The idea is to engage with a wide range of schools in the North/North East, extending to Angus, Grantown-on-Spey and possibly the islands. The penciled-in date is now 13 March 2020. Michelle Macleod is to liaise with Fhiona Mackay and Fan Lin re a possible CISS contribution. A smaller-scale youth event was also discussed, possibly as a showcase.

9 Mandarin and 1+2 Language Development in Schools

9.1 Expanding the teaching of Mandarin across Scotland

9.2 Developing and appointing more qualified teachers of Mandarin

Simon Macaulay asked Fiona Pate to comment. Fiona is undertaking work for CISS but hasn't yet had time to analyse the data. Exam entries are rising but there is still the big issue of sustainability. Numbers of qualified teachers vary. Simon pointed out there were none at Moray House this year although Maggie Sproule has been seconded to the School of Education. The question of supply and demand was discussed at the cross-party group on 29 May. Scottish-trained teachers are going to England where there are more vacancies. Across-school placements in Scottish local authorities are a disincentive.

9.3 Mandarin in the Senior Phase and SQA

Simon Macaulay reported on some difficulty in engaging with Jim McDonald's successor at SQA. It is hoped that she can attend the next meeting of the Advisory Council when we will be able to look at hard data. Fiona Pate reported that Mandarin within the Languages for Life and Work Award was very popular in S6 cohorts. There is now a change in the balance between Scottish and native speakers following SQA courses.

10 RZSS: Confucius Hub and *Beyond the Panda*

Simon Macaulay referenced Sandie Robb's very full presentation to the Youth Forum earlier in the day. Sandie followed up by updating the meeting on the China Mobile Library. The approach has changed and [expensive] recourse to parcel Force has changed to lesser quality packs being offered free of charge to every school that books *Beyond the Panda*. The resources are now to keep rather than be on loan with extra copies being available at a cost of £30. Every primary school will ultimately have one free copy of the resources. Sandie indicated that secondary outreach is still not so easy.

11 SCEN partnerships: Shandong and Nanning

Re Shandong, Simon Macaulay reported that Dave Valentine had not been able to take forward the commercial/business links. Simon, together with Rosemary and Colin Mitchell, had taken up the educational links. They met with Machina but it became clear that the Chinese emphasis was on business exchanges. In England where there are school exchanges there is no funding which produces an equity issue at the outset. Contact details of schools in England were shared but there have been no responses to e-mails. Simon is not convinced that this is worth pursuing unless and until Dave Valentine is able to pick up business-related matters.

Re Nanning and the Eden Award which was given to George Roberts, it was noted that he has now converted that into an award for Aberdeen schools. Olivia Contini has continued links with Nanning and Ed Hoffee whose new website is www.topteacherschina.com. He is recruiting native English speakers with a BA degree and two years' teaching experience. There is a possibility that this might be advertised through SCEN. Ed has two Chinese students (one Law, one Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language) who are interested in becoming SCEN Ambassadors. The names will be passed to Rosemary Mitchell.

12 Update from members of the Advisory Council

Both Nathan Woolley and John Macmillan had been speaking to young people earlier in the day. Nathan has a proposal that a small number of pupils from the SCEN network could spend 1-2 days at a summer school at Glasgow University. This would provide a light introduction to history/politics/literature/classical Chinese as well as an opportunity to meet existing students in order to help underpin aspirations. It would also bridge the gap between secondary school and university Chinese, offering an opportunity too for returning university students from China (after Third Year), providing for them in the absence of a straight Honours qualification. Fiona Pate asked about the rise in *ab initio* applications for Chinese at university.

Antonella Sorace proposed a link between SCEN and *Bilingualism Matters* (language learning and multilingualism). She suggested a lot of public engagement with the message that learning languages is good, aimed at policy makers, educators, businesses. She pointed out that the 26th branch of Bilingualism Matters opened at the Chinese University of Hong Kong last month. This offers opportunities for exchanges of good practice and knowledge. She stated that she was looking forward to doing good work with SCEN in the future.

John Macmillan pointed out that Scotland and the UK don't celebrate the life and achievements of Eric Liddle in the way we should do. While John's job is to ensure a high-quality care service there is still the link with the Liddle family through his daughters and also a very positive relationship with the SRU and Scottish Athletics. There is a focus on the 2024 centenary of the Paris Olympics (when the Olympics will be back in Paris and where there will be reference to Eric Liddle at the opening ceremony) with a range of events envisaged. There is political support for a celebration day. John has met with a supportive Principal of the University of Edinburgh. Politicians at Holyrood and Westminster are also on board as is the Chinese Consulate-General in Scotland. John will keep us posted re developments at future meetings. Scottish Athletics are keen for John to look at educational opportunities/ resources linked to Eric Liddle: sport, culture, history, geography, RE, business. Both SA and the SRU are keen to focus on key sporting events and to organize university-level events and competitions for which John is looking for interest and contacts, possibly liaising with Fiona Pate re cross-curricular opportunities. Lord David Puttnam who is a patron of the Eric Liddle Centre is to deal with Lord Coe, given his links to the Olympics.

Sandie Robb reported that the RZSS has a new partner in Southwest Jiaotong University in Chengdu. The new Hanban teacher will be from there and Sandie is to visit the university's Director in September 2019.

13 AOCB

John Macmillan thanked Simon for SCEN representation at a recent fundraising gala at Murrayfield.

14 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

This was ultimately agreed as Wednesday, 27 November at the Confucius Institute at the University of Edinburgh in Abden House from 1.30-3.30pm. with lunch available from 1.00pm.