

Evelyn Hone College \ Ballyfermot College Reciprocal Visit

Minutes of Meeting Friday 17th October 2008

Present : Elan Kamfwa, Patrick Mumba, Clayson Hamasaka, Diarmuid O'Brien,
Kevin Devine, Fergal Hardiman, Declan Power, Helen Mahony

Apologies : Maureen Conway

Meeting chaired by Diarmuid O'Brien

1. Review of visit with reference to development of agreed joint projects in Music and Journalism

In both areas significant work took place during the visit.

Music - Minutes of meeting with music teachers in BCFE on Thursday 16th attached.

Journalism - During the visit Clayson, Fergal and Declan had in-depth discussion on the project. Clayson also met the journalism students who will be involved in the production of the newspaper.

One edition of joint newspaper to be published this year. Work of students in the two colleges to be integrated throughout the paper. Aim - to stimulate creative and practical thinking and good investigative journalism. Issues to be examined will include development issues, human rights, culture, politics, social structures. On practical production side dummy pages will be exchanged. Paper will include News, News Features, Sport

Issue of the different academic calendars in the two colleges was discussed. EHC students will not be in class in December or January due to exams and holidays. It was agreed that email contact between teachers and students will be continued during this period.

In BCFE 2nd year HND Journalism students will be involved. Instead of three college papers being produced during the year the students will produce two papers and one special edition which will be co-written and co-produced with the students in EHC. The editorial board will be the same for all three papers.

In EHC 3rd year students will be involved. The students in EHC study both radio and print. In March students generally go on a work attachment. A team of 3rd year students will be attached to the paper.

It was agreed that the students in the two colleges will be involved in deciding the name of the joint publication in the context of the spirit of the project.

It was also agreed that alongside the hard copy of the paper a web version will be produced.

It was agreed that it is important to proceed cautiously and to ensure the production of a good first paper. Support from Irish Times will be explored for future editions. Importance for journalism students of having work published in another country and the possibility of getting some work noted and considered important.

2. Future Developments

In terms of sustainability of the project and as agreed in the MOU BCFE will make application for further funding under the WorldWise scheme. BCFE will also make applications directly to Irish Aid for funding.

Discussion took place of extending and deepening the project. The next area for joint student work was agreed as being Art and this was seen as having great potential.

The idea of teacher exchange was discussed. It was agreed that this would be extremely worthwhile. EHC has already a programme in place which involves Japanese teachers visiting for a two week period and doing workshops with both teachers and students. Music and music technology identified as a potential area for exchange of teachers. Board of EHC can decide on release of teachers and exchange programmes.

BCFE – application for release of teacher to work on project for a specified time will have to be made to CDVEC.

Importance of cementing what we are doing, of doing work well and proceeding slowly, developing good products in both vocational areas and building a solid reputation was recognised.

3. Appreciation and close of meeting

Diarmuid thanked the three colleagues from EHC for their visit to the college and spoke of how valuable it was for BCFE and for the development of the project. He also expressed appreciation to the families of the colleagues in Zambia.

Clayson expressed very generous thanks for a full, active and never boring programme.

Patrick also thanked the teachers in BCFE and looked forward to the development in Music and Art in the future which had begun with “a recording recorded under a tree”

Elan spoke of the visit as an opportunity and a privilege and he thanked the Irish Government and the management of the college for supporting the project.

He said that he felt he and his colleagues had been made very welcome in the college and he was very impressed that all the teachers he met in BCFE were “working as a family”.

It was agreed by all that the visit had been very worthwhile and valuable for all involved from both colleges.

Signed : _____

Diarmuid O'Brien
Deputy Principal
Ballyfermot College of Further Education

Elan Kamfwa
Director Academic
Evelyn Hone College