**Minutes of Upstart Scotland’s AGM**

**Sunday 24th June 2018**

**Perth Civil Service Club 13.00 - 16.00**

**Present:** Sue Palmer, Kate Johnston, Loreen Pardoe, Hilary Long, Suzanne Zeedyk, Agnes Semple, Alison Hawkins, Angela Lucey, Angela Cameron, Ann Burton, Anne-Marie Mackin, Carol Morwood, Clarissa Cheong, Denise Howie, Diane Delaney, Dorothy Williamson, Eilidh Macleod, Gillian Robertson, Heather McLean, Jan Hay, Jenny Shek, John Frank, Karen Flynn, Katrina Sher, Kirsty Somerville, Lynn Allardyce, Maria Perez, Nicola Crowe, Ninian Stuart, Patricia Anderson, Rhona Bain, Rhona Wilson, Lorna McDuff, Stuart Cairns, Susan Johnstone, Susan Walker, Willie French, David Ashford, Julia Whittaker, John Carnochan, Kate Pass, Fiona Blaney, Tam Baillie, Brett Housego, Fiona Hamilton, Carol Craig

**Apologies**: Francesca McIntosh Walker, Pat Kane, Liz Daley, Isobel Lawson, Stacey Marko

[The business of the AGM was preceded by two extremely inspiring presentations by Julia Whittaker (Why we need a kindergarten stage for the long-term health of Scotland’s children) and John Carnochan (Why we need a kindergarten stage for the long-term health of Scottish society).]

**Minutes of last AGM**:

Copies of the minutes from [2017](http://www.upstart.scot/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Minutes-of-Upstart-AGM-2017.docx) had been made available prior to AGM and were accepted by Julia Whittaker and seconded by Loreen Pardoe.

**Chair’s Report**:

Sue Palmer expanded on her [Chair’s Report](http://www.upstart.scot/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/AGM-Report-from-the-Chair-2018.docx) which was circulated before AGM, by stating that it had once again been a very busy year and our campaign has grown exponentially.

Sue extended her thanks to David for enabling Upstart Scotland to reach SCIO status and for his assistance with assembling such a prestigious Board of Trustees.

The Play not Tests campaign kicked off on 23 April with a launch and good media coverage and this has been the focus of our efforts over the last months.

A growth area at the moment are the Facebook groups for teachers (over 3000 members) and a new one for Senior Managers as well as a new group focused on outdoor play that has grown to 1100 members in two weeks. Many thanks to Kate Johnston and Hilary Long for their work in setting up and maintaining these.

The lifeblood of Upstart has been local meetings, and so thanks are due to all who have organised and promoted these.

Administration has become more complex and we are thankful for recent funding from an anonymous benefactor to enable Kate Pass to be employed for a year.

**Vice Chair’s Report**

In the Vice Chair’s Report Kate Johnston gives her thanks to Loreen, Hilary, Fran for their work on facebook groups – any further help would be very welcome.

Play across Scotland roadshow is planned for later this year.

The First Minister is going to visit one of the Edinburgh “play” schools in September.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

In the [Treasurer’s Report](http://www.upstart.scot/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/AGM-Treasurers-Report-140618.docx) David Ashford was pleased to report that Upstart Scotland is in the black.

Detailed accounts are available for perusal, and David has secured help from an accountant who will also audit our accounts as required by OSCAR

Data protection conditions have all been met.

Proposal to accept Treasurer’s report – proposed by Hilary Long; seconded by Maria Perez.

**Election of Office Bearers**:

Chair Sue Palmer Proposed Loreen Pardoe

 Seconded Alison Hawkins

Vice Chair Kate Johnston Proposed Moray Hamilton

 Seconded Willie French

Treasurer. David Ashford. Proposed Kate Johnston

 Seconded Hilary Long

Secretary Francesca McIntosh-Walker Proposed Katrina Sher

 Seconded Tam Baillie

Trustees Hilary Long Proposed Willie French

 Seconded Alison Hawkins

 Tam Baillie Proposed Loreen Pardoe

 Seconded Patricia Anderson

 Dr Carol Craig Proposed Tam Baillie

 Seconded Willie French

 Pr John Frank Proposed Carol Craig

 Seconded Willie French

 Willie French Proposed Patricia Anderson

 Seconded Tam Baillie

 Pat Kane Proposed Julia Whittaker

 Seconded Maria Perez

**Any Other Business:** The issue of Upstart involvement in debates surrounding introduction of 1140 hours of ECEC would be dealt with during the Q&A discussion.

**Date of next meeting**: Sunday 23rd June 2019

**Points of interest from Q&A Discussion**

A head teacher from Sth Lanarkshire has called a meeting for nursery teachers to change their curriculum in line with preparation for testing in P1.

In terms of administration of the SNSA tests, there is often a conflict between professional integrity and duty to employer – apparently the GTC is ambivalent on the subject. Upstart should investigate further with GTC.

Teachers/senior management are encouraged to contact their unions re their concerns about testing.

By calling the SNSA tests ‘assessments’, the government is able to say they are part of normal classroom practice (in P1, this is certainly not the case). Parents should raise their concern through parent council to ensure that P1 parents are informed.

Concern about the 1140 hours of nursery for children as young as 2. Upstart would like to be doing some work in this area but need ((wo)manpower to actually do it. Not only is it damaging for the children to be away from the home for such long periods, but the quality of care is highly variable since many young practitioners are employed in private nurseries who do not have adequate training and skills.

Upstart would like to set up a closed Facebook group + organize meetings around these issues but we need personnel with recent nursery experience to supervise/help with the organization.