

## Global Connections XIII Seminar: Annual Business Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2011

Chair: Hillary Matthews

Minutes Recorded by: Karen Murton @ Tiger Kloof School, South Africa

Meeting call to order at 5:15 by Hillary Matthews, who outlined the following Agenda:

- Discussion/Comments on the nature of GCXIII Seminar (more show: less tell)
- Discussion of seminar fees
- Presentation and discussion on GC XIII Declaration
- Location for 2012 seminar

### Comments/Feedback – GC XIII

- Unanimous positive feedback on the seminar, particularly on the “showing” vs. “telling” style approach
- The variety of schools that we visited was superb and provided a rich learning experience
- The fact we all jointly saw and shared the unique experience at each school gives us a common platform from which we can discuss issues – this was applauded as a strength of this year’s seminar
- This seminar evoked a great deal of emotion for many participants
- Discussion within the group needs to be “fluid” as we are not preparing our thoughts ahead of time – rather we are seeing schools and reacting to them
- Suggestion was made that we have fewer formal sit-down dinners in the evening – if less formal; we can mingle and have discussion with many different people. We can also add an evening discussion group following a more casual dinner event.
- It was felt that “the journey is more powerful than the telling of it”
- The organization and execution of the seminar could not have been better!

### Seminar Fee

There is general support to increase the seminar fee to \$2,500. This is especially true if we are able to attract more diversity in attendance from schools which may not be able to afford the seminar fee

There was a brief discussion on 501C3 status of GC (generally, the response to this discussion was “no” because schools cannot receive a tax benefit for donating to GC)

Suggestion was made that wealthier schools “adopt” a needy school and support attendance at GC seminar (comment was made that this is already being done)

Delegate from South Africa cautioned that for many schools \$2,000. for the seminar fee is already steep  
General agreement that schools are willing to pay a little more to subsidize less wealthy schools

**Action:**

**Hillary Matthews requested that each delegate individually contact Malcolm McKenzie to indicate if he/she is willing to see an increase in seminar fee to \$2,500.**

Seminar Size

A brief conversation on the number of attendees and size of the seminar followed the discussion on fees. Many attendees commented that this seminar size was “just right” as it gave everyone the chance to get to know each other. Often the informal bus rides or the conversations over dinner are rich learning experiences. There was a general recommendation from the group that GC attempt to keep the seminar to approximately the size of GC XIII (approx. 49 attendees, which gives us the right number for one coach only, which is the most desirable).

Hillary Matthews commented, “alchemy happens at Global Connections. Everything extraordinary gets thrown into the crucible. By Day 3, there is an expression of emotions. People rejoice internally; they shed tears outwardly”.

Karen Murton commented that Peter Pelham’s original intent was to have representation from as many diverse schools and countries as possible and that attendance to GC by the Head of School was important in the original mandate of GC.

There was general agreement that there is value in having school leaders together for this seminar (without spouses/partners) as this easily opens the door to professional exchanges and connections. This format tends to see people reach out naturally to get to know each other and exchange ideas and perspectives.

There was a strong message to not institutionalize Global Connections. We do not want an organization with bureaucracy or strict membership criteria and fees. The fluidity of GC allows for a variety of partnerships, flexibility in agendas and an appreciation for a gathering of professionals that is somewhat out of the ordinary. Bravo!

Declaration

Barbara Tischler read the declaration which had been circulated the night previous. Barbara received significant applause and appreciation for her commitment to seeing that the declaration was completed and of a high quality.

Small changes to the declaration were suggested and discussion on particular phrases or omissions ensued. Barbara received all comments and committed to making the required changes to the

declaration. She will then forward the final declaration to Hotchkiss for distribution. Manjula requested that we send documents to her and Malcolm only.

#### Global Connections Destination for 2012

The group heartily endorsed the suggestion that David Hodge and the New Zealanders host GC XIV. Alison Cleland said a few words about David's vision for the seminar and Russell Dunn added his comments and support to assist in hosting.

It was further agreed that any delegate to the seminar who desires to host a future seminar, should submit an expression of interest (proposal) to Malcolm McKenzie, with suggestions for program and theme for the seminar.

#### Meeting Wrap-up/Conclusion

Kate Parker-Burgard offered to set up a Facebook page so we can all post our pictures, comments, updates and questions. Thank you Kate, this is a great way to stay connected!

Ted Faunce, on behalf of all delegates, offered deep words of appreciation and gratitude to the Hotchkiss Team, South African Hosts, and particularly to Malcolm McKenzie for this extraordinary experience. The diligent work and attention to creating GC XIII which gave all of us such a meaningful and memorable learning experience will never be forgotten.

Our meeting concluded with Ellen Mathopo leading all of us in the Toyi Toyi – many thanks to our South African friends for sharing the spirit of ubuntu and joy!

Meeting concluded at approximately 6:15 p.m.