

立法會
Legislative Council

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Panel on Education

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Monday, 5 May 2003 at 1:00 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Dr Hon YEUNG Sum (Chairman)
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung, BBS (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon SZETO Wah
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
- Member attending** : Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
- Members absent** : Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok
Hon MA Fung-kwok, JP
- Public Officers attending** : Mrs Fanny LAW, JP
Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Mr Andrew POON
Principal Assistant Secretary for Education and
Manpower (Quality Assurance)

Mr FUNG Pak-yan
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Family and
Childcare)

Attendance by invitation : Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union

Ms YUNG Hau-heung
Member of the Executive Committee

Tai Po Early Childhood Education Principal
Association

Miss KWOK Chor-kiu
Principal

Mrs CHOW Yun-ling
Principal

Hong Kong Baptist Kindergarten Education
Convention Limited

Mr CHAN Mei-tak
President

Mrs CHAN Tsui-yuk
Principal

The Hong Kong Institute of Education Past Students
Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education

Mrs MAK TSE How-ling
Chairman

Syndicate of English and Chinese Private Schools
Limited

Mr HUI Wing-to
Chairman

Ms CHEUNG King-fong
Committee Member

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Alumni
Association in Pre-primary Education

Ms YEUNG Yuk-wah
Vice-Chairman

Ms LAM Mai-ngan
Secretary

Hong Kong Kindergarten Association

Ms LAN Suet-mui
Chairperson

Ms TONG Siu-fun
Vice-Chairperson

Hong Kong Baptist University Early Childhood
Education Society

Mrs MA KWAN Siu-kau
President

Mrs CHAN Hang
Welfare Officer

Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Schools Council
(Kindergarten section)

Miss TUNG Pik-fong
Principal

Miss NG Siu-lam
Principal

SKH Kindergarten and Nursery Council

Ms CHOW Wai-king
Chairman

Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education and Services

Ms LAU Seung-man
Committee Member

Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories
Kindergarten Education Advancement Association
limited

Ms CHAU Choi-ngo
Senior Chairwoman

Ms TAM Siu-hing
President

Clerk in attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Chief Assistant Secretary (2)2

Staff in attendance : Mr Stanley MA
Senior Assistant Secretary (2)6

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I. Problems arising from suspension of classes in kindergartens to prevent the spreading of atypical pneumonia and related issues

Meeting with deputations

The Chairman welcomed representatives of the deputations to the meeting.

2. Members noted the submission from the Kingsland Kindergarten [LC Paper No. CB(2)1936/02-03(03)].

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, representatives of deputations presented their views on problems arising from suspension of classes in kindergartens to prevent the spreading of atypical pneumonia (AP) and related issues, a gist of which is summarized in paragraphs 4 to 19.

Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union (the Union)

4. Ms YUNG Hau-heung said that kindergarten (KG) teachers and operators were adversely affected by the suspension of classes in KGs to

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prevent the spreading of AP. She pointed out that many parents had refused to pay tuition fees on the ground that no classes were held. As a result, many KG operators were using their reserves to sustain operation, and those without a reserve fund were forced to reduce staff salaries and even lay off some of their staff to meet the shortfall in tuition income.

5. Ms YUNG further said that the Union concurred with the KG sector that the Government should relax the criteria for granting fee remissions under the Kindergarten Fee Remission Scheme (KGFRS) and re-open applications for parents who had been laid off as a result of the outbreak of AP. She suggested that to help KG continue operation, the Government should subsidize operators who suffered a 50% reduction in tuition income. Ms YUNG also suggested that the Administration should consider allowing KG and Child Care Centre (CCC) operators to adjust the upper limit of their tuition fees for the next school year in order to achieve a bigger profit margin to cover the shortfall in tuition income arising from class suspension. She added that some large KG operators for various reasons had reduced tuition fees for their KG classes, which had made it more difficult for small operators to collect full tuition fees from parents.

Tai Po Early Childhood Education Principal Association

6. Miss KWOK Chor-kiu said that KGs in Tai Po were severely affected by the spreading of AP. She pointed out that many parents intended to send their children to the Mainland in order to avoid contraction with AP and many KGs in Tai Po had already been operating in deficit before the outbreak of AP. In the face of an outbreak of AP, these KGs had no alternative but to reduce staff salaries or lay off some of their staff to cope with the situation. She urged the Government to work out measures to assist KGs to survive in the crisis. Miss CHOW Yun-ling supplemented that the Administration should assist low-income parents who were willing but had financial difficulty to pay tuition fees.

The Hong Kong Institute of Education Past Students Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education

7. Mrs MAK TSE How-ling said that many teachers in the field of early childhood education had expressed concern about the security of their employment. They were also concerned that it was difficult to differentiate KG children suspected to have contracted with AP. She pointed out that in some KGs, some 50% parents did not pay the tuition fee for April 2003 and it was unsure whether parents would let their children attend classes on 19 May 2003, the date of class resumption for KGs as announced by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB). She urged EMB to work out feasible measures to prevent the spreading of AP in KGs and provide adequate assistance to both private independent and non-profit-making KGs with financial difficulties.

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Hong Kong Baptist Kindergarten Education Convention Limited

8. Mr CHAN Mei-tak requested Legislative Council (LegCo) Members and EMB to urge the two electricity companies to waive the electricity charges of all KGs for three months. He also suggested that EMB should provide a three-month rental subsidy to KGs which were not operated in public estate premises.

9. Mrs CHAN Tsui-yuk supplemented that many parents recognized that they should pay tuition fees in order to protect the employment of KG teachers. She suggested that the Government should subsidize parents to pay tuition fees who had become unemployed after the outbreak of AP.

Syndicate of English and Chinese Private Schools Limited

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1936/02-03(01)]

10. Mr HUI Wing-to presented the views of the Syndicate of English and Chinese Private Schools Limited as detailed in the submission. He concluded by urging the Administration to provide sufficient guidelines and assistance to KGs in order to secure parents' confidence in resumption of classes. He also appealed the KG sector to unite together in its fight against the AP crisis.

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Alumni Association in Pre-primary Education

11. Ms YEUNG Yuk-wah urged the Government to assist needy families who were willing to send their children to resume studies in KG but had financial difficulties to pay the tuition fee as a result of the outbreak of AP.

Hong Kong Kindergarten Association

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1936/02-03(02)]

12. Ms LAN Suet-mui presented the views of the Hong Kong Kindergarten Association as detailed in the submission. She stressed that the Government should provide subsidies to both private independent KGs and non-profit-making KGs on an equal basis. She pointed out that private independent KGs also operated under the supervision of EMB and only a few of them could make a profit. She also stressed that all support and relief measures for the KG sector should cover both types of KGs.

13. Ms TONG Siu-fun supplemented that EMB should consult the stakeholders before deciding on the support and relief measures for the KG sector, as better communications would remove unnecessary misunderstandings in the implementation of the measures.

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Hong Kong Baptist University Early Childhood Education Society
[LC Paper No.CB(2)1967/02-03(01)]

14. Mrs MA KWAN Siu-kau introduced the submission of the Hong Kong Baptist University Early Childhood Education Society. She highlighted that the outbreak of AP had revealed that survival of KGs depended solely on stable tuition income. She urged the Government to subsidize KG operation on a larger scale and ensure a balanced supply and demand of KG places at district level. She also hoped that the Administration would provide parents and KGs with clear guidelines on the prevention of AP.

15. Mrs CHAN Hang supplemented that EMB should strengthen publicity and civic education in the KG sector on the importance of maintaining good personal and environmental hygiene in order to prevent the spread and contraction of AP. She added that it was unfair that private independent KGs were not eligible for the anti-AP allowance available from the donation of \$100 million by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT).

Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Schools Council (Kindergarten section)

16. Miss TUNG Pik-fong said that parents were concerned whether supplementary classes would be conducted for KG students to complete the curriculum during the summer holidays and whether full-day classes in KG would continue after class resumption. She requested EMB to clarify these arrangements before resumption of classes.

Sheung Kung Hui Kindergarten and Nursery Council

17. Ms CHOW Wai-king said that according to an opinion survey about the effects of class suspension on KG and CCC operation, around 20% to 22% of parents had not paid the tuition fees for April 2003. She pointed out that unlike KGs, CCCs provided child care services on a 12-month basis and would unlikely be able to provide supplementary classes during the summer holidays. She urged the Administration to ensure that fees remitted to parents under the KGFRS would be received by the respective KGs and CCCs direct. She suggested that the Administration should provide KGs with a one-off grant equivalent to the shortfall in tuition income after the outbreak of AP. She also suggested that the Administration should allocate more resources to early childhood education and post one registered nurse in each KG and CCC.

Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education and Services

18. Ms LAU Seung-man said that EMB should decide the arrangements for suspension and resumption of KG classes in collaboration with the medical profession. She considered that principals of KGs should not be held accountable for the consequences of possible cross-infection of AP in KGs.

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She considered that EMB should publicize clearly that parents had an obligation to pay tuition fees to help KGs undergo the AP crisis. She suggested that the Administration should set up an inter-disciplinary task group comprising educational and health care professionals to monitor the arrangements and implementation of various measures to prevent the spread of AP after resumption of classes. Most importantly, the Government should provide appropriate assistance to KGs and parents who had experienced financial difficulties as a result of the outbreak of AP.

Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories Kindergarten Education Advancement Association limited
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1984/02-03(01)]

19. Ms CHOW Choi-ngo and Ms TAM Siu-hing presented the views of the Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories Kindergarten Education Advancement Association Limited as detailed in the submission. They concluded by stressing that the Administration should provide private independent KGs the same level of support and relief measures as their non-profit-making counterparts in KG sector would receive.

Discussion

20. Mr Tommy CHEUNG asked whether KGs would need the provision of low-interest loans provided by the Government to help resolve their short-term financial difficulties in making salary payments to staff.

21. Mrs MAK TSE How-ling responded that non-profit-making KGs were allowed to hold a surplus of not more than 5% to build up reserves for measures to enhance the quality of their services. For private independent KGs, the profit margin was set at 10%. Such surplus or profit, if any, would be deployed to fund a number of programmes such as providing funding support for staff to attend training and development courses. She considered that both types of KGs would have difficulties to repay debts. Ms YUNG Hau-heung confirmed that offering low-interest loans to operators would not resolve the problems as both non-profit-making and private independent KGs would not have sufficient surplus or profits to repay the debts.

22. Responding to the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower (PSEM) said that the Administration would consider approving a higher level of tuition fees proposed by individual KGs for the next school year in order to recover the shortfall in tuition income arising from class suspension.

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Meeting with the Administration

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1936/02-03(04)]

23. Members noted the Administration paper entitled "combating Atypical Pneumonia in schools - class suspension and resumption arrangements and related support services".

24. The Chairman said that the Administration had proposed a package of relief measures costing about \$11.8 billion to help the community, in particular the catering, tourism, hotel and retail businesses, tide over the difficulties resulting from an outbreak of AP. He invited the Administration to highlight the support and relief measures to help the KG sector undergo the AP crisis and respond to deputations' views.

25. In response, PSEM said that the Administration was well aware of the problems arising from class suspension and had maintained close communication with the KG sector to facilitate provision and implementation of the support and relief services to KGs before and after class resumption. She highlighted the following -

- (a) Resumption of classes in primary schools and KGs would be implemented in phases, i.e., on 12 and 19 May 2003 and KGs might decide to arrange supplementary classes for students during the summer holidays, having regard to individual circumstances;
- (b) EMB and the Consumer Council had openly and repeatedly appealed to parents to pay KG fees for the months of April and May 2003 on various occasions;
- (c) Application for KGFRS would be re-opened for needy families if they became eligible under the Scheme as a result of the spread of AP;
- (d) Government subsidies to KGs under the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme which usually calculated on student headcounts would not be affected even if some students discontinued their studies;
- (e) EMB would provide anti-AP materials such as facemasks, ear thermometers and probe covers to both non-profit-making and private independent KGs;
- (f) On-line teaching information had been uploaded onto the EMB's homepage on the Internet to facilitate self-learning for students during the class suspension period;

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- (g) The Hong Kong Housing Authority had taken the initiative to reduce the rental for flats and premises under its jurisdiction. The Administration would write to the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong and urge it to discuss with KG operators over possible reduction in rentals of their school premises;
- (h) EMB would exercise flexibility and take into account the effects of class suspension on KGs in approving the 2003-04 fee levels proposed by individual KGs; and
- (i) EMB would co-ordinate with the Economic Development and Labour Bureau to urge the two electricity companies to reduce charges for KGs.

26. PSEM also highlighted that the Administration would review the adequacy and effectiveness of the support and relief measures for KGs in May and might propose additional measures to address the concerns of KG operators. She suggested KGs to distribute EMB's letter on prevention of AP to parents for reference and try their best to convince parents to pay tuition fees. In order to reduce the impact of class suspension on students' learning, EMB would encourage schools to exercise discretion on provision of supplementary classes during the summer holidays.

27. On prevention of staff and students from contracting AP after class resumption, PSEM pointed out that children suffering from a fever did not necessarily mean that they had contracted AP. In practice, EMB would only announce class suspension for 10 days when the Department of Health (DH) had advised that a student was confirmed or suspected to have contracted AP. If DH later confirmed the suspected case was non-AP, EMB would arrange class resumption as soon as practicable.

Questions raised by deputations

28. Mrs CHAN Hang and Ms YUNG Hau-heung asked whether the Fee Remission Team of EMB had been officially informed of the policy decision to continue the provision of approved fee remissions to KGs, regardless of whether the students concerned would continue their KG studies after resumption of class.

29. PSEM responded that the Fee Remission Team should now be aware of the policy decision to continue the provision of the approved fee remission under KGFRS to KGs, including students who had decided to discontinue their KG studies as a result of AP.

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30. Ms YUNG Hau-heung asked whether EMB would proactively follow up the attendance and drop-out rates of KG students in April and May, and co-ordinate meetings with the KG sector for a better understanding of KG's fiscal difficulties. She reiterated that the KG sector anticipated that the Government would provide a 50% subsidy to cover the shortfall in tuition income.

31. PSEM responded that the Administration anticipated that most KG students who had been absent since April due to class suspension and had yet to pay tuition fee for the months of April and May would resume their studies on 19 May 2003. She hoped that KGs would continue to liaise with parents after resumption of class and explain their obligation to pay tuition fees.

32. Mrs MAK TSE How-ling urged EMB to speed up its vetting process for new applications under the KGFRS. She also suggested that in considering new applications for KGFRS, EMB should take into account the date when an applicant had become unemployed and approve fee remission in retrospective of the date when the family had become eligible for a partial or full remission of KG fees.

33. Ms YEUNG Yuk-wah asked whether the Social Welfare Department (SWD) would adopt the same policies and strategies for provision of relief measures to CCCs under its jurisdiction.

34. Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Family and Child Welfare) (AD(FCW)) responded that SWD had issued a letter to CCCs explaining that centre fees were calculated on a 12-month basis and hence the centres were justified to collect fees from parents during the class suspension period. Besides, SWD continued to pay CCCs the fee assistance to parents during the class suspension period. Assistance to CCC operators (5% subsidy, rental, rates and government rent subsidy etc.) also remained unchanged. Parents who were facing financial hardship might apply for assistance under the Child Care Centre Fee Assistance Scheme or other assistance. He added that CCCs were encouraged to use savings accumulated from their previous operation to cope with any cash-flow problem as appropriate. In case of deficits arising from parents' refusal to pay fees, SWD might consider to relax CCCs' application for fee increase in the coming year. SWD had been collaborating with EMB in the provision of support and relief measures for CCCs and would continue to monitor the situation after class resumption to decide whether other relief measures were necessary. He appealed to parents to continue to pay monthly fees to CCCs.

35. AD(FCW) further pointed out that most CCCs had continued their services during the period of class suspension. Because CCCs operated on the basis of providing care services to young children, they only had a short

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summer recess of about one to three weeks. Yet, if necessary, operators were generally ready to cut short the summer recess to meet with parents' expectation. He added that other than general anti-AP materials, SWD would provide KGs and CCCs with a set of VCDs and posters etc. for arranging personal hygiene promotional activities after class resumption.

Discussion with members

36. Ms Cyd HO said that she hoped that parents would continue to pay tuition fees to help KGs undergo the critical period. She urged the Administration to speed up its vetting process for new applications from parents who were formerly not eligible for the subsidies under various schemes. She considered that staff of DH should assist KGs and CCCs in ensuring a clean and healthy environment for small children to resume studies. Ms HO suggested that EMB and SWD should consider increasing the amount of subsidies for KGs and CCCs to employ additional staff to enhance environmental hygiene and assist in taking care of the small children in KGs and CCCs before AP was brought under control.

37. PSEM responded that EMB had obtained a funding of \$100 million from the HKJCCT to subsidize schools including non-profit-making KGs and CCCs in Hong Kong in their fight against AP. Eligible KGs could apply to receive an anti-AP allowance of \$5,000 per month for a period of three months. She added that KGs could use the allowance to employ additional staff to perform general cleansing duties.

38. Ms Cyd HO remarked that a monthly anti-AP allowance of \$5,000 was only sufficient for a KG or CCC to employ an additional staff member. She urged EMB to explore other sources of funds for provision of more anti-AP allowance to facilitate the provision of a more clean and healthy learning environment for students in KGs.

39. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong considered it most important to provide immediate assistance to KGs which had run into financial difficulties as a result of class suspension arising from an outbreak of AP. He pointed out that the introduction of further relief measures after the review in May would help KGs which were using their reserves to continue operation, but not KGs who were suffering serious financial difficulties. He stressed that in order to continue operation, some KGs had resorted to cutting staff salaries, requiring staff to take no-pay leaves or even laying off some of their staff. He suggested that the Administration should consider the introduction of transitional measures to assist KGs with financial difficulties and their staff to undergo the AP crisis.

40. The Chairman shared the view of Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong. He expressed sympathy for KG teachers who were now working in the shadow of

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possible redundancy or salary cuts. The Chairman stressed the importance of staff morale in provision of quality early childhood education. He also urged the Administration to work out transitional measures to assist KGs with financial difficulties.

41. PSEM responded that parents without financial difficulties had a moral obligation to pay the tuition fees and it was doubtful whether tax payers' monies should be used to fund some 100 KGs which already had a history of operational deficits. She pointed out that these KGs had already planned to close down because of the lack of students resulting from low birth rate and from financial loss. PSEM said that she hoped that the KG sector as well as the Union would work jointly to encourage parents to pay tuition fees. She pointed out that it had been suggested that parents should be required to pay the tuition fees before they would be given a certificate which was mandatory for their children to enrol in primary one classes. She added that the Administration might propose additional relief measures after the review in May 2003, and if so, it would seek the approval of the Finance Committee for allocation of funds on an urgent basis.

42. Ms Emily LAU expressed support for the provision of transitional measures to help KGs with financial difficulties tackle the problems arising from an outbreak of AP. She agreed that parents should pay tuition fees and assistance should be provided to needy parents who had difficulties to pay the tuition fees. She cited the view of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority expressed at the meeting of the Panel on Financial Affairs held earlier that day to illustrate that it was the right time to use the financial reserves of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to help the community tide over the difficulties resulting from an outbreak of AP, and to revive the economy after the disease was brought under control. Ms LAU also urged EMB to consult and improve communications with the KG sector on the arrangements for implementing the support and relief measures. She added that it would be more forceful and effective for EMB to issue a letter to parents direct, explaining their moral obligation to pay tuition fees.

43. Mr Tommy CHEUNG expressed understanding of the difficulties experienced by KG operators in the face of an AP crisis. He agreed that the CLP Hong Kong Limited and the Hongkong Electric Company should reduce their electricity charges for the KG sector during such an extraordinary difficult time. He expressed appreciation of the Government's initiative to reduce shop rentals in public estates and considered that private property developers and owners should do the same. Mr CHEUNG said that he personally would persuade HKJC to relax the criteria for granting anti-AP allowance so that private independent KGs would benefit from its donation of \$100 million. The Chairman also urged PSEM to liaise with HKJC to explore whether it was possible to relax the criteria to benefit private independent KGs as well.

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44. Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung said that EMB had responded rapidly to the problems arising from an outbreak of AP in the community. He anticipated that EMB would complete the review in May and announce the additional support and relief measures for the KG sector as soon as practicable.

45. Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung further said that it was reported that some recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) had not used the monies granted for their children to attend KG to pay tuition fee. He asked whether SWD could take out such monies from the CSSA for making direct payment to KGs concerned.

46. AD(FCW) responded that the school-related CSSA payment to parents would not be deducted because of class suspension. Under the existing practice, SWD was not able to take out monies from CSSA for making direct payment to KGs. However, he welcomed members to refer such cases to SWD so that SWD might help to advise the parents to pay the fees.

47. Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung asked whether the "one-school one-doctor" scheme would be implemented in KG sector before class resumption.

48. PSEM replied that the "one-school one-doctor" scheme was originally initiated by private medical practitioners in Tai Po. Under the co-ordination of Dr Hon LO Wing-lok, the Hong Kong Medical Association and the Hong Kong Doctors Union, medical practitioners in the private sector were encouraged to provide advisory services to schools on a voluntary basis. EMB would upload a name list of these practitioners onto the Internet for public access and schools were encouraged to liaise with them for provision of free advisory services. Responding to Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung's further question, PSEM said that both non-profit-making and private independent KGs would be welcome to contact these volunteers for the necessary arrangements.

49. The Chairman requested PSEM to co-ordinate the provision of free medical advisory services to schools and KGs. He stressed that such arrangements would enhance parents' confidence in sending their children to schools and KGs after class resumption.

50. Mr WONG Sing-chi said that it was unfair to blame parents for not paying the tuition fee during the period of class suspension. He considered it unfair to require parents who had to give extra efforts to take care of their children during that period to pay for a service which had not been delivered to their children.

51. Mr WONG Sing-chi considered that the Government had not reacted to the problems readily arising from an outbreak of AP. He urged EMB to plan the appropriate measures to assist KGs and CCCs in student enrolment for the new term. He pointed out that KGs should use their surplus or profits to

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improve service and facilities to promote student enrolment in the new term. If a KG or CCC had used up its surplus or profit to sustain operation after resumption of class, it would be in a disadvantaged position to compete with others in attraction of student enrolment for the new term. Mr WONG therefore urged the Administration to maintain close communications with the KG sector on provision of support and relief measures to KGs/CCCs for the new term.

52. PSEM responded that EMB had consulted and would continue to maintain close liaison with the KG sector for provision of necessary and feasible support and relief measures during and after class suspension. EMB would arrange staff of DH to conduct seminars for schools and KGs upon request. She added that apart from distributing the "Prevention of AP" leaflet to schools, KGs and parents, EMB had uploaded all administrative circular, memoranda and guidelines onto EMB's webpage and set up eight hotlines to answer the inquiries of schools and parents. In addition, EMB had published a reminder for parents and publicized widely through radio, television and newspaper in order to disseminate information to parents and students through various channels. She invited stakeholders to access to the EMB webpage on the Internet for the latest information and experiences about combating AP in schools and KGs.

53. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that it was important to provide timely assistance to KGs which were suffering from financial difficulties to continue operation. He requested the Administration to consider the views of members and the suggestions expressed at the meeting.

Adm

II. Any other business

54. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:35 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
30 July 2003