

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. FC35/04-05
(These minutes have been seen
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Ref : CB1/F/1/2

Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 4th meeting
held at the Legislative Council Chamber
on Friday, 14 January 2005, at 2:30 pm

Members present:

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBS, JP
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon Bernard CHAN, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, BBS, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Hon TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Albert Jinghan CHENG
Hon KWONG Chi-kin
Hon TAM Heung-man

Members absent:

Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP
Hon MA Lik, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon CHIM Pui-chung

Public officers attending:

Mr Frederick MA Si-hang, JP	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Mr Alan LAI Nin, GBS, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Miss Elizabeth TSE, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1

Mr Alfred FOK	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Professor Arthur LI Kwok-cheung, GBS, JP	Secretary for Education and Manpower
Ms Rebecca PUN	Principal Assistant Secretary for Education and Manpower (Manpower Infrastructure)
Dr Edwin WONG	Chairperson, Project Yi Jin Programme Management Committee
Mr Y C CHENG , JP	Deputy Secretary for Education and Manpower

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1
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Staff in attendance:

Miss Becky YU	Chief Council Secretary (1)1
Mrs Mary TANG	Senior Council Secretary (1)2
Ms Caris CHAN	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant (1)2

Action

Item No. 1 - FCR(2004-05)35

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MADE ON 8 DECEMBER 2004**

The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

Item No. 2 - FCR(2004-05)36

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE
MADE ON 15 DECEMBER 2004**

2. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

3. As the Secretary for Education and Manpower (SEM) had not yet arrived, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:33 pm. The meeting was resumed at 2:35 pm upon the arrival of SEM.

Item No. 3 - FCR(2004-05)37

**HEAD 156 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : EDUCATION AND
MANPOWER BUREAU**

♦ Subhead 700 General non-recurrent

Item 027 Project Yi Jin

4. The Chairman informed members that the Panel on Manpower was consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 16 December 2004.

5. Mr LAU Chin-shek, Chairman of the Panel on Manpower, said that the Panel generally supported the proposal, but had highlighted a number of issues which needed to be addressed. Members considered that the course fee for Project Yi Jin (PYJ) should be further reduced, and that the elements of PYJ should be incorporated into the curriculum of senior secondary schools in future. There was also concern among Panel members about the future position of PYJ following the implementation of the proposed reform of the academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education.

6. Dr YEUNG Sum said that Members of the Democratic Party (DP) were in support of the proposal as PYJ provided an alternative education pathway and expanded the continuing education opportunities for low achievers in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE). Members of DP however were concerned about the way forward for PYJ given the proposed development of a new senior secondary and higher education academic structure. In reply, SEM said that PYJ had proven successful and was now, under a pilot scheme, open to Form 5 students without having to obtain unsatisfactory results from the HKCEE first. The long-term future of PYJ would be reviewed taking into account the outcome of the current public consultation on the proposed reform of the academic structure which would expire on 19 January 2005. Since the reform of the academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education would not be implemented before 2008, PYJ would continue to run for at least three more academic years in view of its success in providing a practical alternative pathway for continuing education for those not suitable for pursuing the traditional academic curriculum in secondary schools.

7. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

Item No. 4 - FCR(2004-05)38

**Head 156 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : EDUCATION AND
MANPOWER BUREAU**

♦ Subhead 700 General non-recurrent

Item 346 Grant to an Early Retirement Ex-gratia Payment Fund

8. The Chairman informed members that the Panel on Education was consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 13 December 2004.

9. Dr YEUNG Sum, Chairman of the Panel on Education, said that the Panel generally supported the proposal which would help ease the problem of surplus teachers and create more employment opportunities for fresh graduates. Some Panel members however had reservation on the proposed relaxation of eligibility criteria to allow schools without class reduction and teachers who would retire in a few years' time to join the Scheme even though the proposal would not incur additional financial implications for the Government.

10. Mrs Selina CHOW said that Members of the Liberal Party (LP) were concerned that the proposed relaxation would encourage good teachers to leave the teaching force earlier. As such, LP Members would only support the proposal if the Administration could ensure that schools would endeavour to retain the services of good teachers. SEM explained that applications under the Early Retirement Scheme would have to be supported by school principals/School Management Committees. He assured members that where there was a need to retain the service of a particular teacher, the school authority concerned would not support his/her application for early retirement.

11. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

12. The Chairman reminded members that the next meeting of the Finance Committee would be held on Friday, 4 February 2005, at 2:30 pm.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.