

立法會
Legislative Council

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(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

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**Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs**

**Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 22 June 2007, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
- Members absent** : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
- Public Officers attending** : Item II

Mrs Fanny LAM FAN Kit-fong
Principal Assistant Secretary (School Administration
and Support), Education and Manpower Bureau

Mrs Florence AU WONG Wai-yin
Senior Education Officer (Special Education Support 1),
Education and Manpower Bureau

Mrs Mary MA LO To-wan
Commissioner for Rehabilitation, Health, Welfare and
Food Bureau

Mr SIT Tung
Assistant Director (Rehabilitation and Medical Social
Services), Social Welfare Department

**Attendance by
invitation** : Item II

The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally
Handicapped

Ms CHEUNG Yee-man
Chairman

Ms NG Suk-kuen
Executive Member

The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped
Children

Ms YU Tung-mui
Executive Member

Ms CHEUNG Kwok-chun
Executive Member

The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped
Children - Special Education Group

Ms YEUNG Ka-ling
Group Convener

Hong Kong Association for Parents of Persons with
Physical Disabilities

Miss TAM Yuk-fung
Secretary

Miss HO Bo-ching
Executive Member

**Clerk in
attendance** : Miss Odelia LEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (2)6

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

Miss Carmen HO
Legislative Assistant (2)6

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes

[LC Paper No. CB(2)2191/06-07]

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2007 were confirmed.

II. Boarding services for students with special educational needs

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2190/06-07(01), CB(2)2164/06-07(01) and CB(2)1214/06-07(01)]

2. The Subcommittee deliberated (proceedings of meeting at **Annex**).

Views of deputations

3. The Subcommittee received four deputations to present their views on the provision of boarding services for students with special educational needs (SEN). The major views are summarized as follows -

Boarding services in special schools

- (a) Students with SEN could learn the skills necessary for independent living and develop social relationships with peers in boarding sections of special schools.
- (b) The Administration should review the provision of boarding services in special schools in the light of the geographical distribution of students with SEN, with a view to increasing the provision of seven-day boarding services to meet the increasing demand.

Respite boarding services

- (c) The best approach to address the need for respite service for students with SEN under the age of 15 was to accommodate them in the boarding sections of the special schools they attended as they would be familiar with both the environment and the staff.

Action

- (d) The Administration should collaborate with special schools and non-governmental organizations to set up a boarding section in the vicinity of each special school to accommodate students with SEN in need of urgent or temporary respite service.
- (e) If respite service were to be provided by residential homes operated by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the relevant bureaux should examine how the facilities in these homes could be improved and modified to suit the needs of persons with disabilities below the age of 15. In the meantime, the respite places in these homes should be increased to meet the increasing demand, in particular during consecutive public holidays.

Views of members

4. Members noted the letter from the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) to the Subcommittee's Chairman concerning the provision of respite service for students with SEN under the age of 15. As the responsibility for providing residential respite service would fall within the policy portfolio of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB), members urged HWFB to explore jointly with the Education and Manpower Bureau the feasible options for filling the existing service gap as soon as practicable. The stakeholders should be involved in the process in order to work out the best arrangements for providing the residential respite service which should be student-oriented. Members made the following suggestions: -

- (a) the Administration should explore how the existing 84 residential homes operated by SWD could be best utilized to provide the respite service for students with SEN under the age of 15, subject to the necessary improvement works. The possibility of linking the residential homes with the special schools located in the same district for the provision of respite service should be considered;
- (b) the Administration should establish a channel for regular communication with stakeholders concerning special education services including the provision of boarding services for students with SEN; and
- (c) notwithstanding the Administration's decision to charge HWFB with the responsibility to provide residential respite service, special schools with a boarding section should continue to provide respite service with their unfilled boarding places for their students on a voluntary and self-financing basis.

Action

Follow-up

5. Members requested and the Administration agreed to report on the development of the provision of residential respite service at the beginning of the next legislative session. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should write to request the relevant bureau(x) to expedite the reprovisioning of Pui Oi School with the primary, secondary and boarding sections in Area 16 of Tuen Mun.

III. Any other business

Date of next meeting

6. Members agreed to follow up on the subject of the provision of employment opportunities for students with SEN at the next meeting scheduled for Friday, 6 July 2007.

7. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:33 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
5 July 2007

**Proceedings of the meeting of
Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs
on Friday, 22 June 2007, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker	Subjects	Action required
000000 - 000510	Chairman	Confirmation of minutes	
000511 - 001218	Chairman	Summary of the issues to be discussed and the reply from Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) concerning the provision of respite service for students with SEN under the age of 15.	
001219 - 001738	The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally Handicapped	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2267/06-07(01)]	
001739 - 002348	Hong Kong Association for Parents of Persons with Physical Disabilities	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2267/06-07(03)]	
002349 - 002824	The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped Children - Special Education Group	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2267/06-07(02)]	
002825 - 003313	Chairman Admin	<p>PAS(SAS)'s response to the views and suggestions of deputations, highlighting that the objective of providing boarding service in special schools was to cater for the long-term boarding needs of students with severe disabilities. The provision of respite service in some special schools was just a contingency measure, making use of the casual vacancies to cater for the urgent needs of students with SEN on a voluntary and self-financing basis.</p> <p>C for R's and AD(R&MSS)'s response that the HWFB and SWD would follow up the advice of CS to examine the possibility of enhancing or extending the existing services to help fill in the service gap with existing resources and consult parents in the process. At present, some of the 84 residential homes under SWD provided a few respite places for persons with disabilities aged 15 or above.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subjects	Action required
003314 - 004239	Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Chairman Admin	Mr CHEUNG's view that HWFB and SWD should explore the feasible options for providing respite service for students with SEN under the age of 15 at the existing 84 residential homes. C for R's response that HWFB would need time to examine the feasible options.	
004240 - 005049	Chairman Admin	Chairman's request for a timetable for making the necessary arrangements for the provision of respite service at existing residential homes and examining whether the special schools with a boarding section could provide as far as practicable respite service for their students with urgent or temporary needs. PAS(SAS)'s response that EMB had no objection to special schools to continue to make use of unfilled boarding vacancies to cater for the short-term respite care on a voluntary and self-financing basis.	
005050 - 005552	Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong	Mr CHEUNG's views that special schools should continue the existing provision of respite service for their students with SEN. His suggestion that special schools and residential homes located in the same district might consider establishing a link in the provision of such service.	
005553 - 005909	Hong Kong Association for Parents of Persons with Physical Disabilities	Ms TAM's concern about the availability of places in residential homes for the provision of respite service for students under the age of 15; and the necessary procedures for admission to these residential homes. Her suggestion to conduct an opinion survey on views of parents on respite service.	
005910 - 010809	Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Chairman Hong Kong Association for Parents of Persons with Physical Disabilities	Mr CHEUNG's views that parents should indicate their needs during the consultation process; and HWFB should explore all possible options with the existing resources. Where necessary, additional resources should be sought. Chairman's concurrence that HWFB should not only explore the feasible options with the existing resources. Additional resources should be sought if needed. Miss HO's view that parents of students with SEN would most prefer the provision of respite service by special schools with a boarding section.	

Time marker	Speaker	Subjects	Action required
010810 - 011019	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong	Chairman's request for HWFB and SWD to arrange meetings with stakeholders in the near future to explore the feasible options and report the outcome of discussions to the Subcommittee in October 2007.	See para 4 of the minutes
011020 - 011244	The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped Children	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2267/06-07(02)]	
011245 - 011828	Admin Chairman	<p>PAS(SAS)'s briefing on the latest developments of the two 60-place boarding sections in Tai Po and Tuen Mun. She highlighted the need for strong justifications for the reprovisioning of the existing Pui Oi School which had been in operation for only 10 years, and the deferred completion of the whole school with three sections at one site for two years.</p> <p>Chairman's request to expedite the reprovisioning of Pui Oi School with a boarding section. PAS(SAS)'s explanation that there was full understanding among parties concerned that the project would have to start afresh and hence a deferment of two years. The project would entail the necessary design, tendering and funding approval procedures.</p>	
011829 - 012254	Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Admin Chairman	Mr CHEUNG's view on the need for the Admin to follow the necessary procedures for capital work projects.	
012255 - 012758	The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped Children Admin Chairman	<p>Deputations' concern about the enrolment of students with physical disability (PD students) in excess of the capacity of Pui Oi School.</p> <p>PAS(SAS)'s and SEO(SES)'s response that EMB would look into the case and work out the necessary arrangements if there was a demand for more places.</p>	
012759 - 013141	Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Chairman	Mr CHEUNG's view that the Subcommittee should discuss policy issues and not the operational details of individual schools.	
013142 - 014455	Mrs Selina CHOW Admin Chairman The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped	Mrs CHOW agreed with Mr CHEUNG. Her view that EMB should follow up the deputations' concern and work out the transitional arrangements to facilitate student enrolment in Pui Oi School.	

Time marker	Speaker	Subjects	Action required
		<p>Mrs CHOW's suggestions that a channel for regular communication between the Admin and parents should be established; and that the Subcommittee should write to the Admin to request for expedition of the reprovisioning of Pui Oi school with a boarding section.</p> <p>PAS(SAS)'s response that regular forums were already in place for communication with parents on general issues on special education services. For matters relating to their children at the school level, it was more appropriate for parents to approach schools first. Where necessary, they could seek assistance from EMB.</p>	See para 4 and 5 of the minutes
014456 - 014716	Ms CHAN Yuen-han	Miss CHAN's support for the Subcommittee to request the relevant bureaux to expedite the reprovisioning of Pui Oi school with a boarding section.	
014717 - 014846	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong	Date of next meeting and item for discussion.	See para 5 and 6 of the minutes