

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)167/05-06
(The minutes has been cleared
with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 13 October 2005 at 12:10 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Dr Hon YEUNG Sum (Chairman)
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon MA Lik, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
- Members absent** : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
- Clerk in attendance** : Miss Flora TAI
Chief Council Secretary (2)2
- Staff in attendance** : Mrs Justina LAM
Assistant Secretary General 2
- Ms Joanne MAK
Senior Council Secretary (2)2
- Mr Stanley MA
Senior Council Secretary (2)6

Miss Sherman WOO
Legislative Assistant (2)2

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I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

[Appendices III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)8/05-06]

Election of Chairman

Dr YEUNG Sum, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2005-06 session.

2. Dr YEUNG Sum was nominated by Mr Andrew LEUNG and the nomination was seconded by Mr MA Lik. Dr YEUNG Sum accepted the nomination. As Dr YEUNG Sum was nominated for the office, Ms Audrey EU, the incumbent Deputy Chairman, presided at the election. There being no other nomination, Ms Audrey EU declared that Dr YEUNG Sum was elected as Chairman of the Panel for the 2005–06 session. Dr YEUNG Sum then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2005-06 session.

4. Ms Audrey EU was nominated by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong and the nomination was seconded by Ms Emily LAU. Ms Audrey EU accepted the nomination. There being no other nomination, the Chairman declared that Ms Audrey EU was elected as Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2005–06 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2005-2006 session

5. Members agreed to hold regular meetings of the Panel on the second Monday of each month from November 2005 to July 2006 at 4:30 pm.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)8/05-06]

Special meeting on Monday, 24 October 2005

6. Members agreed to hold a special meeting on 24 October 2005 at 8:30 am to discuss the following –

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- (a) Native-speaking English Teachers Scheme; and
- (b) review of School Building Programme.

7. The Chairman said that it had been suggested that the Panel should conduct a duty visit to study the Shanghai's experience in implementing small class teaching (SCT). Responding to Mr MA Lik on the reasons for proposing to visit Shanghai and not other places, the Chairman explained that the Hong Kong Institute of Education had conducted case studies on the implementation of SCT in Shanghai, and found that SCT had improved the quality of school education there. Ms Audrey EU added that under the pilot study on SCT conducted by the Education and Manpower Bureau, teachers of the participating schools had attended experience-sharing seminars with front-line educators from Shanghai. Furthermore, a study tour to Shanghai to visit exemplary schools practising SCT was also organised for these teachers.

8. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong pointed out that SCT was progressively implemented from Primary One in 1996 to Secondary Four in 2005. He considered that Hong Kong and Shanghai shared a similar background for implementing SCT, i.e., decline in student population, small family size, the limited resources available, etc. He added that it would be beneficial for members to study the experience of Shanghai in implementing SCT in the past nine years.

9. Members agreed that the Panel would also discuss the proposal at its next meeting on 24 October 2005.

Regular meeting on 14 November 2005

10. Members agreed to discuss the item proposed by the Administration, i.e. grant to support the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority in the development and updating of its information technology infrastructure, establishment of scanning facilities and online marking centres, and the automation of examination operations.

Items for discussion at future meetings

Future development of the textbook industry

11. Mrs Selina CHOW said that arising from the preliminary proposals put forward by the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau on various copyright-related issues, some textbook publishers had expressed grave concern about the proposed exemption of non-profit-making educational establishments and educational establishments subvented by Government from the proposed criminal liability for copying and distribution of copyright infringing printed works. It was considered that the proposed exemption would have a devastating

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impact on the development of the textbook industry, and the supply and prices of textbooks would be affected in the long term. Mrs CHOW suggested that the Panel should follow up the issue and receive views from the industry.

12. The Chairman pointed out that according to the publishers' representatives whom he had met, infringement on a significant scale by non-profit making educational establishments could virtually destroy the potential market for copyright works and such infringing acts should be criminalised. He added that the Panel on Commerce and Industry had been following up the various copyright-related issues during the last session.

13. Ms Emily LAU said that while she agreed that the Panel should receive views from deputations on the issue, members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry should also participate in the discussion. Ms Audrey EU suggested that the Panel should meet with deputations from various sectors which might have different perspectives on the issue, including the Consumer Council which conducted annual surveys on textbook prices. She also suggested that the Clerk should prepare a background paper to facilitate future discussion.

Clerk

14. Members agreed that the issue would be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion of the Panel. Members also agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the Clerk to the Panel on Commerce and Industry on the appropriate meeting arrangements.

*Quality and subsidisation of sub-degree programmes, and
Reduction of classes in and merger of secondary schools*

15. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong suggested that the Panel should discuss the issue of the quality and subsidisation of sub-degree programmes with the relevant stakeholders, including education providers, at a future meeting. He also suggested that the Panel should discuss the reduction of classes in and merger of secondary schools. Members agreed that the two issues should be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion.

Provision of school places for children of expatriates in Hong Kong

16. Ms Audrey EU said that some business associations had expressed concern that there might be insufficient places in international schools for children of expatriates working in Hong Kong. She suggested that the Panel should discuss the supply and demand of school places in international schools. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that some international schools had enrolled a large proportion of local students and it might affect the provision of school places for children of expatriates working in Hong Kong. Mr Patrick LAU considered that the crux of the issue was that the teaching and learning environment in international schools were in general more attractive to parents.

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17. Mrs Selina CHOW pointed out that parents were inclined to send their children to study in international schools which provided a better English learning environment. Similarly, expatriates residing in Hong Kong were most concerned about the provision of quality education for their children. She considered that the provision of sufficient places in international schools could help attract and retain more overseas talents to stay and work in Hong Kong. At the suggestion of Mrs CHOW and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong, members agreed that the Administration should be requested to provide an information paper on the provision of places in international schools for children of expatriates, including statistics on the enrolment of local and non-local students in these schools.

Clerk

Arts and cultural studies in school education

18. Mrs Selina CHOW said that the Government had pledged to enrich Hong Kong's quality of life through a variety of policies and programmes, among which education ranked the highest. She suggested that the Panel should discuss the provision of arts and cultural studies in school curriculum. Members agreed to put the item on the list of outstanding items for discussion.

IV. Any other business

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

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
27 October 2005