

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 9 November 2006)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Gifted education

Item proposed by Mr Jasper TSANG at the meeting on 8 May 2006. Mr TSANG is concerned about the provision of education for gifted children in school.

16.11.06

At the meeting on 12 October 2006, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong proposed to discuss the subject, which is one of the new education initiatives in the 2006-2007 Policy Agenda.

The Administration would brief members on the establishment of the Academy for Gifted Education at the meeting.

2. School Development and Accountability (SDA)

The Panel discussed the progress of implementation of the school development and accountability framework at its meeting on 13 December 2004, with emphasis on the implementation of school self-evaluation and the external school review processes. Members agreed to revisit the issue and meet deputations at a future meeting.

To be confirmed

The Administration had proposed to report on the progress of SDA implementation at the meeting on 10 July 2006. At the meeting on 12 June 2006, members agreed to defer discussion of the item to the new session. The Administration undertook to revert to the Panel at a future meeting.

3. Use of Language Fund – proposals to strengthen support in language education at pre-primary and primary levels

At the meeting on 9 May 2005, members requested the Administration to review the allocation for the professional development of pre-primary teachers and keep members informed of the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research's (SCOLAR's) final decision on the issue. Members also requested the Administration to arrange the Chairman of the SCOLAR to brief the Panel on the progress of its implementation at a future meeting. The Administration agreed to revert to the Panel later.

To be confirmed

4. Review on governance structure of University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions and their grievances and complaints mechanisms

At the meeting on 9 May 2005, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong suggested that the Panel should follow up discussion on the governance structure of UGC-funded institutions and their internal grievances and complaint mechanisms. He also suggested that deputations should be invited to present views at the meeting. At the meeting on 10 April 2006, Dr Fernando CHEUNG raised the same suggestion again. To be confirmed

5. Remuneration systems in UGC-funded institutions after deregulation of university salaries

The Panel had a follow-up discussion on this matter on 26 January 2006 at which views and concerns of deputations were received. The Administration will consider the members' views and revert to the Panel at a future meeting. To be confirmed

6. Future development of the textbook industry and development of talents for textbook writing

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Members noted that arising from the Administration's proposals on various copyright-related issues, the textbook industry had expressed grave concern about the impact of the proposed exemption of non-profit-making educational establishments and educational establishment subvented by Government from the proposed criminal liability for copying and distribution of copyright infringing printed works on the future development of the textbook industry. Members agreed to receive views from the industry and other sectors which might have different perspectives on the issue, including the Consumer Council which conducted annual surveys on textbook prices. Members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry will be invited to join the discussion of this item. To be confirmed

At the meeting on 12 October 2006, Mrs Selina CHOW proposed and members agreed to discuss the development of talents for textbook writing.

7. Arts and cultural studies in school education

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Mrs CHOW considered that the Panel should discuss the curriculum for arts and cultural studies in schools in the light of the Government's policy commitment to enrich the quality of life in Hong Kong. To be confirmed

8. Workload of teachers

Item proposed by Ms Audrey EU at the meeting on 12 December 2005. Ms EU expressed concern about the long working hours and heavy workload of teachers in schools. Members agreed to discuss the item at a future meeting. To be confirmed

9. Appointment of government school teachers on permanent terms under the new civil service entrance system

Item proposed by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung. Mr LEUNG is concerned that some serving teachers in government school are unable to convert to permanent terms upon completion of a six-year contract. To be confirmed

10. Implementation of research projects funded by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB)

Item proposed by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung. Mr LEUNG is concerned about the allegation made by the University Education Concern Group that EMB had unduly influenced the work of academics in the conduct of research projects funded by EMB by way of the bidding mechanism. Members agreed to discuss the issue at a future meeting. To be confirmed

11. An alternative Chinese Language curriculum for non-Chinese speaking students

Item referred by Duty Roster Members (DRMs) for follow-up after their interview with the Hong Kong Unison (the deputation) on 5 September 2006. DRMs also suggested that the Panel should arrange a visit to schools designated for admitting non-Chinese speaking students. A summary of the views of the deputation and the Administration's response and related papers were issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)3101/05-06(01) on 27 September 2006. To be confirmed

12. Hostel places for non-local students

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Item proposed by Mr Patrick LAU at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mr LAU is concerned about the provision of hostel places for non-local students to facilitate development of Hong Kong into a regional education hub. To be confirmed

13. Articulation and employment opportunities for sub-degree holders

Item proposed by Mr Patrick LAU at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mr LAU is concerned about articulation and employment opportunities for sub-degree holders. To be confirmed

14. Use of information technology in education

Item proposed by Mr SIN Chung-kai at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mr SIN is concerned about the next strategy for the use of information technology in education in 2007 and onwards.. To be confirmed

15. Remuneration for school clerks and janitors

Item proposed by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mr LEE is concerned that since the inclusion of salaries and allowances for clerks and janitors in aided schools under the Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG) in 2000, the salaries and allowances of clerks and janitors in some aided schools have not been increased in line with the inflation and OEBG adjustments. To be confirmed

16. Use of vacated school premises

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mrs CHOW is concerned about the overall plan for the use of vacated school premises. To be confirmed