

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)119/09-10
(The minutes have been cleared
with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 15 October 2009, at 12:10 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Chairman)
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
- Members absent** : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon WONG Yuk-man
- Clerk in attendance** : Miss Odelia LEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (2)6

Staff in attendance : Ms Judy TING
Senior Council Secretary (2)8 (Acting)

Miss Jenny LEE
Legislative Assistant (2)6 (Acting)

Miss Monique TSEUNG
Clerical Assistant (2)2

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I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman
[Appendices III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)2/09-10]

Election of Chairman

Ms Cyd HO, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2009-2010 session.

2. Ms Cyd HO was nominated by Ms Audrey EU and the nomination was seconded by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Mr TAM Yiu-chung, Professor Patrick LAU, and Dr Priscilla LEUNG. Ms Cyd HO accepted the nomination. As Ms Cyd HO was nominated for the office, Dr Priscilla LEUNG, the incumbent Deputy Chairman, presided the election.

3. As there was no other nomination, Dr Priscilla LEUNG declared Ms Cyd HO elected as Chairman of the Panel for the 2009-2010 session. Ms Cyd HO then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2009-2010 session.

5. Dr Priscilla LEUNG was nominated by Professor Patrick LAU and the nomination was seconded by Mr TAM Yiu-chung, Ms Starry LEE and Dr Samson TAM. Dr Priscilla LEUNG accepted the nomination.

6. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Dr Priscilla LEUNG elected as Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2009-2010 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2009-2010 session

7. Members agreed to hold the regular meetings of the Panel on the second Monday of each month at 4:30 pm, except for March 2010 as some members had

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to attend the annual meetings of the National People's Congress and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference to be held in the first two weeks of March. The Chairman said that members would be advised later of the date of the regular meeting in March 2010.

(Post meeting note: the regular meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 18 March 2010, at 4:30 pm.)

III. Items for discussion at next meeting

[Appendix V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)2/09-10]

8. The Chairman reminded members that the Secretary for Education (SED) would brief the Panel on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2009-2010 in respect of the portfolio of education at the special meeting on Tuesday, 20 October 2009, at 10:30 am.

Items for discussion at the next meeting

9. Referring to the "List of outstanding items for discussion", the Chairman said that the subject of Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme proposed by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong had been included therein. She invited members' views on the items for discussion at the next regular meeting.

10. After discussions, members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for 9 November 2009 -

- (a) capital works project of the University Grants Committee-funded institutions – an integrated teaching building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong;
- (b) The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Amendment) Bill 2009; and
- (c) Statutes of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Statutes 2009.

Items for discussion at future meetings

Trial scheme on school drug testing in Tai Po

11. The Chairman informed members that at the meeting of the Panel on Security held in the morning, it was agreed that the Panel on Security and the Panel on Education should convene a joint meeting in November 2009 to discuss issues relating to youth drug abuse including the trial scheme on school drug testing in Tai Po, and then decide how the subject should be followed up,

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including whether a subcommittee under the two Panels should be set up.

12. Dr Priscilla LEUNG considered that the Panel should also follow up the development of rehabilitation centre-cum-schools for youth drug abusers. She noted that a number of organizations had applied for operating rehabilitation centre-cum-schools.

Review of Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme

13. Ms Starry LEE suggested that as a number of issues relating to the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme remained to be solved, the Panel should continue to monitor the Scheme.

Reduction of textbook prices and review of School Textbook Assistance Scheme

14. Ms Starry LEE also proposed to follow up the reduction of textbook prices as well as the development of e-textbooks.

15. Miss Tanya CHAN shared the view that the subject of reduction of textbook prices should be discussed as soon as practicable.

16. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan considered it important to discuss the provision of internet access service fee under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme. The Chairman agreed that the subject should be discussed as early as practicable since payments of school textbook assistance was released in November or December every year.

17. Ms Audrey EU shared the view that internet access service fee should be provided to needy students as soon as practicable, and requested the Chairman to relay to the Administration of members' wish to discuss the issue at the special meeting on 20 October 2009.

Education services proposed by the Task Force on Economic Challenges (TFEC) and development of private universities

18. Miss Tanya CHAN suggested discussion on education services proposed by TFEC in December 2009.

19. Professor Patrick LAU was concerned about the development of private universities, in particular the number of places to be provided, and suggested early discussion on the subject. He also proposed discussion on training of personnel for the six industries proposed by TFEC.

Liberal Studies

20. Mrs Regina IP said that the Panel should follow up issues relating to

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Liberal Studies. She pointed out that the Complaints Division of the Legislative Council had recently received complaints about the subject of Chinese History under the New Senior Secondary curriculum.

International schools

21. Mr Abraham SHEK raised concern about student enrolment in international schools built on land granted by the Government. He said that students admitted to international schools had to purchase debentures, only children from well-off families could attend such schools. He suggested that the Administration should be requested to provide written information on the policy concerning the proper use of public resources allocated to international schools.

22. The Chairman said that some international schools offered scholarships to needy students but some did not. Ms Audrey EU supported the request for written information from the Administration in this regard.

School leaving arrangements for students studying in schools for children with intellectual disability

23. Ms Audrey EU said that the Panel should follow up the school leaving arrangements for students studying in schools for children with intellectual disability (ID).

24. Mr Abraham SHEK shared the view, and said that the conditions in day activity centres and sheltered workshops were so poor that ID students were reluctant to leave schools to transit to these centres and workshops.

25. The Chairman said that she had raised the issue of education for students with special educational needs (SEN) at her meeting with the Chief Executive concerning the Policy Address 2009-2010. She was concerned that the Administration had approached the issue from welfare services angle instead of education. To better understand the conditions of special schools, the Chairman proposed a visit to such schools and sheltered workshops and/or day activity centres. Members agreed.

Arts education in schools

26. Miss Tanya CHAN considered it important to discuss arts education as it would help develop the creativity of students. She opined that the Administration had attached little importance to the matter. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that the Panel should first discuss the provision of arts education in schools. Subject to the outcome of discussion, the Panel might consider holding a joint meeting with the Panel on Home Affairs.

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IV. Any other business

27. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:30 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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