

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)145/10-11
(The minutes have been cleared
with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 14 October 2010, at 12:10 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP (Chairman)
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
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 WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon WONG Yuk-man
- Members absent** : Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
- Clerk in attendance** : Miss Odelia LEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (2)6

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Staff in attendance : Ms Judy TING
Senior Council Secretary (2)7 (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)11/10-11]

Election of Chairman

Ms Cyd HO, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2010-2011 session.

2. Ms Starry LEE was nominated by Mr TAM Yiu-chung and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, Mr Andrew LEUNG and Mr Paul CHAN. Ms Starry LEE accepted the nomination.

3. As there was no other nomination, Ms Cyd HO declared Ms Starry LEE elected as the Chairman of the Panel for the 2010-2011 session. Ms LEE then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2010-2011 session.

5. Ms Cyd HO was nominated by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong, Dr LAM Tai-fai and Miss Tanya CHAN. Ms Cyd HO accepted the nomination.

6. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Ms Cyd HO elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2010-2011 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2010-2011 session

7. Members agreed to hold the regular meetings of the Panel on the second Monday of each month at 4:30 pm.

8. Members noted the schedule of regular meetings for the 2010-2011 session tabled at the meeting.

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III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)11/10-11]

9. The Chairman reminded members that the Secretary for Education would brief the Panel on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2010-2011 in respect of the portfolio of education at the special meeting on Thursday, 21 October 2010, at 4:30 pm.

Items for discussion at the next meeting

10. Referring to the "List of outstanding items for discussion", the Chairman said that the Administration proposed to discuss "Grant to support the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority for continual rental of onscreen marking centre on Hong Kong Island, and for running the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination and the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination for private candidates in 2011 and 2013 respectively" at the next regular meeting scheduled for 8 November 2010.

11. The Chairman invited members' views on any other items for discussion.

Small class teaching in secondary schools

12. Referring to her letter dated 7 October 2010, Ms Audrey EU requested the Panel to discuss measures to address the declining secondary student population including the implementation of small class teaching in secondary schools. She considered it necessary for the Administration to explain the impact of the various measures it had put forward. She also proposed to invite deputations, such as heads of schools, parents, and representatives of parent teacher associations, to give views on the subject.

13. Mr Abraham SHEK supported discussion on the implementation of small class teaching in secondary schools. He opined that the Administration should not address the problem of declining student population solely from the fiscal perspective. The short-term measure to close schools would have long-term impact on the development of education in Hong Kong. The closure of schools had resulted in a large number of teachers losing their jobs. Without a stable job environment, quality students would not choose to take teacher training courses and join the teaching profession.

School Textbook Assistance Scheme

14. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan pointed out that although the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme would be increased from the next school year as announced in the 2010-2011 Policy Address, the income limit under the Adjusted Family Income mechanism for assessing the eligibility of a family for

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the Scheme had not been reviewed for more than a decade. He considered that the Panel should discuss the Scheme as soon as possible.

Trial scheme on school drug testing in Tai Po District

15. Miss Tanya CHAN proposed that since the trial scheme on school drug testing in Tai Po would be extended for one year to gain further practical experience, the Administration should update the Panel on the implementation details. She also said that the Panel might consider discussing the subject jointly with the Panel on Security.

Publicly funded first-year-first degree places

16. Noting the proposal to increase the publicly funded first-year-first-degree places to 15 000 from the 2012-2013 academic year including the progressive doubling of articulation places to 4 000 each year for sub-degree graduates, Mr WONG Kwok-hing considered it important for the Administration to provide the relevant details to the Panel.

Grievance procedures of the University Grants Committee-funded institutions

17. Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that the Panel should continue to follow up the grievance procedures of the University Grants Committee-funded institutions. Members had been striving for the improvement of the grievance procedures for more than a decade.

Arts education in schools

18. Dr Priscilla LEUNG was concerned about the adequacy of resources for implementing arts education in primary and secondary schools. While noting that a portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund would be earmarked for the development of arts in Hong Kong, she was concerned whether the Fund covered the development of arts education in primary and secondary schools.

19. Miss Tanya CHAN said that as the subject of arts education fell within the purview of the Panel on Home Affairs, the two Panels might consider holding joint meetings.

Liberal studies

20. Ms Cyd HO recalled that in the deliberations of the subject of Liberal Studies ("LS") in the last session, members were concerned about the marking of the examination papers and had requested the Administration to provide some sample examination papers for their reference. She was concerned about the impact on students' opportunities for university education given that there was no model answer for LS and the criteria for marking LS were not transparent.

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Integrated education

21. Ms Cyd HO considered it necessary for the Panel to follow up the subject of integrated education. She said that members had along been concerned about the provision of support and resources for the implementation of integrated education in mainstream schools. She opined that without adequate support and resources to the schools and the students with special educational needs, the policy of integrated education was rhetoric. The Administration should brief the Panel on its work in this regard.

Comprehensive Student Guidance Service

22. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che proposed discussion on the Comprehensive Student Guidance Service in primary schools. He pointed out that since its implementation from the 2002-2003 academic year, divergent views had been expressed on the manning ratio of student guidance personnel. The provision and procurement of the service should also be reviewed.

Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme

23. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong pointed out that the Administration had undertaken to revert to the Panel when the report on the review of the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme ("PEVS") was available in the last quarter of 2010. He said that the Panel should discuss the subject before the release of the report, preferably in November or December 2010, and invite deputations to give views on the subject.

Provision of school places on and school net of Islands

24. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung pointed out that as the population distribution on Islands was not even, the provision of publicly-funded school places in the Islands school nets could not meet the demand of children living on Islands. Students had to travel long distance to schools in areas such as Central and Tung Chung. He considered that the Panel should discuss the subject before the finalization of the school nets in early 2011.

Graduate teacher posts

25. Mr WONG Kwok-hing was concerned that many graduate teachers were not offered graduate teacher posts in public sector schools and these teachers had all along been unfairly treated. The issue had remained unresolved for a long time. He said that the Administration should be requested to provide written information on the number of graduate teachers not taking up graduate teacher posts in public sector schools, and the measures to resolve the problem.

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Education for new arrivals and ethnic minorities

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26. Mr Abraham SHEK welcomed the enhanced services provided for new arrivals and ethnic minorities to help them integrate into the society as announced in the 2010-2011 Policy Address. In his view, the provision of education for new arrivals and ethnic minorities should be of top priority, and the Administration should be requested to provide detailed written information in this regard.

27. Having considered the urgency of the various proposed items, the Chairman suggested that apart from the item proposed by the Administration, the Panel would discuss measures including the implementation of small class teaching to address the declining secondary student population at the next regular meeting. Members agreed.

28. Members also agreed that subject to the readiness of the Administration, the subjects of PEVS and the provision of school places on and school nets of Islands would be discussed at the regular meeting in December 2010. Other proposed subjects would be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion.

IV. Any other business

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

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
27 October 2010