



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Ms Amy YU
Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms YU

Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Education “Voluntary Optimisation of Class Structure Scheme”

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Education on 11 April 2011, when Members discussed the progress of the “Voluntary Optimisation of Class Structure Scheme” (agenda item 4) and related issues, they requested the Administration to provide written information on the powers and remit of School Management Committees (SMCs) of Government schools. The relevant information is provided in the ensuing paragraphs.

Under the principle of school-based management, all Government schools have established their own SMC to manage the school and formulate the school development plans. Nevertheless, Government schools remain part of the Government and operate in accordance with the existing regulations of the Government and relevant ordinances. As such, Government schools are exempted from registration under the Education Ordinance. The SMC members of Government schools are also appointed by the Permanent Secretary for Education and required to perform their duties in accordance with the SMC constitutions. Besides, being civil servants, the SMC Chairpersons, principals and teachers are also required to perform their duties in accordance with the regulations for civil servants and be responsible to the Government.

The powers and duties of SMCs as well as the role of SMC members of Government schools are stipulated in respective Government schools' SMC constitutions. The major items are summarised as follows:

- (1) The SMC shall be responsible for ensuring that the vision and mission of the school as set by the sponsoring body is carried out.
- (2) The SMC shall ensure that fair, open and formal systems and procedures are in place for: setting school goals, monitoring and evaluating progress towards those goals; drawing up the annual budgets; planning systematically for staff development having regard to their needs; including elected teacher, parent and alumni members to the SMC; establishing effective channels of communication; ensuring the exercise of the power in accordance with the internal regulations of the Education Bureau, and with reference to the spirit and the provisions of the Education Regulations and Ordinance.
- (3) The SMC should adopt the Government's education aims, and play a proactive role in piloting or implementing policies and initiatives advocated by the Education Bureau.
- (4) The SMC shall ensure that school policies are drawn up and made known to the whole school community, and that the school development plan, annual school plan and annual report are compiled in a timely manner.
- (5) Subject to the directions given by the Permanent Secretary for Education from time to time, the SMC shall be responsible for managing the premises of the school, administering the school's finances, appointing contract staff or hiring services and carrying out other duties as necessary to ensure that the school is managed satisfactorily and that the education of pupils is promoted in a proper manner.
- (6) The SMC shall be accountable to the Permanent Secretary for Education for the performance of the school, and shall uphold the rule of law and the principles of equal opportunities and integrity in its operation.

For enquiries on the above matters, please contact Mr WONG Wing-ming of Government Schools Section, Education Bureau at 2892 6321.



(Miss P L WU)
for Secretary for Education