

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 10 February 2012)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Education on media literacy and free newspapers containing indecent content

Arising from the complaints about the indecent content of Sharp Daily by parent organizations, schools and the education sector, members agreed at the meeting on 13 October 2011 to discuss matters relating to education on media literacy. Members considered that the subject matter should be discussed jointly with members of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting ("ITB Panel"), and representatives of the relevant bureaux and law enforcement bodies responsible for monitoring obscene and indecent articles should be invited to attend the meeting to respond to members' questions.

14 February
2012

A joint meeting of the Panel on Education and the ITB Panel will be held on 14 February 2012 to discuss and listen to views from deputations on the subject of "Education on media literacy and free newspapers containing indecent content".

2. Mechanism for rechecking/remarking of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination ("HKDSEE")

At the meeting on 9 January 2012, members raised concern that the lack of objective marking standards for Liberal Studies examination papers in HKDSEE might give rise to a large number of applications for rechecking of the results of this subject. Members agreed that the Panel should discuss as soon as possible the mechanism for rechecking of HKDSEE results, including the manpower arrangement for handling the applications, the rechecking fees and the relevant procedures. Members requested that the subject be discussed in March 2012.

12 March 2012

Proposed timing
for discussion

3. Arrangements for students affected by relocation of private schools

The school sponsoring body of Lingnan Primary School and Kindergarten and Lingnan Day Nursery ("the School") had informed the parents that the School had to be relocated by January 2012 on the ground that unauthorized building works were found in its premises. At the meeting on 13 October 2011, members expressed concern about the impact of the proposed relocation on students and considered it necessary for the Panel to follow up on the Administration's mechanism for handling similar incidents with a view to minimizing any adverse impact on students.

12 March 2012

The Administration will inform members of the arrangements for students affected by the relocation of private schools and provide an update on the proposed relocation of Lingnan Primary School and Kindergarten and Lingnan Day Nursery.

4. Development of self-financing degree-awarding institutions and private universities

At the meeting on 13 October 2011, members agreed that the Panel should be briefed on the policy and progress on the development of self-financing degree-awarding institutions and private universities in Hong Kong, including the criteria for considering applications for establishing degree-awarding institutions and private universities, the granting of sites for campus development, financial arrangements, and quality assurance mechanism.

Second quarter
2012

In December 2011, the Administration informed the Panel that given the establishment of a Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education in the first quarter of 2012 to discuss strategic issues of common interest to and formulate and promote good practices for the self-financing post-secondary education sector, it would be in a better position to brief members on the latest development of the self-financing post-secondary education sector in the second quarter of 2012.

5. Issues relating to the surplus made by institutions from self-financing programmes

At the meeting on 9 January 2012, members expressed concern about the huge profits made by some post-secondary institutions from their self-financing programmes. Members considered this unfair to students, in particular those who had to borrow loans to pay for the high tuition fees. Members agreed that the Panel should discuss the issues relating to the huge surplus generated from the self-financing programmes and representatives of institutions and the University Grants Committee ("UGC") should be invited to attend the meeting.

April / May
2012

6. Revitalizing vacant school premises

Tai Po District Council members raised concern about revitalizing vacant school premises in Tai Po at its meeting with Legislative Council Members held on 3 June 2010. Members had made several suggestions concerning the effective use of vacant school premises and agreed that the subject of use of vacant school premises be referred to the Panel as well as the Panel on Home Affairs for follow up. The referral memo was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2197/09-10(01) on 24 August 2010.

To be
confirmed

In August 2011, the Administration provided an information paper to the Panel to report on the latest position on the use and disposal of vacant school premises (LC Paper No. CB(2)2494/10-11(01)). At the meeting on 13 October 2011, members agreed that the Panel should continue to follow up the matter.

7. Issues relating to the relocation of the centres of the Christian Zheng Sheng Association and development of rehabilitation centre-cum-schools

The Administration provided an information paper on the matter which was circulated to members vide LC Paper No.

To be
confirmed

CB(2)2322/09-10(01) on 30 September 2010.

At the meeting on 12 July 2010, members agreed that the Panel should discuss the matter depending on the progress of the Administration's discussion with Christian Zheng Sheng Association ("CZSA").

At the meeting on 14 February 2011, the Panel passed a motion requesting the Administration to solve in the near future the problem concerning the relocation of the drug treatment and rehabilitation centres of CZSA. In its written response to the motion which was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1413/10-11(01) on 31 March 2011, the Administration advised that the Security Bureau is taking the lead in coordinating matters relating to the relocation of the drug treatment and rehabilitation centers of CZSA. The Administration also provided in its response a brief update on the Christian Zheng Sheng College's application for operating New Senior Secondary courses at its existing school premises in Ha Keng. In late April 2011, the Administration provided further information on the latest development of the matter (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1636/10-11(01) and (02)).

8. Grievance procedures of the UGC-funded institutions

At the meeting on 12 July 2010, the UGC briefed members on the guidelines of best practices in redress mechanisms developed by the UGC having regard to the findings of the research on grievance procedures of 10 reputable overseas institutions and the responses of local institutions to these best practices. Members requested the UGC to provide updated complaint/grievance handling flow charts of individual institutions and the institutions' responses to the UGC's recommendations for the Panel to follow up.

To be
confirmed

The research report entitled "Complaint handling mechanism in higher education sector in selected places" prepared by the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat was circulated to members on 13 October 2010 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)32/10-11.

UGC provided an update of the UGC-funded institutions' response to the UGC's recommendations on the grievance/complaint handling procedures and the updated grievances/complaint handling flow charts of individual institutions which was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2407/10-11(01) on 18 July 2011.

9. Matters relating to sex education in schools and sex crime committed by teachers

The subject on sex education in schools was proposed in the 2009-2010 session. It was proposed that schools should include sex education in the curriculum so as to provide correct information on sex to students.

To be
confirmed

At the meeting on 8 November 2010, members raised concern about sex crime committed by teachers and suggested that the Panel should discuss the matter.

10. Integrated education

At the meeting on 14 October 2010, members agreed to follow up the provision of support and resources for the implementation of integrated education in mainstream schools.

To be
confirmed

At the meeting on 13 October 2011, members reiterated the need for the Panel to discuss the matter. It was also proposed that the support for non-Chinese speaking students with special educational needs be discussed in the context of integrated education.

11. Review of eligibility of the mean-tested financial assistance schemes administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency ("SFAA")

At the meeting on 9 May 2011, members raised concern about the impact of the implementation of the statutory

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

minimum wage on the eligibility of the means-test financial assistance schemes administered by the SFAA. The Administration was requested to conduct a review on the income ceiling of these schemes following the implementation of statutory minimum wage and report to the Panel.

12. Review on the subvention arrangements for the English Schools Foundation ("ESF")

At the meeting on 11 July 2011, members noted the Administration's plan to put into effect the new subvention arrangements for ESF from the 2012-2013 school year. The Administration informed the Panel that it intended to report to the Panel on its proposal on the subvention arrangements for ESF by the end of 2011.

To be
confirmed

13. Issues relating to the declining secondary student population

At the meeting on 12 December 2011, members raised concern about whether there would be significant reduction in the number of classes and closure of secondary schools in the 2012-2013 academic year given the declining secondary student population. Members suggested that the Panel should discuss the relevant issues.

To be
confirmed