

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 9 December 2011)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Proposed creation of one supernumerary Principal Education Officer post in the Education Bureau

Item proposed by the Administration. The item seeks members' views on the Administration's proposal to create one supernumerary Principal Education Officer (D1) post in the School Administration and Support Branch of the Education Bureau for a period of three years (starting from the 2012-2013 financial year) to conduct reviews on and oversee the implementation of enhanced services for students with special educational needs and non-Chinese speaking students. It is the Administration's plan to seek the view of the Establishment Subcommittee on its proposal tentatively on 15 February 2012.

9 January 2012

2. Infrastructure enhancement for Education Information System ("IT")

Item proposed by the Administration. The item seeks members' views on the proposal to enhance the IT infrastructure of the existing Education Information System into an integrated computer system. The proposed item will require a total non-recurrent expenditure of about \$157 million from the 2012-2013 financial year to the 2016-2017 financial year. It is the Administration's plan to seek funding approval of the Finance Committee tentatively on 27 April 2012.

9 January 2012

3. International schools

At the meeting on 15 October 2009, members raised concern about student enrolment in international schools built on land granted by the Government. The Administration provided an information paper on the subject which was circulated to members on 2 December 2009 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)429/09-10(01).

February 2012

Proposed timing
for discussion

The Administration advised that to facilitate monitoring of the provision of public resources to international schools, it would conduct a comprehensive survey in the international school sector and keep track of the supply and demand of international school places. The Administration will brief the Panel upon the completion of the survey in 2011.

4. Education on media literacy

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.

To be
confirmed

Members considered that the subject matter should be discussed jointly with members of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting, 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.

To facilitate the Panel's consideration of the matter, the Administration was requested to provide information on the enforcement of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (Cap. 390) ("the Ordinance") relating to the distribution of free newspapers containing indecent and obscene contents, including penalties imposed and other actions taken against free newspapers for infringing the Ordinance, and measures which have been/will be taken by the Administration to prevent exposure of young people under the age of 18 to indecent contents in free newspapers. The Administration's response has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)524/11-12(01) issued on 7 December 2011.

5. Revitalizing vacant school premises

Tai Po District Council members raised concern about revitalizing vacant school premises in Tai Po at its meeting

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

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.

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.

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

To be
confirmed

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

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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)).

7. Grievance procedures of the University Grants Committee-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.

Proposed timing
for discussion

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. Review of eligibility of the mean-tested financial assistance schemes administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency

At the meeting on 9 May 2011, members raised concern about the impact of the implementation of the statutory minimum wage on the eligibility of the means-test financial assistance schemes administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency. 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.

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

11. 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

12. 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.

To be
confirmed

13. Arrangements for students affected by school relocation

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.

To be
confirmed