

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)151/14-15
(These minutes have been cleared
with the Chairman)

Ref : CB4/PS/1/13

Panel on Education

**Subcommittee to Study the Implementation of
Free Kindergarten Education**

**Minutes of the first meeting
held on Monday, 27 October 2014, at 11:00 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP (Chairman)
Hon IP Kin-yuen (Deputy Chairman)
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
- Member absent** : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP

Clerk in attendance : Miss Polly YEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (4) 4

Staff in attendance : Mr KWONG Kam-fai
Senior Council Secretary (4) 4

Mr Ian CHOW
Council Secretary (4) 4

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (4) 4

Miss Emma LAM
Clerical Assistant (4) 3

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Election of Chairman

Mr TAM Yiu-chung, the member who had the highest precedence among members of the Subcommittee present, presided at the meeting and called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Subcommittee.

2. Ms Starry LEE was nominated by Mr Steven HO and the nomination was seconded by Mr IP Kwok-him and Mr Christopher CHUNG. Ms Starry LEE accepted the nomination. Dr Kenneth CHAN was nominated by Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and the nomination was seconded by Mr IP Kin-yuen. Dr Kenneth CHAN accepted the nomination.

3. As there was no other nomination, Mr TAM Yiu-chung announced a vote by secret ballot. After members had cast their votes, Mr TAM invited Mr Steven HO and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, who had nominated the two candidates, to monitor the counting of votes. Of the members present, nine voted for Ms Starry LEE and four voted for Dr Kenneth CHAN. Mr TAM declared Ms Starry LEE elected as Chairman of the Subcommittee. Ms Starry LEE then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. Members agreed to elect a deputy chairman for the Subcommittee. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the

Subcommittee. Mr IP Kin-yuen was nominated by Dr Kenneth CHAN and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che. Mr IP Kin-yuen accepted the nomination. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Mr IP Kin-yuen elected as Deputy Chairman of the Subcommittee.

II. Proposed Work Plan of the Subcommittee

(LC Paper No. CB(4)72/14-15(02) -- Proposed work plan prepared by the LegCo Secretariat)

Proposed subjects for study

5. The Chairman invited members to express their views on the list of major subjects which might be included in the Subcommittee's study [Appendix I of LC Paper No. CB(4)72/14-15(02)]("the List"). Noting that the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education ("the Committee") set up by the Education Bureau ("EDB") was tasked to make recommendations on the practicable implementation of free kindergarten education, the Chairman suggested that the Subcommittee should invite the Administration and the Committee to brief members on the progress of the Committee's work at its next meeting.

6. Referring to item (a) on the List, Mrs Regina IP suggested that the objectives of free kindergarten education should be included. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that in many developed countries, the budget for pre-school education accounted for nearly 1% of their gross domestic product. Dr CHAN suggested that the Administration should provide information on the allocation of resources for taking forward free kindergarten education.

7. Mr Abraham SHEK suggested that issues related to kindergarten teachers such as the provision of training should be studied by the Subcommittee.

8. Dr Helena WONG said that the Administration should brief members on details of the consultancy studies commissioned by EDB on key topics related to the implementation of free kindergarten education. She considered that where appropriate, the consultant(s) concerned should also be invited to the Subcommittee's meetings.

9. The Deputy Chairman suggested that issues related to parents' participation and research on early childhood education should be

included in the Subcommittee's study.

10. The Deputy Chairman said that according to his understanding, the Committee would wrap up its work and report to the Administration before mid 2015. He therefore considered that where practicable, the Subcommittee should forward its views to the Committee before the latter finalized its recommendations. Given the tight schedule, the Deputy Chairman said that the Subcommittee might wish to focus consideration on items (a) to (e) on the List in the coming few months, as the matters in question were of wide public concerns. He also considered that items (d) and (e) could be dealt with concurrently.

Arrangements for future meetings of the Subcommittee

11. Referring to the proposed schedule of meetings in Appendix II of LC Paper No. CB(4)72/14-15(02), the Chairman said that a two-hour meeting slot had been reserved each month from December 2014 to July 2015 for holding meetings.

12. Dr Kenneth CHAN, the Deputy Chairman and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che considered that additional meetings should be arranged for deputations to give their views on the subjects under study by the Subcommittee.

13. Noting the time-frame for the Committee to submit its report to the Administration, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che remarked that in the run-up to March 2015 when the Committee was expected to complete its work, it might be necessary for the Subcommittee to hold more than one meeting each month in order to deliberate on key issues and formulate its views for submission to the Committee in time. Dr Helena WONG said that the Subcommittee might wish to meet not less than two hours each month. Mr Tommy CHEUNG was concerned that as the Subcommittee was required to complete its work within a limited time-frame and given the wide range of subjects to be studied, it was necessary for the Subcommittee to make the most effective use of its meetings.

The way forward

14. The Chairman took note of members' views and suggestions. She said that she would work out the arrangements for the next and subsequent meetings in consultation with the Deputy Chairman and the Secretariat; and would notify members in due course. Members noted and raised no objection to the Chairman's advice.

(Post-meeting note: the next meeting of the Subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, 16 December 2014, at 2:30 pm and the agenda for the meeting was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)86/14-15 on 28 October 2014. A revised list of major subjects to be included in the Subcommittee's study was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)87/14-15(01) on 31 October 2014. A circular setting out the proposed time-slots for holding meetings from January to July 2015 was issued to members for consideration vide LC Paper No. CB(4)101/14-15 on 31 October 2014.)

II. Any other business

15. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:28 am.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 November 2014