

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(4)410/15-16  
(These minutes have been clear  
with the Chairman)

Ref : CB4/PS/1/13

**Panel on Education**

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

**Minutes of the twelfth meeting  
held on Friday, 20 November 2015, 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 Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS  
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
- Members absent** : Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Yuk-man  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
- Clerk in attendance** : Miss Polly YEUNG  
Chief Council Secretary (4)4

**Staff in attendance** : Miss Mandy NG  
Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Sandy HAU  
Legislative Assistant (4)4

---

Action

**I. The way forward for the Subcommittee**

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at Annex).

2. The Chairman drew members' attention to the latest development regarding the work of the Subcommittee since the last meeting held on 9 November 2015 –

(a) At its meeting held on 9 October 2015, the House Committee gave permission for the Subcommittee to extend its period of work for three more months (i.e. up to 26 January 2016) in the first instance, after which it would be placed on the waiting list for re-activation of work. It was likely that the Subcommittee would be able to re-activate its work in early May 2016 under the existing broad principles for activation, operation and extension of period of work of policy subcommittees and subject to no new policy subcommittee being appointed in the coming months.

(b) However, a new policy subcommittee had been appointed by the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 10 November 2015 and placed on the waiting list for activation. Given this new development, it would become unlikely that the Subcommittee would be able to re-activate its work in early May 2016 as previously envisaged. Besides, it should be noted that the 2015-2016 session was the last session of the Fifth Legislative Council after which the Council would stand prorogued.

3. In view of the changed circumstances, the Chairman remarked that the Subcommittee practically had no choice but to wrap up its work and start preparing its report for submission to the Panel on Education ("the Panel") by 26 January 2016. Thereafter, issues related to the free kindergarten education policy could be followed up by the Panel.

4. Members noted that the Subcommittee had completed its study of all the major subjects (LC paper No. CB(4) 902/14-15(01), and had held two prolonged meetings to receive views from deputations. At the

invitation of the Chairman, members expressed their views on the latest development.

5. As a member of the Legislative Council Commission, Ms Cyd HO appreciated that due to manpower constraint of the Secretariat, the maximum number of subcommittees on policy issues that might be in operation at any one time could not exceed 10. Although she found it hard to make a decision to conclude the work of the Subcommittee, she would look forward to presenting the Subcommittee's fruitful deliberations on major subjects in the report to be prepared. She further said that if necessary, Members of the Sixth Legislative Council could consider setting up a policy committee to follow up the developments in free kindergarten education.

6. Mr IP Kwok-him considered that given the latest circumstances, the Subcommittee should wrap up its work and proceed to prepare its report. Members could then discuss the draft report in due course. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen opined that the Subcommittee should articulate its views and recommendations based on the deliberations so far, and seek a response from the Administration in due course.

7. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung asked whether the Subcommittee should submit an interim report instead of a final report. As the Subcommittee would have wrapped up and finalized its report before the 2016 Policy Address, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che was concerned about feasible ways to follow up any new initiatives promulgated for the implementation of free kindergarten education. Since the Chairman was also a member of the Executive Council, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and Ms Cyd HO suggested that the Chairman should help relay members' views on 15-year free education to the Administration.

8. Noting that the work of the Subcommittee might need to come to an end, Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Dr Kenneth CHAN remarked that members would no longer be able to pursue with the Administration certain major issues, such as concrete measures, if any, to help students with special needs and non-Chinese speaking students; as well as the financial implication if free kindergarten education was to cover whole-day and long whole-day services. Dr CHAN further said that if time allowed, it would be useful for the Subcommittee to seek deputations' comments on its initial recommendations. Subject to the Chairman's view, Dr CHAN and Dr CHEUNG considered that individual members should be allowed to forward their views on major issues in writing. Ms Cyd HO also suggested that consideration should be given to appending the written views submitted by members to the report.

9. Having considered members' comments, the Chairman concluded that in the shortness of time, it would not be advisable for the Subcommittee to hold any more open meetings in the run-up to 26 January 2016. Instead, reasonable time should be allowed for the Secretariat to prepare a report for the Subcommittee on the basis of past deliberations. The Secretariat would make the best endeavour to provide a draft report by late December 2015/early January 2016. The Subcommittee would then hold closed meeting(s) to consider the draft report. The Chairman reiterated that any further developments in free kindergarten education could be followed up at the Panel.

10. Members had no objection to the aforementioned arrangements. The Chairman also directed that members could forward their views, if any, on issues studied by the Subcommittee to the Secretariat in writing. The Clerk said that a circular would be issued for this purpose.

*(Post meeting note: The circular inviting members to forward their views on issues studied by the Subcommittee on or before 10 December 2015 was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(4)254/15-16 on 23 November 2015.)*

## **II. Any other business**

11. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:25 am.

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
29 December 2015

**Proceedings of the twelfth meeting of the  
Subcommittee to Study the Implementation of  
Free Kindergarten Education  
on Friday, 20 November 2015, at 11:00 am  
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
<i>Agenda Item I –The way forward for the Subcommittee</i>			
000220 - 000456	Chairman Clerk	The Chairman sought members' views on the way forward and the arrangements of wrapping up the Subcommittee's work.	
000457 - 000555	Chairman Ms Cyd HO	Ms HO remarked that the Sixth Legislative Council might follow up the free kindergarten ("KG") education policy in future.	
000556 - 000922	Chairman Dr Fernando CHEUNG	For the purpose of the Subcommittee's report, Dr CHEUNG enquired whether members could forward their views in writing on major issues.	
000923 - 001023	Chairman Mr IP Kwok-him	Mr IP opined that the Subcommittee should proceed to prepare its report.	
001024 - 001220	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che	Mr CHEUNG was concerned about feasible ways to follow up further developments in free KG education policy.	
001221 - 001526	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	Mr LEUNG considered that the Chairman should help relay members' views on 15-year free education to the Administration.	
001527 - 001706	Chairman Mr CHAN Chi-chuen	Mr CHAN considered that the Subcommittee should put forward its recommendations and seek a response from the Administration.	
001707 - 002221	Chairman Dr Kenneth CHAN Ms Cyd HO	Dr CHAN and Ms HO suggested that the written views submitted by members should be appended to the report.	
002222 - 002622	Chairman Clerk	Summing up, the Chairman said that members had no objection to conclude the Subcommittee's work.  The Clerk informed that a circular would be issued to members about submission of written views for the report.	
<i>Agenda Item II - Any other business</i>			
002623 - 002641	Chairman	Closing remarks	