

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)751/16-17
(These minutes have been seen by
the Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 12 December 2016, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP (Chairman)
Hon IP Kin-yuen (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH

Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
 Hon Nathan LAW Kwun-chung
 Dr Hon YIU Chung-yim
 Dr Hon LAU Siu-lai

Members absent : Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
 Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP
 Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yea, GBS, JP
 Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
 Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
 Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
 Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
 Hon Alvin YEUNG
 Hon HO Kai-ming
 Hon LUK Chung-hung

Public Officers attending : Agenda item III

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP
 Under Secretary for Education

Mrs Elina CHAN
 Principal Assistant Secretary
 (Infrastructure and Research Support)
 Education Bureau

Mr CHAN Fu-man
 Principal Education Officer (Special Education)
 Education Bureau

Agenda item IV

Mr Eddie NG, SBS, JP
 Secretary for Education

Dr K K CHAN
 Deputy Secretary for Education (5)

Ms Eunice CHAN
 Assistant Secretary (Assessment & Support)
 Education Bureau

The Hong Kong Examinations and
Assessment Authority

Dr TONG Chong-sze
Secretary General

**Attendance by
invitation** : Agenda item IV

Working Group on Papers & Question Design of
the Coordinating Committee on Basic Competency
Assessment and Assessment Literacy

Dr Ambrose SM CHONG
Convenor

Coordinating Committee on Basic
Competency Assessment and Assessment Literacy

Mr SIN Kim-wai
Member

Mr Henry SC TONG
Member

**Clerk in
attendance** : Ms Angel WONG
Chief Council Secretary (4)4

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

Miss Mandy NG
Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant(4)4

Action

I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

Action**II. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

- (Appendix I to LC Paper No. CB(4)262/16-17 -- List of outstanding items for discussion
- Appendix II to LC Paper No. CB(4)262/16-17 -- List of follow-up actions)

2. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for 9 January 2017 at 4:30 pm:

- (a) the review on regulation of non-local higher and professional education courses operated in Hong Kong; and
- (b) the teaching of Chinese history as an independent subject at junior secondary level.

3. The Chairman informed members that a special meeting would be held at 9:30 am on Saturday, 7 January 2017 to discuss with the Administration and receive views from deputations on the recommendations in the Final Report of the Committee on Prevention of Student Suicides.

4. Before proceeding to the discussion items, the Chairman drew members' attention to Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure which provided that a Member shall not move any motion or amendment relating to a matter in which he had a pecuniary interest, whether direct or indirect, or speak on any such matter, except where he disclosed the nature of that interest. She reminded members to declare interests, if any, in the matter under discussion.

III. A special school for students with mild, moderate and severe intellectual disabilities in Area 108, Tung Chung

- (LC Paper No. CB(4)262/16-17(01) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

Briefing by the Administration

5. At the Chairman's invitation, the Under Secretary for Education ("US(Ed)") briefed members on the Administration's proposal to construct a new special school with boarding facilities for students with mild, moderate and severe intellectual disabilities ("ID") in Area 108 of Tung Chung to cater for students with special educational needs in the Islands District. Details of the proposal were set out in LC Paper No. CB(4)262/16-17(01). Members noted that the Administration planned to seek the endorsement and funding approval of the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and the Finance Committee ("FC") for the proposed project in January and February 2017 respectively.

Discussion*Provision of school and boarding places*

6. Dr Fernando CHEUNG supported the proposed project as there had never been a special school for children with ID in Tung Chung. He pointed out that the Education Bureau ("EDB") had proposed to build a special school in Tung Chung as early as in 2004. However, due to strong community opposition, it would have taken about 15 years from planning to completion of the school. Dr CHEUNG hoped that the Administration would learn a lesson and take measures to shorten the time for completing the planning and development procedures of future special school projects. Mr Holden CHOW and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan supported the proposed project and concurred with the need for its early construction.

7. In response, US(Ed) explained that in planning for the building of special schools, it was necessary for the Administration to take into account the educational needs as well as the views of local community. Subject to the Panel's views, the Administration would seek funding approval from FC as soon as possible.

8. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Mr CHU Hoi-dick expressed concern about the adequacy of school and boarding places provided by the proposed school to meet the demand for such places in the Islands District in the next five to ten years. Mr CHEUNG also asked how the Administration determined the number of boarding places to be provided by the proposed school.

9. US(Ed) responded that about 90 students with ID residing in Tung Chung attended special schools currently. The projected demand of school places for students with ID in 2019-2020 in the Islands District was about 170. The nearly 200 school places to be provided by the proposed school should be able to meet the demand in the coming few years. Regarding boarding places, US(Ed) advised that as no boarding service was provided for students with mild ID under the prevailing policy, it was expected that about half of the students with moderate and severe ID of this special school would be provided with boarding places.

10. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that many children with mild ID had to stay in private residential care homes in the light of their family needs because there was no boarding service for these children in schools. He urged the Administration to extend the boarding service to children with mild ID. US(Ed) advised that the Administration would take note of Dr CHEUNG's suggestion for consideration.

Action

11. The Chairman enquired whether the proposed school would admit students residing in other districts. US(Ed) advised that school/boarding places in special schools were planned on a territory-wide basis without regional constraints. The new school would also help meet the overall demand for boarding places from children from other districts. In addition, the Administration was planning to build a special school in Kowloon for students with mild and moderate ID.

12. Mr Abraham SHEK indicated support for this project and urged the Administration to consider using vacant school premises as decanting premises for the proposed school before its completion in 2019. US(Ed) clarified that students with ID residing in Tung Chung were currently attending special schools in other districts. The proposed school was a new school constructed mainly to cater for students with ID residing in different areas of the Islands District. On the suggestion of using vacant school premises, US(Ed) advised that not all vacant school premises were suitable for special school operation and there was no vacant school premises in Tung Chung under EDB. The Administration would consider converting vacant school premises to special school premises where appropriate.

Project design

13. Dr CHENG Chung-tai noted that only one of the two entrances/exits of the proposed school was barrier-free. He requested the Administration to consider providing barrier-free access to both entrances/exits. US(Ed) advised that the overall design of the project was in compliance with the statutory requirements on provision of barrier-free access and facilities. The Administration would ensure that both entrances/exits were barrier-free.

14. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok supported the construction of the proposed school. Noting that students with severe ID required high level of support, Ir Dr LO considered that additional manpower might be needed subject to the enrolment of students with severe ID and their physical conditions. In this regard, he urged the Administration to reserve spare boarding space/facilities for additional staff accommodation. US(Ed) advised that about half of the 60 boarding places was expected to be allocated to students with moderate ID and another half to those with severe ID. About 40 staff members would be recruited to take care of the 60 boarders. Manpower resources would be suitably deployed to cater for the needs of students with regard to the actual student enrolment.

15. Pointing out that there was ever increasing demand for special education in the community, the Chairman said that the Administration should reserve space for future expansion of the proposed school. Mr CHU Hoi-dick shared the Chairman's view and enquired whether flexibility might be allowed for adding more storeys to the proposed school if necessary.

Action

16. US(Ed) advised that due to operation needs, special school premises for students with severe ID or physically disabilities were usually of two to three storeys. Although the school design would not facilitate additional storeys, it allowed the flexibility of using some special rooms for other purposes if required. US(Ed) added that to optimize the use of land resources, it was not desirable to allocate a site with a larger area that exceeded the prevailing need so as to reserve space for possible extension in future.

Summing up

17. Concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the Panel supported the Administration's submission of the relevant proposal to PWSC.

IV. Latest development on the review of the Territory-wide System Assessment

(LC Paper No. CB(4)262/16-17(02) -- Paper provided by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(4)262/16-17(03) -- Background brief entitled "Issues related to the review of Territory-wide System Assessment" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat

LC Paper No. CB(4)262/16-17(04) -- Paper provided by Hon IP Kin-yuen)

18. Members noted the background brief prepared by the Secretariat and a paper provided by the Deputy Chairman [LC Paper Nos. CB(4)262/16-17(03)-(04)].

Briefing by the Administration

19. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary for Education ("SED") briefed members on the latest development on the review of the Territory-wide System Assessment ("TSA") conducted by the Coordinating Committee on Basic Competency Assessment and Assessment Literacy ("the Committee"), details of which were set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)262/16-17(02)]. SED stated that the Committee had submitted a report to EDB on 9 December 2016, which recommended extending the 2016 Tryout Study (Primary 3) ("the Tryout Study") to all primary schools in 2017, with a view to enabling more schools to understand the new initiatives of the Tryout Study through participation. The Administration would study the Committee report and decide on the arrangements for the 2017 TSA and after.

Discussion*The Tryout Study*

20. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the number of schools participating in the Tryout Study ("tryout schools") by invitation and on a voluntary basis, and questioned why the full list of tryout schools could not be disclosed. The Deputy Secretary for Education (5) ("DS(Ed)5") responded that among the 56 tryout schools, 22 were by invitation and 34 participated voluntarily.

21. Mr LAU Kwok-fan asked how the enhancement arrangements under the Tryout Study could prevent schools from imposing pressure on teachers and students. SED advised that in order to alleviate schools' concerns about the possible stakes of TSA, four types of assessment reports were made available under the Tryout Study for schools' selection to meet their needs. Professional support measures for schools were also strengthened. DS(Ed)5 advised that TSA data would no longer be used to assess school performance in the External School Review. Internal guidelines on the use of assessment data would be issued. Dr Ambrose CHONG, Convenor of the Working Group on Papers and Question Design of the Committee, supplemented that while there was a concern over school pressure induced from TSA, he, being a school principal, considered that TSA school reports enabled schools and teachers to understand students' strengths and weaknesses and make adjustments to enhance learning and teaching.

22. Although EDB indicated that no drilling was needed for the Tryout Study, the Deputy Chairman said that as he was aware, tryout and non-tryout schools had continued to drill their students in the course of the tryout.

Questionnaire survey for the Tryout Study

23. Dr CHENG Chung-tai enquired why Professor HAU Kit-tai of the Chinese University of Hong Kong ("CUHK"), who was a member of the Committee, could recently make recommendations in a survey on students' breakfast habit with reference to TSA data and whether prior parents' consent had been obtained for participating in the questionnaire survey for the Tryout Study. DS(Ed)5 explained that a questionnaire survey on students' non-academic data had been conducted in 2015. For continuous tracking studies, CUHK had been commissioned to conduct similar survey for the Tryout Study. DS(Ed)5 confirmed that a consent letter had been issued to obtain parents' consent for their participation in the survey.

24. In response to DS(Ed)5's reply, Dr YIU Chung-yim urged EDB to ensure that parents/students had been provided a choice to opt out of the questionnaire

Action

survey with reference to a case under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. Ms Tanya CHAN requested the Administration to provide a copy of the consent letter.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)683/16-17(01) on 13 March 2017.)

Communication with stakeholders

25. Noting that some parent groups called for the abolition of P3 TSA and some teachers were still gravely concerned about drilling for TSA, the Deputy Chairman and Mr Charles MOK requested the Administration and the Committee to communicate with the representatives of these parent groups and teachers to alleviate their worries.

26. DS(Ed)5 advised that tryout schools were invited to take part in a questionnaire survey, and more than 4 000 questionnaires were received from students and their parents. Mr Henry TONG, member of the Committee, advised that he had met with different parent concern groups as well as District Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations. He had reflected their respective views to the Committee. The Assistant Secretary (Assessment & Support) supplemented that the Committee had taken into account parents' views and suggestions in making its recommendations, including conducting questionnaire survey to collect views of schools and parents on homework load, and setting a framework for participation of various stakeholders in promoting assessment for learning.

27. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan noted that while parents and teachers of the tryout schools had given very positive feedback on the Tryout Study, some others still had concerns over TSA. He considered it necessary for EDB to disseminate the positive feedback to the public so as to alleviate their concerns over TSA. SED advised that video clips sharing the experience of the parents and teachers of tryout schools were available on the Internet. District Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations would soon communicate with teachers and parents to gather their views and recommendations for the development of TSA.

Assessment arrangements in 2017 and thereafter

28. Mr Claudia MO, Mr HUI Chi-fung, Mr Nathan LAW, Dr LAU Siu-lai and Dr Fernando CHEUNG considered that drilling would continue as long as TSA was conducted and hence urged for the abolition of P3 TSA. Ms MO said that although the improved TSA papers were shorter and easier, drilling for specific questions types was still required. Mr HUI said that teachers should be able to exercise their professional judgment in assessing students' competency levels through internal assessment and would not need to rely on TSA.

Action

He would call on parents and schools to boycott P3 TSA if it was not abolished. Dr LAU opined that drilling would continue if schools perceived TSA a high-stake assessment. Mr LAW opined that TSA only encouraged model answers but not critical thinking, and the existing education system should be overhauled. Dr CHEUNG considered that TSA had already deviated from its original purpose and imposed undue pressure on parents and students. A recent survey had also indicated that child abuse cases reached its climax during examination season.

29. SED responded that internal assessment could only assess performance of individual students. TSA was an assessment tool which provided useful information on students' attainment on a territory-wide basis. There were neither results of individual students nor ranking of schools in TSA. Mr SIN Kim-wai, member of the Committee, advised that teachers, parents and students of tryout schools had favourable feedback on the Tryout Study. The Committee, recommended extending the Tryout Study to all primary schools, so that more schools could understand its new initiatives. Accordingly, more comprehensive feedback to continue review and enhance the arrangements for TSA could be received. Mr Henry TONG, member of the Committee, added that 18 focus group meetings for parents of tryout schools had been arranged and over 110 parents attended. According to their feedback, the Tryout Study had not brought about drilling or pressure on students. In addition, parents agreed that the proper use of TSA reports could enhance teaching and learning.

30. Mr Michael TIEN recognized the need of an assessment tool like TSA to gauge students' attainment of basic competencies which provided data for the Government to allocate education resources. However, to avoid comparisons among schools and excessive drilling, he opined that future TSA should be conducted in alternate years on a sampling basis and with anonymity of students and schools, as the assessment practices in the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan and Korea.

31. Secretary General, Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, agreed that the assessment could be conducted on a sampling basis, and advised that the assessment in the United Kingdom was more sophisticated as data at both student and school levels were provided.

32. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan opined that any formulation/enhancement of assessment tools should be premised on the principle that no excessive drilling and undue pressure would be brought to students. SED advised that EDB objected to mechanical drillings and encouraged happy learning. Last year, guidelines were issued to schools advising them to formulate appropriate school-based homework and assessment policies, conduct yearly review and communicate with parents.

Action

33. Noting that there were diverse views among parents on whether TSA should continue, Dr YIU Chung-yim suggested that parents should be given the chance to choose whether their children would take TSA. Students who wished to participate in TSA should enrol with EDB rather than individual schools to avoid schools exerting pressure on students. Ms Tanya CHAN and Mr Charles MOK shared Dr YIU's view. Mr CHU Hoi-dick sought clarification on whether it was compulsory for all students to participate in TSA.

34. SED reiterated that TSA was an assessment tool for the benefit of students. Parents were encouraged to make reference to the experience and views of parents, principals and teachers from tryout schools. It was not a resumption of the previous TSA.

35. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that he was not aware that TSA data had served the functions of helping the Government to set directions or priorities for professional training and to strength support for teachers. Hence, he saw no reason for implementing TSA. In order to support teachers, EDB should reduce the class size, alleviate teachers' pressure and review the curriculum.

36. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung was concerned that TSA would induce comparison of students' performance. He commented that education should be provided to cater for various needs of students and promote students' interest in learning.

37. Mr CHU Hoi-dick queried about the possible adverse impact, if any, on schools if TSA was abolished. Mr SIN Kim-wai, member of the Committee, advised that internal assessment could not provide data to facilitate schools' understanding of students' levels in the territory so as to improve learning and teaching in the long run. Under the prevailing Secondary School Places Allocation System, the internal assessment results of students would be standardized on a territory-wide basis for assigning allocation bands.

38. Ms Tanya CHAN referred to Mr SIN Kim-wai's remarks and expressed concern that schools above or below the territory-wide average would continue to drill their students to achieve even better TSA scores. It might be advisable for the Tryout Study to last for at least three years in order to collect more comprehensive feedback from different stakeholders. SED explained that the original intent of the TSA is to understand the weaknesses of the curriculum in teaching and learning through assessment, so that improvement can be made accordingly.

39. The Chairman announced that the meeting would be extended to 6:45 pm to allow more time for discussion and handling of motions put forth by some members.

Action

40. Dr Helena WONG declared that she was a member of the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union ("HKPTU"). She said that according to a survey recently conducted by HKPTU, about 85% respondents disagreed to P3 TSA resumption in 2017. Out of these respondents, about 45% expressed strong disagreement. Only 6.2% agreed to P3 TSA resumption. No respondent from schools participating in the Tryout Study agreed to a resumption P3 TSA. Dr WONG was of the view that EDB should widely consult stakeholders on the direction of TSA.

41. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen was of the view that the decision on the arrangements of future TSA should be left to the next term Government.

Motion

42. The Chairman referred members to the motion to be moved by the Deputy Chairman and two motions to be moved by Dr CHENG Chung-tai. Members agreed to proceed to deal with the motions. Dr CHENG noted that one of his motions urging for the abolition of P3 TSA was largely duplicated with the Deputy Chairman's and hence withdrew the motion.

43. At about 6:40 pm, the Chairman sought members' view on further extending the meeting beyond 6:45 pm so as to deal with the motions. No member raised objection. The Chairman directed that the voting bell be rung for five minutes.

44. The Chairman put the motions moved by the Deputy Chairman and Dr CHENG Chung-tai to vote one-by-one. Mr Michael TIEN claimed a division.

45. The following 15 members voted for the motion moved by the Deputy Chairman:

Mr IP Kin-yuen, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Michael TIEN, Mr Charles MOK, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Dr Helena WONG, Mr CHU Hoi-dick, Ms Tanya CHAN, Mr HUI Chi-fung, Dr CHENG Chung-tai, Mr Nathan LAW and Dr LAU Siu-lai.

No member voted against the motion and no member abstained. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed (wording of the motion at **Appendix I**).

46. The following 14 members voted for the motion moved by Dr CHENG Chung-tai:

Mr IP Kin-yuen, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Charles MOK, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen,

Action

Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Dr Helena WONG, Mr CHU Hoi-dick, Ms Tanya CHAN, Mr HUI Chi-fung, Dr CHENG Chung-tai, Mr Nathan LAW and Dr LAU Siu-lai.

Mr Michael TIEN voted against the motion and no member abstained. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed (wording of the motion at **Appendix II**).

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response to the motions was issued to members vide CB(4)552/16-17(01) on 13 February 2017.)

Public hearing

47. The Deputy Chairman suggested that the Panel should hold a public hearing on TSA. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen concurred with the Deputy Chairman's suggestion, and requested the attendance of SED at the public hearing. The Chairman said that she would work out the arrangement of the hearing after the meeting with the assistance of the Secretariat.

V. Any other business

48. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:53 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
27 March 2017

教育事務委員會
Panel on Education

在2016年12月12日會議上
就議程項目"全港性系統評估檢討的最新進展"通過的議案
Motions passed under the agenda item
"Latest development on the review of the Territory-wide System
Assessment"
at the meeting on 12 December 2016

議案措辭

鑒於不少家長和教師十分關注小學生的身心健康，並對小學三年級全港性系統評估(TSA)在試行研究計劃完結後是否真正能回復「低風險、不操練」的政策原意，消除對學生的學習壓力，存有極大疑慮，本委員會促請政府切實回應社會人士的訴求，不應接納在明年全面恢復推行小三TSA的建議。

(葉建源議員動議)

Wording of the Motion

(Translation)

That, as many parents and teachers are gravely concerned about the physical and mental health of primary school students and have serious doubt towards whether the Primary 3 Territory-wide System Assessment ("P3 TSA") can, upon the completion of the Tryout Study, genuinely return to its "low-stakes, no drilling" policy intent and alleviate the learning pressure of students, this Panel urges the Government to give a concrete response to the aspirations of the community by not accepting the recommendation to fully resume the implementation of P3 TSA next year.

(Moved by Hon IP Kin-yuen)

議案措辭

本會促請教育局，顧及全港性系統評估(TSA)對全港學校和學生所造成的沉重壓力和嚴重干擾，容許全港學校及家長自由選擇是否參與全港性系統評估(TSA)，讓學校及家長保持教學安排上的自主。

(鄭松泰議員動議)

Wording of the Motion

(Translation)

That this Panel urges the Education Bureau to take into account the heavy pressure and serious disturbance caused by the Territory-wide System Assessment ("TSA") on all schools and students, and allow all schools and parents to choose freely whether to participate in TSA or not, so as to maintain the autonomy of schools and parents in making teaching arrangements.

(Moved by Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai)