

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)844/19-20
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 5 June 2020 at 10:45 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon IP Kin-yuen (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
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 Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

Members attending : Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

Members absent : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Hon HUI Chi-fung

Public Officers attending : Agenda item III

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP
Secretary for Education

Mr Esmond LEE, JP
Deputy Secretary for Education (1)

Agenda item IV

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP
Secretary for Education

Ms Priscilla TO, JP
Deputy Secretary for Education (2)

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

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

Ms Rachel WONG
Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (4)4

Action

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

(LC Paper No. CB(4)657/19-20(01) -- Information paper on the report of the Task Force on School-based Management Policy provided by the Education Bureau

LC Paper No. CB(4)659/19-20(01) -- Letter dated 1 June 2020 from Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan on the development of textbooks and teaching materials for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools)

Members noted the above papers issued since the last meeting. The Chairman advised that the Panel could make arrangement to discuss the report of the Task Force on School-based Management Policy [LC Paper No. CB(4)657/19-20(01)] should members consider it necessary.

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan briefed members on the issues raised in his letter [LC Paper No. CB(4)659/19-20(01)]. He recapped that the Panel had approved the setting up of the Subcommittee to Study the Development of Textbooks and Teaching Materials for Kindergartens, Primary and Secondary Schools ("the Subcommittee") in January 2020. Two Subcommittee meetings presided over by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung had been held since end of April. However, the nomination procedure for the election of Chairman was still not commenced. He considered there was a need to discuss the development of textbooks and teaching materials, which was of widespread public concern, at a special Panel meeting within the current legislative year.

3. The Chairman agreed that there was urgency to discuss the matter and sought members' view on the proposal to convene a special meeting for that purpose.

4. Dr Priscilla LEUNG and Mr Vincent CHENG expressed the concern of many parents about the biased and inaccurate textbooks and teaching materials prepared by teachers. They considered there was an imminent need to arrange a special Panel meeting to address parents' concerns since the Subcommittee was unlikely to commence its work before prorogation.

5. Dr Helena WONG, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Ms Claudia MO and the Deputy Chairman considered it not in order to convene a special Panel meeting to discuss issues relating to the development of textbooks and teaching materials since a subcommittee had been set up to that effect. The

Action

Panel should make use of the limited time to discuss other more pressing issues.

6. As members had diverse views on whether a special meeting should be held to discuss the development of textbooks and teaching materials, the Chairman put the proposal to vote. At Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan's request, the Chairman directed that the voting bell be rung for five minutes to notify members of the voting.

7. The Chairman put to vote the proposal to convene a special meeting to discuss the development of textbooks and teaching materials. Twelve members voted for holding a special meeting. Twelve members voted against. The Chairman declared that the proposal was not carried.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(Appendix I to LC Paper No. CB(4)651/19-20 -- List of outstanding items for discussion

Appendix II to LC Paper No. CB(4)651/19-20 -- List of follow-up actions)

8. The Chairman advised that the list of outstanding items for discussion and the list of follow-up actions had been updated and circulated to members.

III. The Revamp of the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education and the Proposed Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for Self-financing Post-secondary Education

(LC Paper No. CB(4)651/19-20(01) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

Briefing by the Administration

9. The Secretary for Education ("SED") briefed members on the revamp of the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education ("CSPE"), the proposed honorarium for non-local members of CSPE, and the proposed Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for Self-financing Post-secondary Education ("the proposed Scheme"). Details of the briefing were set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)651/19-20(01)].

Declaration of interest

10. The Chairman drew members' attention to Rule 83A of the Rules of

Action

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.

Discussion

Revamp of the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education

11. The Deputy Chairman considered the revamp of CSPE and the implementation of the proposed Scheme important developments in the self-financing post-secondary education sector. Given the huge gap between the support provided by the Administration to the publicly-funded post-secondary education sector and the self-financing sector, he enquired whether the operation mode of the revamped CSPE would be the same as that of the University Grants Committee ("UGC"). SED advised that UGC played a key role in advising the Administration on the subventions to the eight UGC-funded universities and ensuring the accountability of the universities. While there was a fundamental difference in the matters dealt with by CSPE in the self-financing sector and the matters dealt with by UGC in the publicly-funded sector, the role and status of CSPE in respect of the development of the self-financing sector were strengthened in ways similar to those of UGC in respect of the publicly-funded sector.

12. Ms CHAN Hoi-yan supported the establishment of the Sub-committee on Quality Assurance under the revamped CSPE to assure the quality of self-financing post-secondary programmes and enhance the recognition of the self-financing sector. She enquired how the Sub-committee would collaborate with UGC and the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications ("HKCAAVQ") in enabling the self-financing sector to maintain a quality comparable to that of the publicly-funded sector. SED responded that the Sub-committee on Quality Assurance would work closely with HKCAAVQ and exchange views with UGC so as to enhance the quality of the self-financing sector in the light of the community's expectations.

13. Dr Helena WONG enquired about the progress on the review of the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) and the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279) to enhance the financial transparency, institutional governance, management democratization and quality assurance of the self-financing institutions, such as the establishment of a participatory governance framework involving teachers, students and alumni. The Deputy Chairman said that the public had great expectations of the review of Cap. 320 and asked about the anticipated completion date of the review.

Action

14. SED advised that CSPE had come up with some initial recommendations on the review of Cap. 320, and planned to engage the self-financing sector in the coming few months. In drawing up the recommendations, CSPE had taken into account members' views on the governance of the self-financing sector expressed at the Panel meeting in March 2019 and the different operation modes of the publicly-funded and self-financing sectors. The recommendations made by CSPE should be able to address concerns on the governance of self-financing institutions. The Education Bureau ("EDB") expected that a set of legislative amendment proposals would be put to the Panel for consideration in the next legislative session.

Honoraria for non-official members of the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education

15. Mr CHAN Chun-ying enquired why CSPE non-official non-local members had not been provided with an honorarium in the past, whether the honorarium (i.e. at the rate of \$165,400 per annum) for non-local members was on par with those provided by similar advisory bodies overseas, whether non-local members who visited Hong Kong to attend CSPE meetings needed to pay the related expenses from the honorarium, and whether it would be unfair to backpay non-local members honoraria, which would take effect on 1 November 2019, almost a year later.

16. SED advised that CSPE non-official members had not been provided with an honorarium in the past. In line with the policy to promote the parallel development of the publicly-funded and the self-financing sectors, the role and functions of CSPE in respect of the development of the self-financing sector had been strengthened to align with those of UGC in respect of the publicly-funded sector. It was therefore proposed to provide non-official local members and the newly included two non-local members of CSPE with honoraria on par with those provided to UGC non-official members. For non-local members visiting Hong Kong to attend CSPE meetings, the CSPE Secretariat would arrange air passages and accommodation for them. In other words, members would not need to bear the related expenses. With reference to the practice of UGC, the proposed rate (i.e. \$165,400 per annum), as a recognition of the non-local non-official members' contribution to the work of CSPE, was considered acceptable. Subject to members' views, the Administration would submit the relevant proposal to the Finance Committee ("FC") at the earliest possible time.

17. The Deputy Chairman suggested that the Administration could provide justifications for giving the same honorarium to CSPE and UGC non-official members for members' consideration. SED advised that like their counterparts of UGC, CSPE non-official members would offer strategic and policy advice to the Administration. The proposed honorarium rate for non-local members was commensurate with the standing and expertise of the non-local members who

Action

were experts in the field of quality assurance and development in higher education, and had experience serving on UGC.

Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for Self-financing Post-secondary Education

18. While in general supporting the proposed Scheme to provide financial resources to the self-financing sector, Dr Fernando CHEUNG asked whether the Scheme would cover part-time undergraduate programmes and top-up degree programmes, for example, in social work. Furthermore, he considered that Hong Kong, like other advanced economies in the world, should have provided higher education for free. He asked whether the Administration would consider providing more resources to support the daily operation of self-financing institutions.

19. SED advised that the Administration had no plan to provide recurrent public subvention to self-financing post-secondary institutions. The proposed Scheme aimed to provide financial support for eligible self-financing post-secondary institutions to develop programmes that met market needs but required high start-up costs, so as to help such programmes take off. The financial support would cover programme and faculty development and improvements to campus facilities so as to enhance teaching and learning in designated academic areas. Full-time top-up degree programmes which met the criteria of the proposed Scheme would be considered. However, publicly-funded institutions and their self-financing arms were not eligible for the Scheme.

20. The Chairman expressed reservation about the implementation of the proposed Scheme. She said that firstly, she objected to commercialization of education. Secondly, the Administration had been channeling public resources into the self-financing sector over the years. As self-financing institutions were operated on a self-financing and market-driven basis, they should not be largely financed with public funds on a regular basis. Thirdly, student enrolment of some self-financing programmes was low, the Administration should consider whether additional public funds should continue to be channeled to these programmes. She requested the Administration to provide more information about the eligible institutions, such as the number of programmes offered, student intake and student enrolment, etc. for her further consideration.

21. SED explained that self-financing institutions were not granted with recurrent public subvention. The financial support, such as provision of land and loans for campus development, was only provided by the Administration to the institutions on a one-off basis. The proposed Scheme was also a one-off measure for the self-financing sector to support the development of programmes that met the human resources needs of the community. Given the need to acquire expensive market-standard equipment/facilities to meet requirements for

Action

academic and professional accreditation, self-financing institutions might be financially constrained to develop certain programmes with high start-up costs despite the programmes' high market demand. The proposed Scheme would help alleviate the institutions' need to fully recover the set-up costs from tuition fees, thus relieving the financial burden on students.

22. Ms CHAN Hoi-yan sought clarification on whether CSPE would consider the programme proposals submitted by eligible institutions in accordance with criteria such as employer sector's recognition, graduates' employment prospect, professional progression pathways, etc. in order to ensure the quality of the programmes. Moreover, noting that participating institutions of the proposed Scheme had to admit consecutively at least a certain number of cohorts for approved programmes, namely, one that doubled the years of the approved project period, she was concerned whether the Administration had made any concrete plans to ensure that the approved programmes would continue after the required period. SED responded that the Sub-committee on Support Measures under CSPE would advise on the comparative merits of the programme proposals, having regard to factors, such as market demand presented by the relevant sector, professional qualification recognition of the programme, sustainability of the programme, strategic development plan and financial viability of the institutions concerned, etc.

23. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen said that he in principle supported the proposed Scheme. Noting that the proposed Scheme would finance at least 30 programmes, he enquired whether the Administration had in mind a list of programmes to be approved. Ms Claudia MO enquired whether CSPE would concentrate to approve popular programmes (such as programmes in allied health) or programmes of inadequate supply (such as programmes in computer game development), and whether the self-financing institutions had to raise their admission requirements to meet the criteria of the proposed Scheme.

24. SED advised that the proposed Scheme would be open for applications after funding approval had been obtained from FC. To foster strategic coordination among self-financing institutions, CSPE would consider merits of different proposals and avoid an over-supply of particular types of programmes in certain popular disciplines. In fact, the Administration would study the manpower trends of different industries and Hong Kong's state of economic development in determining the triennium funding for the UGC-funded sector. Such findings would also be shared with the self-financing sector through on-going communication. As the proposed Scheme aimed to provide targeted support to help eligible self-financing institutions better develop their own niche areas and launch quality programmes in respond to the community's needs, eligible institutions should take into consideration their strategic positioning in the sector, academic development plans and market demand in developing certain programmes when applying for funding under the Scheme. The Administration

Action

would include more information on the programmes that might be covered under the proposed Scheme in the paper to FC.

25. Mr SHIU Ka-chun said that he supported all enhancement measures for the self-financing sector. Also, he considered it appropriate that programmes covered under the proposed Scheme would mainly be vocational and professional education and training ("VPET") programmes and degree programmes with a strong professional orientation. However, he questioned how self-financing institutions could compete with UGC-funded universities in attracting students when both of the institutions offered these two types of programmes. Moreover, as these two types of programmes valued practical workplace experiences, he asked whether EDB would assist self-financing institutions to solicit more on-the-job training opportunities for their students.

26. SED advised that in line with the policy to promote the parallel development of the publicly-funded and the self-financing sectors, self-financing institutions had been encouraged to develop their distinct character and niche areas so as to attract more students. For VPET, the Administration acknowledged the importance of promoting VPET to meet the needs of the ever-changing economy. Hence, the Administration planned to brief members and seek members' views on the Review Report of the Task Force on Promotion of VPET and the Government's follow-up actions, such as strengthening the engagement of industry partners and enhancing workplace learning and assessment, at the next Panel meeting.

Summing up

27. The Chairman concluded that the Panel supported the Administration's submission of the funding proposal for consideration by FC.

IV. Capital assistance loan to four non-profit-making international schools

(LC Paper No. CB(4)651/19-20(02) -- Supplementary information note provided by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(4)521/19-20(02) -- Paper provided by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(4)528/19-20(01) -- Letter dated 5 May 2020 from Hon IP Kin-yuen to the Chairman of Panel on Education

Action

LC Paper No. CB(4)541/19-20(02) -- Administration's written response dated 7 May 2020 to the letter dated 5 May 2020 from Hon IP Kin-yuen to the Chairman of Panel on Education

LC Paper No. CB(4)665/19-20(01) -- Submission from The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (*Restricted to members only*)

28. The Chairman recapitulated that this agenda item had been discussed at the meeting on 8 May 2020. As the Panel did not support the Administration's submission of the proposal to FC, the Administration provided supplementary information for members' further discussion at this meeting. Also, The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the Consulate General of Canada had sent letters to the Panel expressing support to the application of Christian Alliance International School ("CAIS") for capital assistance loan.

29. 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.

Briefing by the Administration

30. SED briefed members on the Administration's proposal to provide interest-free loans under the Loan Fund for the construction of school buildings to four non-profit-making international schools, namely CAIS, Malvern College Hong Kong ("MCHK"), Shrewsbury International School Hong Kong ("SISHK") and French International School ("FIS"), details of which were set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)651/19-20(02)].

Discussion

Loan arrangements

31. Mr Tony TSE said that he raised no objection to the diversified development of education. According to the Administration's paper [CB(4)521/19-20(02)], the Government undertook to provide interest-free loans to the four international schools concerned for construction of their school

Action

premises when the greenfield sites were allocated. If the loans were provided to the four schools earlier, the schools would not need to apply for bridging loans with high interest rates to cover the construction cost. He enquired about the reasons for the delay in providing the loans. The Deputy Chairman expressed support to the development of the international school sector. Sharing a similar view with Mr Tony TSE, he considered that the Administration should have submitted this funding proposal to the Legislative Council earlier.

32. SED explained that under the prevailing policy, the Administration provided interest-free loans to school sponsoring bodies ("SSBs") allocated greenfield sites for developing international schools on an application basis in order to attract SSBs with the quality and ability to operate these schools in Hong Kong. In general, SSBs allocated school sites would kick off the construction of school premises and meet the cost through different means, such as commercial loans, fund-raising, etc. For the four subject cases, the Administration submitted the funding proposal of interest-free loans to FC for approval after the international schools concerned had commenced operation and developed in the right direction. The interest-free loans, if approved, would contribute towards the repayment of the bridging loans which SSBs had taken out to finance the construction of the new school premises.

33. Mr Tony TSE enquired about the construction cost of the four international school premises and whether the loan amount was determined on the basis of student intake. SED explained that the interest-free loan provided by the Administration was capped at 100% of the cost for constructing a standard-design public sector school accommodating the same number of students. As the four school premises had adopted a non-standard design, the construction cost of each school building project was above the respective loan amount.

34. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan enquired about the number of international schools fully repaid their interest-free loans, the number of international schools that still had outstanding loan repayment and the average loan repayment period of these schools. She was concerned that the Administration and parents would suffer loss if international schools with loans due to the Administration were closed due to poor management. Mr Tony TSE enquired whether many non-local students had withdrawn from international schools amidst the epidemic of COVID-19. Mr CHU Hoi-dick and Mr SHIU Ka-chun enquired about the follow-up actions that would be taken by the Administration in case the four international schools failed to repay their loans.

35. SED advised that all approved interest-free loans for international schools were of a ten-year repayment term. There were three loans drawn by non-profit-making international schools which had yet been fully repaid. As international schools were facing unprecedented challenging times amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, a one-off interest-free deferral of loan repayment for two

Action

years was granted to the said three international schools to ease their cash flow concerns. There was imminent need for provision of interest-free loans to the four international schools concerned to help ease their stringent financial situation. To safeguard public interest, in accordance with the prevailing policy, if the loan applications were approved by FC, the Administration would sign a loan deed with each of the SSBs concerned, setting out the repayment arrangements, which included the payment schedule and the penalty charge for overdue payment. Besides, the loans should each be secured by a legal charge on the property in favour of the Administration. In the event of school closure, the Administration would make repayment of the loan a first call upon the liquefiable assets of the school. In case of loan default, the Administration could take possession of the premises and assets of the school concerned.

Policy on the international school development

36. Mr CHU Hoi-dick noted that international schools allocated with school sites were subject to the requirement of allocating at least 70% of school places to non-local students. However, three of the four international schools concerned failed to meet the requirement in the 2019-2020 school year and among them, CAIS had only enrolled about 50% of non-local students.

37. Dr Helena WONG enquired whether the Administration would adjust the student mix ratio if there was a drop in the demand for international school places from non-local students in the wake of COVID-19 and the latest political environment in Hong Kong. In case international schools were allowed to admit more local students, she considered there might be a need to introduce more scholarships/financial assistance schemes to support students from different social strata. She also enquired whether students from the Mainland were regarded as non-local students for the purpose of admission to international schools.

38. SED advised that since 2007, international schools allocated with school premises/sites were required to enroll no less than 50% of non-local students and the ratio had been raised to 70% since 2009. Usually, it took a few years for newly-operated international schools to meet the target percentage of non-local student intake as indicated in their proposals under School Allocation Exercises. EDB would exercise flexibility in handling non-compliance over the student mix ratio by individual schools in the first few years. For non-local international school students, most of them were students from overseas.

39. Mr SHIU Ka-chun said that members expressed concern about mismatch between the supply and demand of international school places at the Panel meeting on 13 February 2012. He asked whether additional school places offered by the four international schools could address the mismatch problem. SED advised that according to the findings of consultancy study on provision of

Action

international school places completed in end 2012, there was a shortfall of 4 200 international school places in the territory by the 2016-2017 school year. As such, a total of three greenfield sites and five vacant school premises were identified and allocated to SSBs for the development of new international schools between 2013 and 2015, including three of the four international schools in this paper.

40. Dr Fernando CHEUNG pointed out that international school places for students with special educational needs ("SEN") were insufficient. To his understanding, the Jockey Club Sarah Roe School was the only special school in Hong Kong delivering a curriculum in English and the four international schools concerned might not admit students with SEN. Many expatriates in Hong Kong, such as native-speaking English teachers from abroad, could not afford the high tuition fees of international schools or secure international school places for their children with SEN. This in the long run would deter overseas talents from coming to Hong Kong for work or investment, thereby undermining the competitiveness of Hong Kong. Moreover, in his view, ethnic minority students should not be deprived of the opportunity to receive education in international schools due to a lack of financial means. International schools which charged high-priced debenture and received interest-free loans from the Administration should provide integrated education for students with SEN and ethnic minority students.

41. SED advised that international schools in general did not, as a matter of policy, reject admission of students with SEN. Some of them had even formulated various programmes to support students with SEN. Under the Service Agreements with the Government, international schools had to set aside 10% of the total tuition income as scholarships and/or other financial assistance for needy students. Dr Fernando CHEUNG requested the Administration to provide details of the scholarships offered by each of the four international schools concerned in the past three years, including the number of scholarship schemes, number of awardees and amount awarded.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)774/19-20(01) on 29 June 2020.)

42. The Chairman sought details about the curriculum of the four international schools concerned. SED explained that MCHK and SISHK followed the British National curriculum. FIS offered the French stream which followed the French National Education curriculum and the International stream based on the British National curriculum. CAIS offered the Alberta's provincial curriculum. To ensure the quality of non-local curricula offered by international schools, EDB requested such schools to obtain accreditation from recognized respective accreditation body for the curricula offered. The Chairman requested EDB to provide supplementary information on Alberta's provincial curriculum after the meeting.

Action

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)774/19-20(01) on 29 June 2020.)

Monitoring mechanism for international schools

43. The Deputy Chairman was concerned that the parent companies of SSBs of some non-profit-making international schools might be profit-making organizations. In the past, there was a case where income of an international school had been transferred to its SSB's parent company by way of service fees. He asked whether monitoring mechanism over the financial arrangement of international schools and their SSBs would be in place to avoid recurrence of wealth transfer.

44. SED explained that the four international schools and their SSBs were non-profit-making organizations. Hence, according to their Memorandum and Articles of Association, no portion of the income and property should be paid or transferred directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus, or otherwise howsoever to members of the association. In fact, some international schools did pay fees to their respective SSBs or overseas schools with collaboration relationship for the administration and management services as well as curriculum development, teacher trainings, etc, and there were established procedures to monitor the provision of such fees. For the four international schools concerned, such fees only accounted for about 1% to 6% of their total annual school expenditure.

(At about 12:41 pm, the Chairman informed members that the meeting would be extended for 15 minutes to 1:00 pm.)

45. Mr CHU Hoi-dick cast doubt on the need to provide interest-free loans to the four international schools concerned as they collected exorbitant tuition fees and school charges. The Deputy Chairman pointed out that apart from tuition fees, international schools would collect hefty school charges (such as capital levy, debenture, nomination right, etc.) to support large-scale school improvement projects. However, EDB only required international schools to submit applications for school fee revision. No monitoring mechanism over the collection of school charges was in place.

46. Mr Jeremy TAM declared that his children were studying in a school run by SSB of CAIS. He recalled that members did not support the proposed four loans at the last meeting because the Administration failed to address their concerns on the exorbitant school charges, such as debenture and capital levy, of international schools. He considered that EDB should undertake to review its measures to monitor fee collection of international schools or impose a loan condition requiring the four international schools concerned to reduce the prices of debenture and capital levy, if the loans were approved.

Action

47. SED advised that EDB used to regard the fund-raising programmes of international schools (e.g. debentures and nomination rights) as private financial arrangements between the schools and parents. However, given the diverse nature of fund-raising programmes of private schools in recent years, EDB decided to enhance the monitoring measures from the 2020-2021 school year with a view to formulating a more comprehensive vetting mechanism. Schools had to seek EDB's approval for collection of the charges starting from 2020-2021 school year.

Motions

48. The Chairman referred members to the two motions proposed by Mr Dennis KWOK and Dr Fernando CHEUNG respectively (wording of motions in **Appendices I and II**).

49. The Chairman put to vote as to whether the motion proposed by Mr Dennis KWOK should be proceeded with. At members' request, the Chairman directed that the voting bell be rung for five minutes to notify members of the voting. The following 12 members voted for proceeding with the motion:

Prof Joseph LEE, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Charles MOK, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Mr Dennis KWOK, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Dr Helena WONG, Mr IP Kin-yuen, Mr CHU Hoi-dick, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Ms Tanya CHAN and Dr CHENG Chung-tai.

The following four members voted against:

Mr Tommy CHEUNG, Mr Frankie YICK, Mr CHAN Chun-ying and Mr Tony TSE.

No member abstained. The Chairman announced that the motion would be proceeded with.

50. The Chairman put to vote the motion proposed by Mr Dennis KWOK. The following 12 members voted for the motion:

Prof Joseph LEE, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Charles MOK, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Mr Dennis KWOK, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Dr Helena WONG, Mr IP Kin-yuen, Mr CHU Hoi-dick, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Ms Tanya CHAN and Dr CHENG Chung-tai.

No member voted against and the following five members abstained:

Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Mr Jimmy NG, Mr CHAN Chun-ying, Mr LAU Kwok-fan and Mr Tony TSE.

Action

The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

(At about 12:58 pm, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that the meeting would be further extended beyond 1:00 pm to allow sufficient time for discussion.)

51. The Chairman put to vote as to whether the motion proposed by Dr Fernando CHEUNG should be proceeded with. The following 15 members voted for proceeding with the motion:

Prof Joseph LEE, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Charles MOK, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Mr Dennis KWOK, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Dr Helena WONG, Mr IP Kin-yuen, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Mr CHU Hoi-dick, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Ms Tanya CHAN, Mr LAU Kwok-fan, Dr CHENG Chung-tai and Mr Tony TSE.

The following four members voted against:

Mr Tommy CHEUNG, Mr Frankie YICK, Mr Jimmy NG and Mr CHAN Chun-ying.

No member abstained. The Chairman announced that the motion would be proceeded with.

52. The Chairman put to vote the motion proposed by Dr Fernando CHEUNG. The following 15 members voted for the motion:

Prof Joseph LEE, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Charles MOK, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Mr Dennis KWOK, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Dr Helena WONG, Mr IP Kin-yuen, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Mr CHU Hoi-dick, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Ms Tanya CHAN, Mr LAU Kwok-fan, Dr CHENG Chung-tai and Mr Tony TSE.

The following two members voted against:

Mr Jimmy NG and Mr CHAN Chun-ying.

No member abstained. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

Summing up

53. The Chairman concluded that the Panel supported the Administration's submission of the funding proposal for consideration by FC.

Action

V. Report of the delegation of the Panel on Education on its duty visit to Finland

(LC Paper No. CB(4)651/19-20(04) -- Report of the delegation of the Panel on Education on its duty visit to Finland)

54. Due to time constraint, the Chairman directed that this item be deferred to the next regular meeting. Members raised no objection.

VI. Any other business

55. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:02 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
5 August 2020

教育事務委員會
Panel on Education

在 2020 年 6 月 5 日的會議上
就議程項目 "向四所非牟利國際學校提供工程設備資助貸款"
通過的議案

Motion passed under the agenda item
"Capital assistance loan to four non-profit-making international schools"
at the meeting on 5 June 2020

議案措辭

本會促請政府當局在向非牟利國際學校提供免息工程設備資助的貸款條件中，加入規管校方的收費上限，而受規管的收費項目包括但不限於學費、債券、提名權、工程徵費等，以防止學校向家長濫收費用，讓不同階級的家庭也獲得優質國際學校教育；本會也促請教育局全面檢視促進國際學校發展的政策措施，以避免教育貴族化，令更多家庭和學童受惠。

(郭榮鏗議員動議)

Wording of the Motion

(Translation)

Regarding the provision of interest-free capital assistance loans to non-profit-making international schools, this Panel urges the Administration, as a loan condition, to require the schools concerned to cap the school charges (including but not limited to tuition fees, debentures, nomination rights, capital levies, etc.), with a view to preventing schools from over-charging parents and to enabling families of different social strata to receive quality international school education. This Panel also urges the Education Bureau to holistically review the policy initiatives on the development of international schools so as to avoid aristocratization of education, thereby benefiting more families and students.

(Moved by Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang)

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議案措辭

本委員會促請政府當局在向非牟利國際學校提供免息工程設備資助的貸款條件中，加入規管校方必需為有特殊教育需要的學生提供融合教育，不能因學生的殘疾而拒收。校方亦應設立足夠的獎學金，讓學童不會因經濟困難而失去優質教育的機會。

(張超雄議員動議)

Wording of the Motion

(Translation)

Regarding the provision of interest-free capital assistance loans to non-profit-making international schools, this Panel urges the Administration, as a loan condition, to require the schools concerned to provide integrated education for students with special educational needs and not to reject students on the ground of their disabilities. The schools should also set up sufficient scholarship schemes so that no student will be deprived of quality education opportunities through lack of means.

(Moved by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung)