

LegCo Panel on Education

Supplementary Information on School Management Committees for Primary and Secondary Schools

Background

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Education on 21 December 1999, Member raised a number of issues concerning school management committees (SMC) of primary and secondary schools. The Administration's response is set out below.

Monitoring of the operation of SMCs

2. The Advisory Committee on School-based Management (ACSBM) conducted a public consultation from 28 February 2000 to 30 April 2000.

3. To enhance the transparency and accountability of SMC operation, the ACSBM recommends that information on the names, tenure and the sector represented by school managers should be made public. Managers are required to declare to the SMC any personal interests which may be in conflict with the best interests of the school, including any financial advantages or other benefits to themselves, their relatives, friends and business associates. Minutes of the SMC meetings should be properly kept and available for scrutiny when necessary.

Composition and operation of SMCs

4. To ensure participation of key stakeholders on the SMC, ACSMB recommends that the membership of the SMC should include:

- representatives of the School Sponsoring Body (up to 60% of total membership);
- the principal (ex-official member);
- 2 or more teacher managers, to be elected from the teaching staff;
- 2 or more parent managers, to be elected by members of the Parent Teacher Association;

- 1 or more alumni manager(s), to be elected by the alumni association recognized by the SMC; and
- 1 or more independent manager(s), to be nominated by the SMC from amongst committed community members and relevant professionals.

Procedures for nomination and election of managers of SMCs

5. SMCs are required to stipulate in their constitution the procedures for nomination or election of each category of managers (including parents and alumni).

Mandates for SMCs

6. The mandate for the SMCs (e.g. the incorporation status, participation of different stakeholders in the SMC and requirements for school managers) will be incorporated in the amended Education Ordinance, which will be tabled in the 2000/01 legislative session. If endorsed by the LegCo, the new legislation will take effect from 2001/02 school year.