

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1943/06-07
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/HS/2/04

**Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs**

**Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 23 April 2007, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
- Public Officers attending** : Item II
- Mrs Fanny LAM FAN Kit-fong
Principal Assistant Secretary (School Administration
and Support), Education and Manpower Bureau
- Dr KWAN Siu-kam
Principal Education Officer (New Senior Secondary),
Education and Manpower Bureau
- Miss Annie HO Siu-wah
Senior Assistant Executive Director (HQ1), Vocational
Training Council
- Mrs Mary MA LO To-wan
Commissioner for Rehabilitation, Health, Welfare and
Food Bureau

Mr SIT Tung
Assistant Director (Rehabilitation and Medical Social
Services), Social Welfare Department

Mrs Agnes LI CHAN Chui-ngan
Chief Social Work Officer (Rehabilitation and Medical
Social Services)1, Social Welfare Department

**Attendance by
invitation** : Item II

The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally
Handicapped

Mrs LAU CHENG Yee-man
Chairman

Hong Kong Association for Parents of Persons with
Physical Disabilities

Ms Sandy LAM Suk-yu
Vice-Chairman

Ms FUNG Yuk-ping
Treasurer

The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped
Children

Ms LAU Chu-lai
Vice-Chairperson

The Parent Association of Autistic Children in
Mainstream Education

Ms LAM Yuet-mei
Chairperson

Hong Kong Association for Specific Learning
Disabilities

Mrs LAU LI Man-ying
Vice-Chairman

Ms CHIU Siu-wai
Parent

「傷健」學生新學制後入讀大學關注小組

Mr LI Sui-pong
Representative

Mr LEE Chun-fai
Representative

Faculty of Health and Social Science, The Hong Kong
Polytechnic University

Mr John Y H CHAN
Counselling Specialist, Student Affairs Office

Ms LEE Mei-yin
Project Associate

Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre

Mrs Bessie PANG
Director

Clerk in attendance : Miss Odelia LEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (2)6

Staff in attendance : Mr Stanley MA
Senior Council Secretary (2)6

Miss Carmen HO
Legislative Assistant (2)6

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I. Confirmation of minutes

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1632/06-07]

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2007 were confirmed.

II. Post-secondary education for students with special educational needs under the new academic structure

[LC Paper No. CB(2)1612/06-07(01)]

2. The Subcommittee deliberated (proceedings of meeting at **Annex**).

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Views of deputations

3. The Subcommittee received eight deputations to present views on the provisions of vocational training and post-secondary education for students with special education needs (SEN) under the new academic structure and continuing education for persons with disabilities (PWDs). The major views are as follows -

- (a) students with SEN and PWDs should enjoy equal opportunities to access post-secondary education under the new academic structure and vocational training and continuing education;
- (b) the Administration should establish a fund to provide financial assistance for tertiary institutions in procurement of equipment and services to support students with SEN in learning, and for students with SEN, in the form of fee subsidies or remission, for example, in pursuit of post-secondary and continuing education;
- (c) the Administration should formulate policies to help teachers identify students with specific learning difficulties (SpLD students) and provide teachers with relevant professional training on SpLD. It should provide SpLD students with appropriate curriculum, examination arrangements and assessment modulations;
- (d) a task group should be established to oversee and coordinate the provision of support and facilities for students with SEN enrolled in Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) and the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions. There should be a dedicated officer in each institute to coordinate support to students with SEN, assist teachers in understanding their needs and advise teachers on the appropriate teaching skills;
- (e) Vocational Training Council (VTC) and the UGC-funded institutions should exercise flexibility and adopt affirmative discrimination in considering applications for admission from students with SEN, such as exempting certain subjects for students with specific disabilities and allowing a longer period of time to complete the study;
- (f) VTC should establish a support office in each institute under IVE and provide vocational assessment service in each Skills Centre;
- (g) more community colleges should be established to provide lifelong learning opportunities for persons with intellectual disabilities; and

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- (h) the scope of services and variety of training programmes provided by day activity centres for PWDs should be enriched with more social and recreational activities.

Views of members

4. Members considered that like other students, students with SEN should have equal right and access to post-secondary education and continuing education. They were disappointed with the current provision of post-secondary education and continuing education opportunities for students with SEN. Members urged the Administration to formulate policies to encourage enrolment of students with SEN in post-secondary and the UGC-funded institutions. Members made the following suggestions -

- (a) the Administration should formulate policies and devise special measures to encourage IVE and the UGC-funded institutions to admit students with SEN. IVE and the UGC-funded institutions should set aside certain places for students with SEN. The proposal of exempting students with SEN from fulfilling certain entry requirements should be actively considered;
- (b) a task group should be established to coordinate the provision of support for students with SEN in post-secondary institutions;
- (c) a dedicated fund should be set up to assist students with SEN in pursuit of vocational training, post-secondary and continuing education;
- (d) the Administration needed to coordinate efforts from various fronts to work out innovative approach to assist students with SEN to pursue post-secondary and continuing education. Participation of parents, NGOs and post-secondary institutions would be necessary; and
- (e) the Administration should be more proactive in the provision of resources and support to facilitate the operation of community colleges.

5. Members requested the Administration to provide information on the enrolment of students with SEN in each of the UGC-funded institutions. VTC was requested to provide the following information -

- (a) the programme capacity of IVE and student enrollment in individual programmes in the past 10 years. The information should include the number of applications received, applicants

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shortlist for interviews, successful applications, students enrolled, students withdrawn from the programmes and students graduated;

- (b) resources allocated to the Skills Centres for running programmes and the programme fees for the past 10 years; and
- (c) support provided to students with SEN before and after the establishment of the Task Force on Provision of Services for Students with SEN Group in 2006.

6. In response to the Chairman, the Administration agreed to provide the requested information and a written response on members' views and suggestions in two months.

III. Any other business

Schedule of meetings and item for discussion at the next meeting

7. Members noted the schedule of meetings for May to July 2007 tabled at the meeting. The Chairman suggested and members agreed to discuss the Ombudsman's recommendations on assessment of children with specific learning difficulties at the next meeting scheduled for 28 May 2007.

[*Post-meeting note* : The meetings for the months of June and July 2007 were subsequently re-scheduled for 22 June and 6 July 2007 respectively.]

8. The meeting ended at 12:55 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
25 May 2007

**Proceedings of the meeting of
Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs
on Monday, 23 April 2007, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker	Subjects	Action required
000000 - 000059	Chairman	Confirmation of minutes	
000100 - 000653	Chairman	Welcome to deputations and introduction of the issues to be discussed.	
000654 - 001007	The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally Handicapped	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1680/06-07(01)]	
001008 - 001640	Hong Kong Association for Parents of Persons with Physical Disabilities	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1720/06-07(01)]	
001641 - 002022	The Parents' Association of Pre-School Handicapped Children	Presentation of views	
002023 - 002310	The Parent Association of Autistic Children in Mainstream Education	Presentation of views	
002311 - 002811	Hong Kong Association for Specific Learning Disabilities	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1680/06-07(02)]	
002812 - 003320	Faculty of Health and Social Science, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Presentation of views	
003321 - 003827	Suen Mei Speech and Hearing Centre	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1680/06-07(04)]	
003828 - 004522	「傷健」學生新學制後入讀大學關注小組	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)1680/06-07(03)]	
004523 - 005818	Chairman Admin	Admin's response to the views and concerns of the deputations, highlighting - - students with special educational needs had equal opportunities to pursue further education/training according to their academic achievement, specific needs, aptitudes and interests;	

Time marker	Speaker	Subjects	Action required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - student admission was a matter within the autonomy of tertiary institutions; - measures adopted by individual institutions to assist students with SEN; and - measures implemented by VTC to support students with SEN in study. 	
005819 - 010500	Miss CHAN Yuen-han Admin Chairman	<p>Miss CHAN's concern about resource allocations for Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) and Skills Centres, their programme capacity, student enrolment and tuition fees in the past decade.</p> <p>SAED(HQ1) agreed to provide relevant information.</p>	See para 5 of the minutes
010501 - 011202	Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Admin Chairman	<p>Mr LEUNG's concern about the impact of institutional autonomy on provision of post-secondary education for students with SEN, and his view that affirmative discrimination was necessary to facilitate students with SEN to access post-secondary education.</p> <p>PAS(SAS)'s response that Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) respected the autonomy of the UGC-funded institutions on student admission matters, and her explanation that admission to the UGC-funded institutions was based on merits and merits needed not be confined to academic merits. There had been flexibility built into the admission system. All students had an equal opportunity for admission and were expected to meet certain academic standards for graduation.</p> <p>Chairman's view that EMB should formulate policies to encourage the UGC-funded institutions to enrol students with SEN.</p>	
011203 - 012514	Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Admin Chairman	<p>Mr CHEUNG's view that the Administration should -</p> <p>(a) introduce affirmative discrimination in the provision of post-secondary education for students with SEN, such as by exempting students with specific disabilities from certain entry requirements of the UGC-funded institutions;</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subjects	Action required
		<p>(b) establish a task group to coordinate the provision of support for students with SEN in post-secondary institutions;</p> <p>(c) set up a dedicated fund to assist students with SEN in pursuit of vocational training, post-secondary and continuing education; and</p> <p>(d) support the operation of community colleges to provide vocational training and continuing education opportunities for students with SEN.</p> <p>PAS(SAS)'s response that post-secondary and the UGC-funded institutions usually had established policies and mechanisms concerning enrolment of students with SEN and provision of support to assist their learning. Students with SEN might choose to disclose their disabilities to facilitate the institutions in their planning. Individual institutions made suitable adjustments in programme delivery and examination and assessment arrangements for students with SEN.</p> <p>Mr CHEUNG's view that like the provision of an alternative Chinese curriculum for ethnic minority students to facilitate their access to university education, the Admin should coordinate with the UGC-funded institutions and VTC to formulate policies and arrangements to enhance enrolment of students with SEN.</p>	
012515 - 013356	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Admin Chairman	<p>Mr LEE's view that the Admin should formulate policies and special measures to support students with SEN in pursuit of post-secondary education, and take the lead in coordinating arrangements for enhancing enrolment of students with SEN in VTC and post-secondary and UGC-funded institutions.</p> <p>PAS(SAS)'s response that the Admin recognized the need to provide support measures for students with SEN in their pursuit of post-secondary education, and her agreement to relay members' suggestions to UGC for consideration by the UGC-funded institutions.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subjects	Action required
		<p>Mr LEE's view that the Admin, as the resource provider, was in a position to encourage enrolment of students with SEN in the UGC-funded institutions, and his request for information on enrolment of students with SEN in the UGC-funded institutions.</p>	
013357 - 014141	<p>Ms Audrey EU Chairman</p>	<p>Ms EU's view that the Subcommittee should compile a report setting out its concerns and recommendations for consideration by LegCo and follow-up with the Administration and the UGC-funded institutions.</p> <p>Chairman's agreement with Ms EU's view and response that the Subcommittee might move a motion for debate on the subject at a Council meeting.</p>	
014142 - 015228	<p>Miss CHAN Yuen-han The Parent Association of Autistic Children in Mainstream Education Hong Kong Association for Parents of Persons with Physical Disabilities Admin Chairman</p>	<p>Miss CHAN's concern about the provision of resources to support the development of IVE and Skills Centres in the provision of vocational training and post-secondary education for students with SEN, and their enrolment situation.</p> <p>Deputations' description of cases to illustrate -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bullying against students with SEN; - the lack of sufficient knowledge and skills on the part of teachers in post-secondary institutions to support students with SEN in learning; and - the lack of support from Skills Centres for graduates in pursuit of employment. <p>SAED(HQ1)'s agreement to follow up on the two cases quoted and the deputations' views with the Task Force on Provision of Services for Students with SEN. Her advice that SpLD students had been included in the Special Admission Scheme for students with SEN administered by VTC. Starting from the 2007-2008 school year, each department of IVE would have a designated officer to coordinate the provision of services for students with SEN.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subjects	Action required
015229 - 020017	Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong Admin Chairman	<p>Mr CHEUNG's view that the Admin should formulate policies to promote enrolment of students with SEN in post-secondary and the UGC-funded institutions, coordinate departmental and community efforts in this respect, and support the operation of community colleges. His view that VTC was best placed to coordinate the establishment and operation of community colleges.</p> <p>PAS(SAS)'s response that the Admin shared the view of Mr CHEUNG that it would better cater for the needs of students by co-ordinating the efforts of various departments and the community in exploring more post-school education/training opportunities. The planning for the provision of post-secondary and continuing education for students with SEN would need to make reference to their learning outcomes under the new senior secondary (NSS) academic structure, in particular the learning outcomes of ID students under the NSS(ID) curriculum. Since the NSS(ID) curriculum was still being developed, it was too early to come up with concrete plans.</p> <p>C for R's response that Health, Welfare and Food Bureau provided all-round rehabilitation and support services for all persons with disabilities including students with SEN. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operated various activities and programmes, the focus of which was to assist people with disabilities to acquire the necessary communication and living skills to lead an independent life.</p> <p>AD(RMSS)'s explanation on the provision of funding by the Social Welfare Department to support the operation of Personal Development Programme for PWDs by NGOs from October 2005. These courses were basically interest classes with the aim to develop the skills and interests of PWDs.</p>	
020018 - 020300	Mrs Selina CHOW	Mrs CHOW's view that apart from the existing services, the Admin should develop innovative approach to support students with SEN in learning and pursuing post-secondary and continuing education, and participation of parents, NGOs and post-secondary institutions was necessary.	

Time marker	Speaker	Subjects	Action required
020301 - 020829	Chairman Admin	Chairman's concluding remarks on the way forward, and his request for a written response from the Admin on members' views and suggestions in two months. PAS(SAS)s agreement to relay members' concerns and suggestions to UGC for consideration by the UGC-funded institutions. Her advice that the formulation of policies needed time but the Admin would endeavour to provide a written response.	See para 6 of the minutes.
020830 - 021005	Chairman Ms CHAN Yuen-han	Item for discussion at the next meeting and schedule of meetings for the months of May to July 2007.	

Council Business Division 2
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25 May 2007