

**For Discussion on  
30 May 2005**

## **Legislative Council Panel on Education**

### **Education Subventions for 86EB - a Direct Subsidy Scheme Secondary School at Inverness Road, Kowloon Tong**

#### **Purpose**

This paper seeks Members' support for the Secretary for Education and Manpower to take forward a school project at an estimated cost of \$85.4 million for the construction of a 30-classroom direct subsidy scheme (DSS) senior secondary school specializing in arts, media and design. The project will be considered by the Legislative Council Public Works Subcommittee on 8 June 2005.

#### **Background**

2. With the provision of nine-year free education since 1978, the majority of schools in Hong Kong have been public sector schools offering conventional curriculum. There is a need to inject more diversity in our school system and give parents more choices in the selection of schools and curricula for their children, given the increasingly diverse values in the community, and the multi-faceted demands on our work force in the face of fast changing technology and increasing globalization.

3. It is Government policy to provide Secondary 3 students in the public sector who have the ability and wish to continue their study with subsidized Secondary 4 places or training places. We also encourage the introduction of diversified curricula in schools (especially at senior secondary levels) to give adequate support to students with different learning needs and capabilities. In support of these policy objectives, we now have 11 senior secondary schools providing Secondary 3 leavers

of different interests and inclinations with practical and career-related studies to better prepare them for their further studies and working life. Senior secondary schools are operating under the DSS mode in order to allow these schools to be more market-led, responsive to changing expectations and flexible in meeting individual needs in the provision of an alternative curriculum.

### **Justifications for the Proposed Project**

4. With a vision of setting up a learning community that puts creativity at the heart of its education process, the proposed DSS senior secondary school will provide an alternative to the conventional curriculum to cater for individual aptitude and interests. Dedicated to developing youngsters' creative potential and nurturing a talent pool for creative industries, the proposed school will provide a curriculum encompassing a string of creative subjects including architecture, design, fashion, film and advertising on top of the regular syllabus for grammar schools. The integrated curriculum will facilitate Secondary 5 (S5) students to gain admission to S6 and the S7 graduates will fulfil the basic entry requirements of local tertiary institutions. The school will also see to it that, when the new academic structure of 3+3+4 is implemented, the Senior Secondary 3 graduates will be able to meet the admission requirements of different tertiary institutions, both local and international. Students will have ample opportunities to discuss their course of study with academic and guidance counsellors, paying special attention to the tertiary requirements of their preferred field.

5. The proposed school will have three broad learning foci, namely, fostering community awareness and global concern, building up general knowledge of culture and society, and cultivating creative thinking, communication as well as interpersonal skills. Students will be provided with opportunities for self-learning under mentoring and stimulation by personalities from the other educational entities, arts and cultural fields and the creative industries. Apart from inviting some of the prominent figures in the field to give lectures in an attempt to give students more inspiration, internship programmes would also be offered for students to gain work experience in the area they specialize in. The

proposed school will be the first of its kind in Hong Kong to implement programs on creative education. The estimated intake in the first year of operation is 210 (S4) while its approved student population is 1 000.

6. Since the proposed school offers a special curriculum and will be recruiting students from all over the territory, it is unlikely to have any significant impact on the supply and demand balance of conventional public sector school places in the district concerned and in other districts.

### **Financial Implications**

7. The capital grant of \$85.4 million in MOD prices for the proposed school is calculated on the basis of the reference cost of a standard design 30-classroom public sector secondary school accommodating the same number of students. A comparison of the facilities proposed under **86EB** with those of a standard design secondary school is at the Enclosure. The reference cost is based on an uncomplicated site with no unusual environmental or geotechnical constraints.

8. As the estimated construction cost (\$110.4 million in MOD prices) is higher than the capital grant (\$85.4 million in MOD prices), the difference (\$25 million) will be borne by the school sponsor. The capital grant provided by the Government will be capped at \$85.4 million in MOD prices. It will be provided to the school sponsor in the form of a capital grant for the sole purpose of building the school. The school sponsor will be responsible for the design and construction of the school, and for all additional funding requirements over and above the current cost estimate, whether due to higher-than-expected tender outturn or other variations. In accordance with prevailing policy, the Government and the school sponsor will share all savings arising from a lower-than-expected tender outturn pro-rata to their estimated contribution to the project (i.e. 77.4% for the Government and 22.6% for the school sponsor).

9. In line with the existing policy, the cost of furniture and equipment for the school will be borne by the school sponsor. Based on

the subsidy per place received by DSS schools in the 2004/05 school year, we estimate the annual recurrent expenditure for **86EB** to be \$30.5 million, assuming a student population of 1 000.

### **Implementation Timetable**

10. Subject to the funding approval of the Finance Committee, the school sponsor plans to start the piling works in the third quarter of 2005 and superstructure works in early 2006, for project completion in early 2007.

### **Public Consultation**

11. We consulted the Kowloon City District Council on **86EB** on 14 November 2002. Members of the Council supported the project. When consulted by the Public Works Subcommittee on the list of potential capital works items requiring funding approval in the 2004-05 legislative session in late 2004, the Legislative Council Panel on Education indicated its wish to be consulted on the proposed project in due course.

### **The Way Forward**

12. Members are requested to support our plan to upgrade **86EB** to Category A. With the Panel's support, the project will be considered by the Public Works Subcommittee on 8 June 2005.

Education and Manpower Bureau  
May 2005

## Enclosure

### A comparison of the facilities proposed under 86EB with those of a standard design 30-classroom secondary school

Facilities	86EB	Standard design secondary school
Classroom	30	30
Special room	17	16
Small group teaching room	3	3
Guidance activity room	1	1
Interview room	2	2
Staff room	2	1
Staff common room	1	1
Student activity centre	–	1
Conference room	1	1
Library	1	1
Assembly hall	1	1
Multi-purpose area	–	1
Dance studio	1	–
Gymnasium	1	–
Basketball court	1	2
Covered playground	3	1
Rooftop playground	1	–
Green corner	1	1
Ancillary accommodation, including a lift and relevant facilities for the handicapped	Available	Available