

Legislative Council Panel on Education

PWSC Submissions on 25 October 2006

PURPOSE

This paper gives a brief description of the three capital works projects which we plan to submit to the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) of the Legislative Council for consideration at its meeting to be held on 25 October 2006. Following past practice, if the Panel indicates an interest in discussing any of these PWSC items, we will make the necessary arrangements before the items are discussed at PWSC.

THE PROJECTS

2. We intend to submit three capital works projects for consideration by the PWSC on 25 October 2006. The first two are for whole-day conversion of primary schools. The third is for upgrading the facilities of an existing secondary school, to meet the objective of improving the quality of education. The projects are:

- (1) **338EP – A 24-classroom primary school at Site 10, West Kowloon Reclamation, Sham Shui Po**
- (2) **323EP – A 24-classroom primary school at the junction of Texaco Road and Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan**
- (3) **85EB – Extension to Fanling Lutheran Secondary School at Jockey Club Road, Fanling**

Projects for whole-day primary schooling --- 338EP and 323EP

3. It is Government's policy to implement whole-day schooling for virtually all primary school students as soon as possible. On 24 October 2005, the Legislative Council Panel on Education, on reviewing the allocated projects in the School Building Programme, **supported** our recommendation to proceed with school projects, including **338EP** and **323EP**, for enabling **existing** bi-sessional primary schools to offer whole-day education.

4. The two capital works projects, **338EP** and **323EP**, were also supported by the Sham Shui Po District Council and Tsuen Wan District Council in June 2006 and May 2006 respectively.

5. The estimated costs for **338EP** and **323EP** are \$113.9 million and \$105.3 million respectively. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee, we plan to start their construction works in February 2007 and April 2007 for completion in November 2008 and December 2008 respectively.

Project for upgrading the facilities of an existing school --- 85EB

6. The capital works project **85EB** is to upgrade the facilities of Fanling Lutheran Secondary School at Jockey Club Road, Fanling, an **existing** Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) secondary school in North District. It was included in the list of potential PWSC submissions for the last legislative session vide Enclosure 1 to PWSCI(2005-06)16 circulated to Members in October 2005 but has subsequently been deferred to the current session. On that occasion, Members had **not** selected this PWSC item for further discussion.

7. Under the existing policy, the Government may offer, upon application, an one-off cash grant to DSS schools to upgrade their facilities to the prevailing standard in aided schools. The school concerned is a popular DSS school with good operating standard but sub-standard facilities. In addition, it does not have some of the essential facilities, such as special rooms for cultural subjects and facilities for student activities such as covered playground, student activity centre, etc. The proposed infrastructure upgrading project is much welcome by parents.

8. Since the extension project will be carried out within the existing school boundary, we consider public consultation not necessary.

9. The government's contribution towards **85EB** is \$81.2 million. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee, the school sponsor plans to start the construction works in April 2007 for completion in December 2008.

Education and Manpower Bureau
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