

中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局 Education Bureau Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region The People's Republic of China

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7 December 2009

Miss Odelia Leung, Clerk to Education Panel, Legislative Council Secretariat, 3rd floor, Citibank Tower, 3 Garden Road, Hong Kong

Dear Miss Leung,

A Special School in Area 16, Tuen Mun for Students with Physical Disability

The Education Bureau plans to seek funding approval of the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council to reprovision Hong Kong Christian Services Pui Oi School, providing additional classrooms and ancillary facilities for the implementation of the New Senior Secondary academic structure and a boarding section. In response to Members' request, we enclose an information paper on the project for their reference.

Subject to Members' support, we plan to submit the proposal to the Public Works Sub-committee of the FC on 20 January 2010 to facilitate early commencement of the project. If Members so wish, we may discuss the project at the meeting of the Panel on Education on 14 December 2009.

Yours sincerely,

(Raymond Sy) for Secretary for Education

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Legislative Council Panel on Education

106 ET – A special school for students with physical disability in Area 16, Tuen Mun

PURPOSE

We need to provide additional classrooms and boarding places for Hong Kong Christian Service (HKCS) Pui Oi School for implementation of the New Senior Secondary (NSS) academic structure for special schools. This paper briefs Members on the proposed capital works project for reprovisioning Hong Kong Christian Service (HKCS) Pui Oi School to a new school-cum-boarding premises at Area 16, Tuen Mun.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

2. The project involves the construction of an 18-classroom school and a 60-place boarding section, at an estimated cost of \$249.7 million at September 2009 price. The proposed scope of works includes –

- (i) construction of a school section to accommodate the following
 - (a) 18 classrooms;
 - (b) ten special rooms, including a computer-assisted learning room, a multi-purpose room, an optional subject room, and two elective subject rooms;
 - (c) three small group teaching rooms;
 - (d) six therapy/treatment rooms;
 - (e) three social worker's rooms;

- (f) three interview rooms;
- (g) a staff room;
- (h) a staff common room;
- (i) a student activity centre;
- (j) a conference room;
- (k) a library;
- (l) a multi-purpose area;
- (m) an assembly hall;
- (n) a 40-metre (m) running track¹,
- (o) a green corner²; and
- (p) other ancillary facilities, including loading/unloading bay, a lift and relevant facilities for the disabled;
- (ii) construction of a boarding section to accommodate the following
 - (a) bedrooms and study areas to accommodate 60 boarders;
 - (b) two sleep-in rooms for staff;
 - (c) a dining/multi-purpose room;
 - (d) a television/common room;
 - (e) a general office;

¹ Making optimal use of the space of the campus, a 40-m running track will be provided.

² Green corner is a designated area inside the campus to enable students to develop an interest in horticulture and natural environment. The green corner may include a weather station and planting beds.

- (f) a nurse's duty room/sick room; and
- (g) other ancillary facilities including a kitchen, a laundry, a lift and relevant facilities for the disabled; and
- (iii) a linkbridge for connection of the classroom blocks with the assembly hall block and the boarding block.

3. The site plan and the view of the building (artist's impression) are at Enclosures 1 and 2.

JUSTIFICATION

The New Senior Secondary Academic Structure

4. It is Government's policy to implement the New Senior Secondary (NSS) academic structure in all schools including special schools. Under the NSS, students with normal intellectual ability pursuing the ordinary curriculum in special schools for children with physical disability are provided with 10 years of basic education plus 3 years of senior secondary education. The existing HKCS Pui Oi School at Area 39, Tuen Mun is a special school for students with physical disability comprising ten classrooms for six primary classes and four secondary classes. We need to provide additional classrooms and related facilities to facilitate the school in implementation of the NSS academic structure.

Boarding Service

5. The objective of boarding service in schools for children with physical disability is to cater for the long-term boarding needs of students with physical disability and to facilitate them to receive school education during school days.

6. In the planning of boarding service for students with physical disability, we have examined the demand and supply as well as the geographical distribution of the residential areas of the existing boarders. Currently, there are no boarding places in the New Territories. There is scope for extending the boarding service to schools in the New Territories to minimise the need for students with physical disability residing in the New Territories to study and board in schools far away from their families.

Against this background, we propose to set up two boarding sections in special schools for children with physical disability, one in New Territories East which is under construction and the other in New Territories West, as part of HKCS Pui Oi School, to cater for the boarding needs of students with physical disability in those regions. Parents' representatives of the students with physical disability welcomed the proposal of setting up the proposed boarding sections in the New Territories.

Need for Reprovisioning

7. In the light of the above considerations, we have examined the possibility of constructing an extension to the school to provide the additional classrooms and other facilities for implementation of NSS as well as a 60-place boarding section for students with physical disability in the New Territories West. The existing school site is, however, too small to accommodate the proposed extension. We have thus decided to reprovision the school to a site at Area 16, Tuen Mun and build a boarding section at an adjacent site so that boarders can commute through a linkbridge.

After reprovisioning in Area 16, Tuen Mun, HKCS Pui Oi School 8. will be able to operate ten classes³ from primary level up to junior secondary level and three senior secondary classes for the implementation of the NSS academic structure for special schools for children with physical disability. To cater for the need of students with physical disability cum intellectual disability from primary to secondary levels, five additional classrooms will be provided to facilitate the school to offer adaptive curriculum and carry out academic grouping to cater for the learning needs of students. There will also be improvement in the provision of other essential facilities, namely the provision of one optional subject room and two elective subject rooms which are currently lacking in the existing school premises. In consultation with the school sponsoring body, we have agreed to proceed with this project at its present scope of work and school design without further delay so that the school could implement the NSS academic structure as early as possible according to an established policy objective. The proposed scope of development is also considered appropriate having regard to the school's needs, site consideration and the impact to the nearby environment.

³ Since the learning of the students with physical disability and normal intelligence is frequently and regularly disrupted by therapies and hospitalisation, one more year of basic education is provided to better prepare them for the three-year senior secondary education.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

9. We plan to seek the approval of the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the proposed project on 20 January 2010 and 5 February 2010 respectively. Subject to funding approval from the Finance Committee, construction is expected to commence in June 2010 for completion in February 2012.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

10. We briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Education on the development of the NSS academic structure for special schools in July 2006. In particular, we have reported that we would examine special schools' proposals on conversion works and/or additional facilities for the implementation of the new academic structure. Members urged for the provision of sufficient classrooms, facilities and boarding facilities to support the implementation of the NSS academic structure for children with special education needs. We also updated the Legislative Council Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment Opportunities for Children with Special Education Needs on the progress of the implementation of the NSS academic structure for special schools in November 2006.

11. The Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee (EHDDC) of Tuen Mun District Council was consulted on 14 May 2007. EHDCC Members passed a motion to support the project and urged for its early completion. EHDCC Members noted the building and linkbridge design in a progress report issued on 17 July 2009.

12. We also consulted the local residents of Tuen Mun on 16 November 2009. Most of the residents attended the meeting did not have strong views on the special school project, and a few expressed concerns about the impact of the school building to the nearby environment. We have explained to the residents that the school is of low rise design and extensive greening including roof garden, landscape courtyard and peripheral planters would be applied to the premises.

Education Bureau December 2009



