

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)250/11-12

Ref : CB2/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 13 October 2011, at 12:10 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP (Chairman)
Hon Tanya CHAN (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
Hon WONG Yuk-man
- Members attending** : Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
- Member absent** : Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP

- Clerk in attendance** : Ms Amy YU
Chief Council Secretary (2)6
- Staff in attendance** : Miss Odelia LEUNG
Assistant Secretary General 2
- Ms Catherina YU
Senior Council Secretary (2)6
- Ms Judy TING
Council Secretary (2)6
- Miss Meisy KWOK
Legislative Assistant (2)6
- Miss LEE Wai-yan
Clerical Assistant (2)6
-

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman
[Appendices III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)13/11-12]

Election of Chairman

Ms Starry LEE, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2011-2012 session.

2. Ms Starry LEE was nominated by Mr Andrew LEUNG and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong, Mrs Regina IP, Mr TAM Yiu-chung and Mr Abraham SHEK. Ms Starry LEE accepted the nomination.

3. Ms Cyd HO, the incumbent Deputy Chairman, took over from Ms Starry LEE to preside over the election. As there was no other nomination, Ms Cyd HO declared Ms Starry LEE elected as the Chairman of the Panel for the 2011-2012 session. Ms LEE then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2011-2012 session.

5. Miss Tanya CHAN was nominated by Ms Audrey EU and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong. Miss Tanya CHAN accepted the nomination.

6. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Miss Tanya CHAN elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2011-2012 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2011-2012 session

7. Members agreed that the regular meetings of the Panel be held on the second Monday of each month at 4:30 pm, except for the meeting in April 2012. As the second Monday of April 2012 was a public holiday, members agreed that the regular meeting for that month would be held on 20 April 2012 at 10:45 am.

(Post-meeting note: The meeting schedule for the 2011-2012 session tabled at the meeting was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)64/11-12 on 13 October 2011.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)13/11-12]

8. The Chairman reminded members that the Secretary for Education would brief the Panel on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2011-2012 in respect of the policy initiatives on education at the special meeting to be held on Friday, 21 October 2011, at 11:30 am.

Items for discussion at the next meeting

9. Members agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting scheduled for 14 November 2011 at 4:30 pm –

- (a) Recurrent funding for University Grants Committee-funded institutions in the 2012-2013 to 2014-2015 triennium; and
- (b) Review of non-means-tested loan schemes – phase 2 public consultation.

Other discussion items

10. The Chairman invited members' views on any other items for discussion.

Development of self-financing degree-awarding institutions and private universities

11. Ms Cyd HO said that according to her understanding, the Administration had set aside some sites for development of self-financing tertiary institutions and private universities and some institutions/organizations had expressed views to the Administration in this regard. She considered it necessary for the Administration to brief members later this year or within the first quarter of 2012 on the policy and progress on the development of self-financing degree-awarding institutions and private universities in Hong Kong, including the criteria for considering applications for establishing such institutions and universities, the granting of sites and loans for campus development and quality assurance mechanism.

Integrated education

12. Ms Cyd HO said that the policy initiatives related to the provision of support for students with special educational needs ("SEN") stated in the Chief Executive's 2011-2012 Policy Address were in fact part of integrated education. Referring to the case of the suicide of a student suffering from early psychosis who studied in a mainstream school, she pointed out that many problems concerning integrated education remained unresolved. Noting the Administration's plan to extend the school-based Educational Psychology Service for students with SEN progressively to cover all public sector primary and secondary schools by the 2016-2017 school year, she considered it necessary for the Administration to brief the Panel on the provision of support and resources to complement the development of integrated education.

13. Miss Tanya CHAN suggested that the discussion on integrated education should also cover the provision of support to non-Chinese speaking ("NCS") students with SEN.

Arrangements for students affected by school relocation

14. Miss Tanya CHAN referred to the recent incident concerning the proposed relocation of Lingnan Primary School and Kindergarten and

Lingnan Day Nursery ("the School") whereby parents were informed by the school sponsoring body that the School had to be relocated by January 2012 on the ground that unauthorized building works were found in its premises. She expressed concern about the impact of the proposed relocation on students and considered it necessary for the Panel to follow up on the Administration's mechanism for handling similar incidents with a view to minimizing any adverse impact on students.

Report of the Working Group on Education for Ethnic Minorities of the Equal Opportunities Commission

15. The Chairman said that at the request of Hong Kong Unison, the Report of the Working Group on Education for Ethnic Minorities ("Working Group") of the Equal Opportunities Commission ("the Report") had been included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion. As the Administration would meet with the Working Group in November 2011 to discuss the Report, it had proposed that the matter be discussed by the Panel in December 2011. Members agreed tentatively that the matter be discussed at the regular meeting in December 2011.

16. The Chairman further said that Ms Emily LAU had suggested that a joint meeting with the Panel on Constitutional Affairs ("the CA Panel") be held to discuss matters relating to the Report. The view of the Chairman of the CA Panel had been sought on the suggestion. As issues relating to the educational needs of ethnic minorities had all along been followed by the Panel on Education, she and the Chairman of the CA Panel considered it more appropriate for the subject matter to be discussed by the Panel on Education, with members of the CA Panel to be invited to attend the meeting to join the discussion. Members agreed to invite members of the CA Panel to attend the discussion of the item. Members also agreed that representatives of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau should be invited to attend the meeting to respond to members' questions.

Education on media literacy and distribution of free newspapers

17. The Chairman referred members to the letters from Dr Priscilla LEUNG (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)13/11-12(01) and (02)) proposing that the Panel should discuss jointly with the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting ("the ITB Panel") issues concerning the indecent contents of Sharp Daily. The Chairman said that matters relating to the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance ("the Ordinance") were within the policy purview of the ITB Panel. The Chairman sought

members' views on Dr Priscilla LEUNG's proposal.

18. Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that the views she had received on the contents of Sharp Daily were mostly from educational and parent organizations which had indicated their wishes to express views at a meeting of the Panel on Education, hence her proposal for the discussion of the matter by the Panel. Given the indecent contents of Sharp Daily, many schools had requested that its distribution should be prohibited in the vicinity of schools and guidelines should be drawn up in this regard. Consideration could also be given to holding a joint meeting with the ITB Panel to discuss the relevant issues if considered necessary.

19. Ms Cyd HO said that it would be practically difficult to prohibit the dissemination of indecent and obscene information which could be distributed through different channels. From the educational perspective, the problem could be dealt with by enhancing students' ability to understand and differentiate media information through education on media literacy. She suggested that representatives from the Hong Kong Association of Media Education comprising mainly of academics from post-secondary institutions be invited to give views on support for parents and schools in relation to media literacy.

20. In response to the Chairman's enquiry on whether the ITB Panel would follow up the matter, Mr WONG Yuk-man, Chairman of the ITB Panel, said that the ITB Panel had no plan to discuss the matter at the present stage as the complaints lodged against Sharp Daily were being investigated by the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority. In his view, the crux of the problem was that Sharp Daily was a free newspaper and hence could reach students easily. He therefore considered it appropriate for the Panel on Education to discuss the matter.

21. Prof Patrick LAU shared the view that the problem lay in the fact that Sharp Daily was a free newspaper which could be easily obtained by students. He agreed to the suggestion of discussing the matter from the perspective of education on media literacy. He considered that relevant deputations should be invited to express their views.

22. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong agreed that the matter could be discussed by the Panel. He said that a number of articles of the Sharp Daily had been classified by the Obscene Articles Tribunal ("the Tribunal") as Class II (indecent) articles, the publication of which to persons under the age of 18 was prohibited under the Ordinance. He considered that representatives of the relevant bureaux/Government

departments and law enforcement bodies should be invited to attend the Panel meeting to brief members on the enforcement of the law in relation to the distribution of free newspapers with indecent contents.

23. Ms Audrey EU agreed on the need to discuss the enforcement of the Ordinance concerning the distribution of free newspapers with indecent contents. She suggested that the matter be discussed jointly with the ITB Panel and representatives of the relevant law enforcement bodies be invited to the meeting to answer members' questions on enforcement against and penalties for free newspapers infringing the Ordinance.

24. Summing up the discussions, the Chairman said that free newspapers aside, children and youngsters could also have easy access to indecent and obscene information distributed through different channels such as the Internet and movies. Hence, she agreed that members of the ITB Panel should also participate in the relevant discussions and the bureaux/Government departments and law enforcement bodies responsible for the enforcement of the Ordinance should attend the relevant meeting. Apart from issues relating to the distribution of free newspapers and enforcement against free newspapers infringing the Ordinance, the matter should also be discussed from the angle of education on media literacy. Members agreed.

Revitalizing vacant school premises

25. The Chairman said that the Administration had proposed to delete the item of revitalizing vacant school premises from the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion on the ground that it had already reported to the Panel on the latest situation vide an information paper issued to members in August 2011 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2494/10-11(01)). She pointed out that many international schools had applied to the Government for using vacant school premises and considered it necessary for the Panel to continue to follow up the matter. Miss Tanya CHAN shared the Chairman's view, adding that many non-educational institutions had also expressed interest in using vacant school premises. Members agreed that the item of revitalizing vacant school premises should remain on the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

26. The Chairman said that she and the Deputy Chairman would meet with the Administration to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2011-2012 session and the items proposed by members would be

included in the list of outstanding items for discussion as appropriate.
Members agreed.

IV. Any other business

27. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:35 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 November 2011