## 立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2465/11-12

Ref: CB2/PL/ED

# **Report of the Panel on Education** for submission to the Legislative Council

## **Purpose**

This report gives an account of the work of the Panel on Education during the 2011-2012 Legislative Council ("LegCo") session. It will be tabled at the Council meeting of 11 July 2012 in accordance with Rule 77(14) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

#### The Panel

- 2. The Panel was formed by a resolution passed by the Council on 8 July 1998 and as amended on 20 December 2000, 9 October 2002, 11 July 2007 and 2 July 2008 for the purpose of monitoring and examining Government policies and issues of public concern relating to education matters. The terms of reference of the Panel are in **Appendix I**.
- 3. The Panel comprises 21 members, with Hon Starry LEE Wai-king and Hon Tanya CHAN elected as its Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively. The membership list of the Panel is in **Appendix II**.

## Major work

## Self-financing post-secondary sector

4. During the session, the subject of the self-financing post-secondary sector was a major focus of the Panel. Members examined various proposals of the Administration to support the development of the self-financing post-secondary sector, including the extension of the ambit of the Start-up Loan Scheme ("SLS") to cover construction of student hostels for self-financing institutions/programmes; increasing the commitment of SLS by \$2 billion; and the provision of start-up loans to the The Chinese

- 2 -

University of Hong Kong (\$40 million), Caritas-Hong Kong (\$300 million) and the Vocational Training Council (\$670 million) for refurbishing vacant school premises or constructing new purpose-built campuses for the operation of full-time locally-accredited post-secondary programmes.

- 5. While members supported in principle the proposed start-up loans to various institutions, they were concerned about the proliferation in the number of self-financing programmes in recent years and whether there was adequate quality assurance for the programmes. They also noted with concern the high tuition fees paid by students pursuing self-financing programmes on the one hand, and the huge surplus generated from these programmes on the other. Members considered it unfair that while students had to borrow loans to pay for the high tuition fees, the institutions received interest-free loans from the Government and earned considerable profits for operating such programmes.
- 6. Members urged the Administration to take concrete measures to ensure the quality of the self-financing programmes, and to regulate the level and usage of the profits made by the institutions, in particular the University Grants Committee ("UGC")-funded institutions, from running Measures put forward by members included setting a cap on programmes. the profit margin of self-financing programmes as a condition for the grant of start-up loans; specifying that the amount of surplus exceeding the profit margin cap should be used for reduction or remission of tuition fees or awarding scholarship; and the institutions to make public the relevant financial information to enhance the transparency of the operation of the self-financing sector. The Administration undertook to bring members' concerns for discussion by the Committee of Self-financing Post-secondary Education recently established in response to the recommendations made in the Higher Education Review Report 2010, and report the outcome of the Committee's discussions to the Panel.

## Recurrent funding for UGC-funded institutions

- 7. Members examined the Administration's proposals on the recurrent funding for the UGC-funded institutions in the 2012-2013 to 2014-2015 triennium ("2012-2015 triennium") and the injection into the Research Endowment Fund for enhancing the research capacity of both the publicly-funded and self-financing institutions in the higher education sector.
- 8. Members strongly objected to the Administration's plan to embark on a review on tuition fees of publicly-funded universities, as they were worried that tuition fees would be increased after the review. They pointed out that students and parents would already have to face heavier financial burden

- 3 -

because of an additional year of university education and students from economically disadvantaged families could hardly afford any increase in tuition fees. Members also considered the proposed inclusion of non-recurrent funding, such as research grants, in determining the cost-recovery target for tuition fees a significant change from the established mechanism which was unfair to students. In the light of members' strong objection, the Administration confirmed, when the recurrent grant proposal was considered by the Finance Committee in January 2012, that the review was not expected to be completed within the next three years and tuition fees would unlikely be adjusted during the 2012-2015 triennium.

## Sixth Matching Grant Scheme

- 9. Members considered the Administration's proposal for allocating \$2.5 billion to launch the sixth Matching Grant Scheme ("MGS") for the post-secondary education sector. The Panel had been calling for the expansion of MGS to cover the sub-degree sector so that institutions concerned would have more resources for investment in sub-degree education, thereby alleviating the financial burden of sub-degree students. Members therefore welcomed the Administration's proposal for extending the coverage of the sixth round of MGS to benefit self-financing sub-degree students. To provide impetus to the institutions to raise funds for sub-degree education, some members suggested rendering more support to the fund-raising efforts for sub-degree operations, for instance, by providing matching grant for all private donations for sub-degree programmes at a \$1 for \$1 matching ratio.
- 10. The Administration explained that under the proposed sixth MGS, donations would be matched based on a ratio of \$1 for \$1 up to \$60 million for each institution, benefiting sub-degree and degree operations on an equal basis. Experiences indicated that donations invariably did not specify beneficiaries in terms of the level of study. To ensure that the sixth round of MGS was fair and easy to administer, the Administration considered it prudent to maintain the proposed matching formula and operating terms. Participating institutions would be required to report on the funds used to benefit sub-degree operations to ensure transparency and accountability.

## Student loans for post-secondary students

11. Members welcomed the package of measures proposed by the Administration to improve the operation of the non-means-tested loan schemes ("NLS") upon its completion of the NLS Review and related improvement measures on the means-tested assistance schemes. Members had long requested the Administration to abolish the risk-adjusted-factor ("RAF") in the interest rate of NLS to ease the loan repayment burden of

- 4 -

student borrowers, and were pleased to note the Administration's proposals for reducing the RAF rate of the schemes from 1.5% to zero (to be reviewed in three years' time) and extending the standard repayment period of non-means-tested loans from 10 years to 15 years. There was a strong view among members that the Administration should consider waiving the accrued interest on NLS during the borrowers' study period. Noting that the financial burden of borrowers would become heavier with the change of university curriculum from three years to four years, members had also requested the Administration to consider reducing or abolishing the interest payments for means-tested loan schemes.

12. The default situation of NLS was another major concern of the Panel. Members noted that having regard to the concerns of the Privacy Commissioner of Personal Data ("PCPD") over the Administration's proposal for sharing negative credit data of serious defaulters with credit reference agency, mainly for fear of opening up a floodgate for similar requests from other government departments in future, the Administration would conduct further consultation with stakeholders and PCPD on the proposal. Members urged the Administration to come up with effective measures to tackle the loan default problem, in particular for serious cases involving large amount of long overdue payments, in order to ensure prudent use of public money.

## Scholarships for post-secondary students

13. The Panel examined the Administration's proposal for injecting \$1 billion each into the HKSAR Government Fund and the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund to introduce new scholarships and award schemes to benefit a wider range of post-secondary students. While the Panel generally supported the proposal, some members expressed concern about the much higher success rate of non-local students than local students in the award of scholarships under the Funds and requested the Administration to remind the institutions to strike an appropriate balance between local and non-local students when awarding the scholarships. There was also a suggestion from members to provide dedicated scholarships and awards for students with special educational needs to support their post-secondary studies. The Administration undertook to bring the suggestion to the Steering Committees of the Funds for consideration.

#### Provision of hostels for tertiary students

14. The Panel scrutinized the proposed capital work project for the construction of the Tseung Kwan O Joint Student Hostel for shared use by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology ("HKUST") and the Hong Kong Baptist University ("HKBU"). While generally supporting the

- 5 -

proposal, members were concerned about the serious shortfall in publicly-funded student hostel places for most of the UGC-funded institutions. They called on the Administration to address the inadequate provision of student hostel places, including locating suitable sites, preferably near the campus, for the construction of student hostels and seriously consider members' suggestion of converting vacant factory buildings and school premises into student hostels.

15. Members were pleased to note that institutions such as HKUST and HKBU had implemented the Panel's proposal for revising the policy on the allocation of student hostels so that local students attending publicly-funded programmes in the UGC-funded institutions would be given the opportunity to stay in student hostels for at least one year, and non-local students should be guaranteed the provision of hostel places only in the first two years of their studies. Members also expressed the view that should there be surplus hostel places after the institutions had fulfilled the aforesaid basic requirements, priority should be given to local students in the allocation of hostel places to enable them to stay in hostels for more than one year.

#### Implementation of the New Academic Structure

## Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education

- 16. The Panel received a progress report from the Administration on the implementation of the New Academic Structure ("NAS"), including delivery of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education ("HKDSE") Examination, the marking of Liberal Studies ("LS") papers and international recognition of the HKDSE qualification.
- 17. The first HKDSE Examination was held in March to June 2012. Members expressed concern about the appropriateness and level of difficulty of the examination questions for subjects such as LS and Chinese Language in the 2012 HKDSE Examination. Particular concern was raised about a question in the LS examination paper regarding party politics in Hong Kong. Some members considered it a leading question, while some others were concerned that the question involved concepts relating to party politics and opinion surveys which could not be easily mastered by secondary students. Members requested the Administration to review the mechanism for designing examination questions for LS and would follow up on the matter.
- 18. The core subject of LS had all along been of considerable concern to the Panel. Noting the cessation of the one-off LS Curriculum Support Grant ("LS Grant") at the amount of \$320,000 per school with effect from the 2012-2013 school year, members were worried that it would reduce the

manpower support to LS teachers and further add to their already heavy workload. With the growing number of senior secondary students studying LS, members urged the Administration to continue disbursing the LS Grant to ensure that the development of the subject would not be undermined. Subsequently, the Administration proposed to extend the LS Grant for a year until end of August 2013 to allow more time for schools with unspent balance to use the grant.

19. Members remained concerned about the international recognition of the HKDSE qualification, particularly recognition by renowned overseas universities. According to the Administration, it had put a lot of efforts to promote the HKDSE qualification in the past few years. In general, the HKDSE qualification was well recognized by overseas tertiary institutions, and more than 110 universities worldwide had recognised it so far. At the request of members, the Administration undertook to provide members with details of the overseas universities which had recognized the HKDSE qualification.

## Applied Learning

The Administration reported to the Panel on the progress of 20. implementation of Applied Learning ("ApL") in the new senior secondary ApL courses were elective subjects with stronger elements of practical learning linked to the application of knowledge in broad professional and vocational fields. Members noted that there were 6 690 and 6 193 student enrolments taking ApL courses in the first cohort (2010-2012) and second cohort (2011-2013) respectively. Members expressed concern about the receptiveness of schools, parents and students to ApL and the recognition of ApL courses by tertiary institutions for further studies in undergraduate programmes. Members suggested that the Administration should conduct a survey on students who did not take ApL courses to collect their feedback on ApL and their reasons for not choosing According to the Administration, a study conducted on ApL courses. stakeholders who participated in the 2010-2012 cohort showed that overall satisfaction with the ApL curriculum was very high. The Administration assured members that it would regularly review the ApL curriculum and promote better understanding of ApL to ensure its sustainable development.

#### Financial assistance on rechecking/remarking of examination results

21. Members expressed grave concern about the level of fees for rechecking/remarking of HKDSE Examination. Given the concerns over the assessment of LS, it was anticipated that there would be a lot of applications for remarking of results. Members considered the remarking

- 7 -

fee, which was as high as \$720 per subject, unaffordable for the economically disadvantaged candidates, and urged the Administration and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority ("HKEAA") to provide fee remission for rechecking/remarking for needy students, so as to ensure that not be deprived of the opportunity rechecking/remarking of their examination results due to a lack of means. According to HKEAA, since rechecking/remarking of examination results were not essential examination services, it would consider waiving part of the rechecking/remarking fees on a case-by-case basis having regard to its financial situation and the applicants' needs. Members considered such arrangement unacceptable and requested that special consideration be given to granting all applications from needy students for waiving such fees for the 2012 HKDSE Examination. Members would continue to follow up on the matter at the meeting to be held in July 2012 when the Panel would be briefed on the Administration's final preparation in the run-up to the release of the HKDSE Examination.

## New Yi Jin Diploma

- 22. Members welcomed the Administration's proposal to implement the new Yi Jin Diploma ("YJD") programme, which was modelled on the existing Project Yi Jin ("PYJ"), from the 2012-2013 academic year to provide an alternative pathway for secondary 6 school leavers under NAS as well as adult learners to obtain a formal qualification for employment and further studies. The Administration had taken on board members' suggestion of providing additional financial assistance for needy students under the new YJD programme. On top of the existing two tiers of financial support (i.e. 30% for non-means-tested fee reimbursement and 100% means-tested fee reimbursement), an additional tier of 50% means-tested fee reimbursement would be introduced for needy students.
- 23. Members noted that the new YJD programme would be re-structured to align with the new senior secondary curriculum and a new LS module would be added to broaden students' horizon. Members considered that the Administration should allocate additional contact hours for the language subjects based on students' needs and abilities under the new YJD programme so as to strengthen students' language abilities and better prepare them for further studies. The new YJD was assessed by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications as comparable to the attainment of Level 2 standard in five subjects (including Chinese Language and English Language) in the HKDSE Examination. To address members' concern that the existing PYJ certificate and the new YJD did not meet the entry requirements of some of the civil service grades which required passes/Level 2 in five subjects in the Hong Kong Certification of

- 8 -

Education Examination/HKDSE Examination respectively including Mathematics, the Administration had introduced a new Mathematics elective course into the new YJD programme. For students who had satisfactorily completed the Mathematics elective course, the qualification was deemed comparable to the attainment of Level 2 standard in five subjects in HKDSE Examination including Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics.

## Education support for non-Chinese speaking ("NCS") students

- 24. The Panel continued to follow up with the Administration on the progress of its measures to enhance support for NCS students. After the publication of the Report of the Equal Opportunities Commission ("EOC")'s Working Group on Education for Ethnic Minorities, the Panel discussed with the Administration and EOC education support for NCS students in the light of the findings and recommendations in the EOC Report.
- 25. Members shared the view of EOC that ethnic minority ("EM") students' lack of proficiency in the Chinese language was the main reason for their generally lower academic achievement in the education system. Members reiterated their strong call for the development of an alternative Chinese curriculum and qualification which offered a range of language attainment standards to suit the different needs and abilities of EM students. They also stressed the importance of providing Chinese language support programmes to EM children at pre-primary level to help them build a solid foundation for learning the Chinese language and suggested that EM teachers be engaged at kindergartens admitting EM children to facilitate their early adaptation to the local system. The Administration had undertaken to conduct a longitudinal study to collect data on NCS students' academic performance to facilitate the formulation and evaluation of support measures The Panel also examined and generally supported the Administration's proposal to create one supernumerary Principal Education Officer Post in the Education Bureau for three years to review and oversee the implementation of enhanced services for NCS students and students with special educational needs.

## Provision of international school places

26. The Panel met with representatives of foreign chambers of commerce and international schools at one of its meetings to listen to their views on the subject of provision of international school places. Members considered that the crux of the problem of insufficient supply of international school places lay in the mismatch between supply and demand of international school places. Members were concerned about the impact of shortage of

- 9 -

international school places on the incentive of overseas professionals and investors coming to Hong Kong and urged the Administration to take steps expeditiously to resolve the pressing problem, including setting up a high-level steering group comprising representatives from international schools and chambers of commerce to tackle the specific problems faced by the international schools in their expansion plans, and formulating tailor-made measures for international schools facing serious shortage of school places.

27. Members also put forward suggestions to the Administration for increasing the supply of school places for non-local students of overseas families, including allocating chambers of commerce with a certain proportion of international school places, and exploring with the international school sector the feasibility of increasing the percentage of school places for the national curriculum vis-à-vis the international curriculum. The Administration agreed to consider members' suggestions and undertook to make its best effort to find more sites and vacant school premises for the use of the international school sector. Members also noted the study commissioned by the Administration to project future demand and supply of international school places to facilitate its review on the support measures for the international sector in the long run and the expected completion of the study by mid 2012.

## Use and disposal of vacant school premises

- 28. Members noted that since the introduction of the consolidation policy for primary schools in 2003, a total of 95 primary and secondary schools had ceased operation from the period between the 2003-2004 school year to 2011-2012 school year. The Panel discussed the use and disposal of these school premises.
- 29. Members pointed out that there was a strong demand for vacant school premises for educational (in particular international schools and special schools), community and welfare uses and urged the Administration to strengthen its existing mechanism with a view to putting the vacant school premises into gainful use as soon as practicable. Members considered it important that in determining how the vacant school premises should be earmarked, the Administration should cater to the likely increase in demand for school places in future from children born in Hong Kong to Mainland women. For vacant school premises located in or nearby districts with insufficient school places such as the North District, members suggested that they should be used for operating schools to alleviate the problem of insufficient school places. While pleased to note that four vacant school premises had been identified as suitable for long-term international school

use, members urged the Administration to speed up the allocation exercise and provide assistance to school sponsoring bodies in the application process. To make better use of vacant school premises that were no longer suitable for educational use, members also suggested that the Education Bureau should enhance its co-ordination role and make available relevant information to non-governmental organizations and local communities to facilitate their application for using the premises or their facilities.

## <u>Textbook prices and development of e-textbooks</u>

- 30. The Panel continued to follow up the progress of the implementation of the policy of debundling of textbooks from teaching/learning resources for pricing ("debundling policy"). Members were disappointed to note that the debundling policy had failed to bring down the prices of textbooks. According to the Administration, to rectify the serious distortion of the textbook market, the Administration considered it necessary to develop the e-textbook market and introduce new competition into the market.
- 31. The Panel examined the Administration's proposal for launching an E-Textbook Market Development Scheme to provide seeding grant to non-profit making organizations to develop e-textbooks. Members in general supported the development of e-textbooks to provide greater choice of teaching and learning resources and introduce more competition into the Some members suggested that the Administration should textbook market. make reference to the experience of Singapore where each student was provided with a lightweight e-schoolbag from which e-textbooks could be retrieved by using smart cards. They also considered it important for the Administration to regulate the pricing of e-textbooks and set standard specifications for e-schoolbags or e-textbooks to prevent inclusion of unnecessary applications or electronic devices. Members noted that while the Administration's ultimate goal was to replace printed textbooks by e-textbooks, no timetable had been set in this regard. The e-textbooks developed under the Scheme could be up in the market in early/mid 2014. The Administration also assured members that it would help schools to upgrade their systems for implementation of e-textbooks if necessary.
- 32. Members expressed concern about whether the development of e-textbooks could lead to significant reduction in the price of printed textbooks. They pointed out that the e-textbook market would take time to develop and could not solve the problem of high textbook prices in the short term. Some members also queried whether e-textbooks could replace printed textbooks entirely. Members urged the Administration to adopt a multi-pronged approach to tackle the problem of high textbook prices. Some members were of the view that to instill more healthy competition into

- 11 -

the textbook market and provide more choices to schools, the Administration should consider commissioning universities or non-profit making organizations to publish textbooks at cost. Furthermore, the Panel passed a motion requesting the Administration to promote the implementation of textbook recycling programmes in schools and encourage teachers and students to use second-hand textbooks, as so to alleviate parents' burden and promote environmental protection.

## Administration and governance of Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools

- 33. Arising from the wide public concern over the operation of Direct Subsidy Scheme ("DSS") Schools following the malpractices of some DSS schools and the publication of Report No. 55 of the Public Accounts Committee in February 2011, the Administration had set up a Working Group on DSS ("Working Group") to review the administration of DSS as well as the governance and administration of DSS schools and put forward recommendations for improvement. The Panel continued to follow up the matter in the current session and received a briefing from the Administration on the recommendations of the Working Group.
- Members noted the measures proposed by the Working Group to 34. strengthen the governance, internal control and financial management of DSS schools, including setting up a governance review subcommittee accountable to the School Management Committee("SMC")/Incorporated Management Committee ("IMC") to conduct governance review on a regular basis; escalation of advisory letters and warning letters to supervisors and SMC/IMC; and conduct of self-assessment by DSS schools through completing a self-evaluation checklist. Members also noted the reservation of some DSS school principals about the proposed measures which would impose stringent control on DSS schools and hamper their flexibility, thus defeating the original purpose of establishing DSS. While agreeing on the need to enhance the governance and internal control of DSS schools, members stressed the importance of striking a proper balance between ensuring effective monitoring of DSS schools on the one hand, and maintaining their flexibility and autonomy on the other. considered it necessary for the Administration to provide assistance and enhance support to SMC/IMC and the proposed governance review subcommittee in discharging their functions.
- 35. The fee remission and scholarship schemes of DSS schools were another major concern of the Panel. Members considered it important for the Administration to take concrete measures to ensure that DSS schools would admit a certain number of economically disadvantaged students and would not be serving only the rich. Members suggested that the

- 12 -

Administration should approach DSS schools with low utilization of the fee remission provision to discuss ways to increase the admission of needy students. The Administration assured members that it would continue to monitor the utilization of the fee remission and scholarship schemes and further improvement measures would be implemented if necessary.

#### Academic freedom

36. The Panel received views from stakeholders including university professors, management of universities and students concerning academic freedom, following a spate of incidents which had aroused public concern about infringement of academic freedom of universities. Members considered it important for the senior management of institutions to step forward to openly defend the academic freedom of their staff when such freedom was being infringed upon. They were of the view that institutions should put in place a more proactive mechanism to provide assistance to staff who were subjected to severe criticism and pressure for their academic pursuit. Some members suggested that academic freedom should be written into the ordinances of the UGC-funded institutions with a view to providing legal protection to academic freedom. In the light of members' views, the institutions concerned undertook to review their mechanism to enhance protection for the academic freedom of their staff and students.

#### **Education Information System**

37. The Panel examined the Administration's proposal to enhance the infrastructure of the Education Information System ("EdIS") of the Education Bureau. Members supported the Administration's proposal to redevelop the existing EDIS, which had been in use since 1995, into an integrated computer system with the latest technology and new functions. Members noted that the new system would enable the matching and sharing of data amongst different computer systems and help streamline the business processes of the Education Bureau, thereby reducing the administrative work of schools and teachers. Members considered that adequate flexibility should be built into the new system to cater for new business requirements arising from future policy changes. Member also considered it important that the new system should be forward looking and able to provide the required information to different stakeholders including schools, parents and Members in a timely manner. At the request of the Panel, the Administration provided supplementary information on the measures to be adopted to ensure the security and integrity of data during data migration to the new system.

- 13 -

## Injection into the Education Development Fund

38. The Administration consulted the Panel on its proposal for injecting \$550 million into the Education Development Fund ("EDF") to continue providing support for five years from the 2012-2013 school year to the school sector to support school-based professional support programmes ("SBPS"). Members noted that many schools had benefited from the SBPS programmes financed by EDF and expressed support for the proposal. Members sought information on the mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of the SBPS programmes and urged the Administration to enhance the support to kindergartens to cater for learner diversity with the new injection of fund into EDF.

## Education on media literacy and free newspapers containing indecent content

- 39. In the light of wide concern of parent organizations, schools and the education sector on the indecent content of Sharp Daily, the Panel held a joint meeting with the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting ("ITB Panel") in February 2012 to discuss the subject of "Education on media literacy and free newspapers containing indecent content". Deputations were invited to give views on the subject matter at the meeting.
- Members were concerned about the exposure of students and youngsters to indecent and obscene contents contained in free newspapers. As the contents of free newspapers were classified only after they had been published, students and youngsters could not be prevented from exposure to To address the problem, some members indecent contents therein. suggested that the contents of free newspapers should be classified first Members considered that media literacy education before distribution. could help to enhance students' ability to understand and differentiate media information while sex education was important in instilling a correct concept on sex for students. Noting from the Administration that the existing school curriculum comprised media literacy education and sex education, members requested the Administration to provide information on the curriculum guides, as well as the teaching and learning arrangements for these two subjects in schools.
- 41. Members also considered it necessary to step up the enforcement of law relating to indecent and obscene contents in free newspapers. While some members considered that the existing legislation should be amended to enhance the deterrent effect for offenders, some members took a different view. They were concerned about the impact on the media sector as a whole if the laws were too strict or the penalties were too heavy. The Administration was requested to take into account the views of members and

deputations in the second round of public consultation on the review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (Cap. 390).

## Arrangements for students affected by relocation of private schools

42. Arising from the concern about the proposed relocation of Lingnan Primary School and Kindergarten and Lingnan Day Nursery, the Panel was briefed on the arrangements for students affected by relocation of private schools. Noting that private schools had to identify suitable private premises/land by themselves before making arrangements for relocation, members suggested that the Administration should consider providing vacant premises/land for temporary relocation of private schools with a reasonable charge. Members noted with concern that the Lingnan Primary School had yet to identify suitable premises for relocation, and requested the Administration to keep in view the progress of the matter and render all necessary assistance to the school, students and parents concerned.

## Meetings held

43. From October 2011 to June 2012, the Panel held a total of 11 meetings, including the joint meeting with the ITB Panel on the subject of "Education on media literacy and free newspapers containing indecent content". Another meeting has been scheduled for July 2012.

Council Business Division 2 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 28 June 2012

#### **Panel on Education**

#### **Terms of Reference**

- 1. To monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to education.
- 2. To provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of views on the above policy matters.
- 3. To receive briefings and to formulate views on any major legislative or financial proposals in respect of the above policy area prior to their formal introduction to the Council or Finance Committee.
- 4. To monitor and examine, to the extent it considers necessary, the above policy matters referred to it by a member of the Panel or by the House Committee.
- 5. To make reports to the Council or to the House Committee as required by the Rules of Procedure.

## **Appendix II**

#### **Panel on Education**

## Membership list for 2011-2012 session

**Chairman** Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP

**Deputy Chairman** Hon Tanya CHAN

**Members** 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

Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP 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

(Total: 21 Members)

Clerk Ms Amy YU

**Legal Adviser** Mr Kelvin LEE