

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)110/12-13
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 16 October 2012, at 4:20 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** :
- Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP (Chairman)
 - Hon IP Kin-yuen (Deputy Chairman)
 - Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
 - Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
 - Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
 - Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
 - Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
 - Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
 - Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, JP
 - Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
 - Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
 - Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
 - Hon Claudia MO
 - Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
 - Hon Charles Peter MOK
 - Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
 - Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
 - Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
- Members absent** :
- Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
 - Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
 - Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
 - Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
 - Hon WONG Yuk-man
 - Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Clerk in attendance : Ms Polly YEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (4)4

Staff in attendance : Mrs Percy MA
Assistant Secretary General 4

Mr KWONG Kam-fai
Senior Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Esther CHEUNG
Council Secretary (4)4

Miss Winnie CHENG
Senior Legislative Assistant (4)1

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (4)3

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Election of Chairman

Ms Emily LAU, the member present who had the highest precedence, presided at the meeting and called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel.

2. Mr IP Kwok-him nominated Dr LAM Tai-fai and the nomination was seconded by Mr MA Fung-kwok and Ms Starry LEE. Dr LAM Tai-fai accepted the nomination. There being no other nomination, Dr LAM Tai-fai was declared Chairman of the Panel for the 2012-2013 session.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. Dr LAM Tai-fai took the chair and invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel.

4. Mr. IP Kin-yuen was nominated by Ms Cyd HO and the nomination was seconded by Mr. Charles Peter MOK and Ms Claudia MO. Mr. IP Kin-yuen accepted the nomination. As there was no other nomination,

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Mr. IP Kin-yuen was declared Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2012-2013 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2012-2013 session

5. Members agreed that the regular meetings of the Panel for the 2012-2013 session would continue to be held on the second Monday of each month at 4:30 pm, except for February and April 2013. As the second Monday of February 2013 was a public holiday and the special meetings of Finance Committee would be held in the second week of April 2013, members agreed that the regular meeting for February and April 2013 would be re-scheduled to be held on 7 February 2013 at 4:30 pm and 17 April 2013 at 8:30 am respectively. The Chairman advised that the schedule would be suitably revised if the re-scheduled meetings clashed with other committee meetings, and members would be duly notified.

(Post-meeting note: The schedule of regular meetings for the 2012-2013 session tabled at the meeting was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)33/12-13 on 17 October 2012. Members were also advised that as at 16 October 2012, no other committees had scheduled meetings at the timeslots for the two re-scheduled meetings.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper No. CB(2)32/12-13(01) and (02)]

Items for discussion at the regular meeting on 12 November 2012

6. Members noted the "List of issues suggested to be considered" and the "List of follow-up actions" which were tabled at the meeting.

7. Members agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting scheduled for 12 November 2012 -

- (a) Review on the implementation of the New Senior Secondary curriculum and assessment;
- (b) Extension of Examination Fee Remission Scheme for Needy Non-Chinese Speaking Students; and

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- (c) Proposed creation of one Chief Maintenance Surveyor (D1) post in the Education Bureau.

8. In relation to item (b) above, Ms Starry LEE suggested that subject to the readiness of the Administration, the Panel should also be updated at the same meeting on the progress of the implementation of education support measures for non-Chinese speaking students.

Items for discussion at future meetings

Issues relating to the declining secondary student population

9. Referring to item (5) on the list of issues suggested to be considered, namely, issues relating to the declining secondary student population, the Deputy Chairman said that according to his understanding, the arrangements for Secondary One ("S1") school places allocation for the 2013-2014 school year would be finalized by late November 2012. He was concerned that the drop in S1 student population in the coming years would have a significant impact on secondary schools, teachers and parents. He therefore considered it necessary for the Panel to discuss the subject not later than early November 2012. Ms Cyd HO was of the view that a special meeting should be arranged as soon as possible as the number of S1 places in individual secondary schools would have a bearing on parents' choice of their desired schools. Dr Kenneth CHAN and Dr Helena WONG shared similar views. Ms Emily LAU suggested that the Panel should also listen to the views of stakeholders and the public. The Deputy Chairman and Ms Claudia MO concurred.

10. Members agreed that a special meeting should be held as soon as practicable. They agreed that the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman would, with the assistance of the Secretariat, decide on the appropriate meeting arrangements.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Chairman, two special meetings were scheduled for 2 November 2012 at 9:00 am and 3 November 2012 at 9:00 am. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman agreed that in view of the widespread public concern of the subject matter and in line with the practice adopted for special meetings held at short notice, a general notice would be posted on the Legislative Council website to invite views from the public, and that members would be invited to propose invitees or advise interested parties to respond to the invitation notice direct.)

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Self-financing post-secondary education

11. Dr Kenneth CHAN referred to the recent over-enrolment by the Community College at Lingnan University and the Lingnan Institute of Further Education, and suggested that the policy on self-financing post-secondary education in Hong Kong and the measures to safeguard students' interests should be discussed. Ms Cyd HO suggested that the discussion should also cover the provision of degree and sub-degree programmes and the pathway for further study by sub-degree holders.

Provision of international school places

12. Dr Kenneth CHAN referred to a recent incident in which an international school was asked to move out of its present site to make way for building youth hostels. He was concerned about the supply of international school places and the availability of sites for building school premises. Dr CHAN suggested that the Panel should discuss this matter.

Native-speaking English Teacher Scheme

13. Mrs Regina IP referred members to item (6) on the "List of issues suggested to be considered", namely the Native-speaking English Teacher Scheme, and reiterated her request for discussion of the matter. Ms Claudia MO suggested that the Panel should also discuss issues related to the English proficiency of students and the policies on the teaching and learning of English.

15-year free education

14. Dr Helena WONG said that members had along called on the Administration to consider the implementation of 15-year free education. She was of the view that the subject should be considered by the Panel as soon as possible.

Moral and national education

15. Ms Emily LAU considered it necessary for the Panel to follow up the subject of moral and national education, notwithstanding the Administration's announcement of its change of policy in early October 2012.

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Special education and integrated education

16. Ms Cyd HO was concerned about the policy and support measures, such as school facilities and training for teachers, for special education and integrated education. She suggested the Panel to follow up this subject.

17. Members noted that the aforesaid items would be included on the Panel's "List of outstanding items for discussion". The Chairman informed members that he and the Deputy Chairman would meet with the Secretary for Education to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2012-2013 session.

IV. Any other business

Late application for membership

18. The Chairman informed members that Mr Albert HO Chun-yan had written in and requested to join the Panel after the expiry of the deadline for signification of membership. He sought members' view on Mr HO's application for late membership. Members agreed to accept Mr HO's application.

19. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:40 pm.