

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(4)911/13-14  
(The minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

**Panel on Education**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Monday, 12 May 2014, at 4:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon IP Kin-yuen (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Hon Charles Peter MOK  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok  
Hon Dennis KWOK  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP  
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen
- Members absent** : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

**Public Officers** : Agenda item IV  
**attending**

Mr Eddie NG, SBS, JP  
Secretary for Education

Ms Jessie WONG  
Deputy Secretary for Education (2)

Ms IP Ling-bik  
Principal Assistant Secretary  
(Education Commission and Planning)  
Education Bureau

Agenda item V

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP  
Under Secretary for Education

Ms Wendy CHUNG  
Principal Assistant Secretary  
(Infrastructure & Research Support)  
Education Bureau

Mr K Y LEE  
Chief Maintenance Surveyor  
(School Premises Maintenance)  
Education Bureau

Agenda item VI

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP  
Under Secretary for Education

Ms Wendy CHUNG  
Principal Assistant Secretary  
(Infrastructure & Research Support)  
Education Bureau

**Attendance by** : Agenda item IV  
**invitation**

Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads  
Association

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Mr LEUNG Siu-tong  
Chairman

FDBWA Chow Chin Yau School

Mr SHUM Yiu-kwong  
Principal

S.K.H. Tin Shui Wai Ling Oi Primary School

Mr HUNG Wai-shing  
Headmaster

Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union

Dr FUNG Wai-wah  
President

Lam Tin Methodist Primary School

Ms CHAN Chui-chun  
Principal

Yuen Long Primary School Heads Association

Ms LAM Pik-chu  
Chairperson

Hong Kong Society of Small Class Teaching

Dr ZHANG Yue-feng  
Vice-President

Tuen Mun District Primary School Heads Association

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Ms TSANG Ka-lai  
Chairman

Carmel Leung Sing Tak School

Mr LAW Lai-yin  
Principal

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

**Staff in attendance** : Mr KWONG Kam-fai  
Senior Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Sandy HAU  
Legislative Assistant (4)4

Miss Emma LAM  
Clerical Assistant (4)3

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**I. Confirmation of minutes**

- (LC Paper No. CB(4)635/13-14 -- Minutes of the special meeting on 27 January 2014
- LC Paper No. CB(4)636/13-14 -- Minutes of meeting on 18 March 2014)

The minutes of the special meeting held on 27 January 2014 and the regular meeting held on 18 March 2014 were confirmed.

**II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting**

- (LC Paper No. CB(4)609/13-14(01) -- Letter dated 8 April 2014 from Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok concerning the issues related to cessation of operation of kindergartens  
(*Chinese version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)609/13-14(02) -- Administration's written response dated 23 April 2014 to the letter dated 8 April 2014 from Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok concerning the issues related to cessation of operation of kindergartens)

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2. Members noted the above papers issued since the last meeting.

**III. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

(Appendix I to LC Paper No.            -- List of outstanding items  
CB(4)645/13-14                            for discussion)

Appendix II to LC Paper No.        -- List of follow-up actions)  
CB(4)645/13-14

3. The Chairman informed members that the Administration had proposed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting to be held on 9 June 2014 at 4:30 pm –

- (a) The Fourth Strategy on Information Technology in Education;  
and
- (b) Progress of the Review of the New Senior Secondary Curriculum and Assessment.

The Chairman said that after discussion with the Deputy Chairman, he would propose to include the item "Policy and programme on redevelopment of primary and secondary schools and special schools", i.e. item 3 on the "List of outstanding items for discussion", on the agenda of the next meeting. Members agreed to discuss the above items at the next meeting.

4. Before proceeding to the discussion items, the Chairman drew members' attention to Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure which provided that a Member shall not move any motion or amendment relating to a matter in which he had a pecuniary interest, whether direct or indirect, or speak on any such matter, except where he disclosed the nature of that interest. He reminded members to declare interests, if any, in the matter under discussion.

**IV. Policy on small class teaching in primary schools and issues related to increasing the number of students allocated to each Primary One class**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)645/13-14(01) -- Paper provided by the  
Administration

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LC Paper No. CB(4)653/13-14(01) -- Paper provided by Hon IP Kin-yuen  
(*Chinese version only*)

LC Paper No. CB(4)574/13-14(01) -- Letter dated 11 April 2014 from Hon IP Kin-yuen to the Chairman of Panel on Education  
(*Chinese version only*)

Written submission from organization not attending the meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(4)664/13-14(06) -- Submission from Centre for Small Class Teaching, The Hong Kong Institute of Education  
(*Chinese version only*)

Meeting with the Administration and related deputations

5. Members noted a paper and a letter from the Deputy Chairman [LC Paper Nos. CB(4)653/13-14(01) and CB(4)574/13-14(01) respectively]. They also noted the submission from a deputation not attending the meeting [LC Paper No. CB(4)664/13-14(06)].

Briefing by the Administration

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Education ("SED") briefed members on the Administration's preparation for the Central Allocation under the Primary One Admission ("POA") System, specifically the flexible arrangements adopted to meet the transient increased demand of applicant children in the 2014 cycle, as set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)645/13-14(01)]. He advised that among the 36 school nets in the territory, it was necessary to increase the supply of Primary One ("P1") places in five school nets of three districts through the temporary arrangement of allocating more students to each P1 class of schools implementing small class teaching ("SCT") to meet the demand in POA 2014.

Oral presentation by deputations

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7. A total of nine deputations presented their views. Their major concerns were summarized in the **Appendix I**.

Initial response by the Administration to deputations' views

8. At the invitation of the Chairman, SED said that SCT was in essence a teaching pedagogy, and highlighted that there had not been any change to the progressive implementation of the SCT policy in public sector primary schools starting from the cohort of P1 students in the 2009-2010 school year. He noted the deputations' concerns about the temporary arrangement of allocating more students to each P1 class, and assured members that the measure for POA 2014 was only temporary and did not deviate from the prevailing policy on SCT. SED pointed out that in accordance with the established practice, the schools concerned would be provided with additional resources when 30 students were allocated to each P1 class to safeguard the teaching and learning of students.

9. Before proceeding to the discussion, the Chairman reminded members that the objects displaying slogans placed by individual members on their desks should not obstruct the Chairman's view or cause obstruction to other members.

Discussion

*Policy on implementing SCT*

10. Dr Helena WONG said that Members of the Democratic Party supported the implementation of SCT in primary schools and its extension to secondary schools. Dr WONG was of the view that the temporary arrangement to increase the number of students allocated to each P1 class from 25 to 30 had already deviated from the prevailing policy on SCT. The Deputy Chairman questioned whether the Administration was committed to upholding the policy on SCT. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that the implementation of SCT in primary schools was a standing policy and should not be turned into a flexible arrangement under which the class size could be varied arbitrarily from 25 to 30 students. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che sought further clarification from the Administration on the standard class size under the prevailing policy.

11. SED advised that in the light of teaching pedagogy, the implementation of SCT did not merely mandate a class size and should involve the use of appropriate pedagogical strategies. Upon the progressive implementation of SCT in primary schools starting from the

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2009-2010 school year, about 75% of public sector primary schools implementing SCT had a basic class size of 25 students while the remaining 25% still maintained a class size of 30 for allocation of P1 students.

12. Dr Priscilla LEUNG considered that in implementing SCT, a number of factors, including the quality of teaching and learning, the class size, deployment of resources, parental choice and the circumstances of individual schools etc., should be taken into account. She enquired whether the Administration had monitored the effectiveness of teaching and learning in schools implementing SCT. Mrs Regina IP asked whether EDB had conducted any tracking study on the effects on teaching and learning brought about by the implementation of SCT.

13. In this regard, SED remarked that the delivery of the first six-year cycle of SCT in public sector primary schools was still in progress. The Administration would assess the effectiveness of the implementation of SCT in public sector primary schools upon completion of the first six-year cycle as appropriate. According to observations made during lessons, the implementation of SCT had made teaching and learning activities more interactive.

*Temporary arrangement to increase school places in five school nets*

14. Mr IP Kwok-him sought details on the projection of student population and the rationale for allocating more students to each P1 class of the schools in the school nets concerned as proposed by the Administration. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung also considered it necessary for the Administration to explain its justifications.

15. Referring to the Annex of the Administration's paper, DS(Ed)2 elaborated on the projected demand for P1 places which was expected to increase in the coming few years and then progressively decrease to a stable level starting from the 2019-2010 school year. The reasons for the rising demand were two-fold. The Type II babies (i.e. babies born to Mainland women in Hong Kong and whose fathers were not permanent residents of Hong Kong) born in recent years would have reached the age for admission to P1 in the coming few years. The population projection released by the Census and Statistics Department included Type II babies residing in Hong Kong and was premised on the assumption that about 50% of these children would return to Hong Kong before 21 years of age. Another reason was that traditionally, more babies were born in the Year of Dragon, i.e. 2012. These children would reach the age for admission to P1



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in the 2018-2019 school year.

16. Noting the anticipated fluctuation in student population in the next few years, Ms Starry LEE considered that the relatively small coverage of individual school nets would aggravate the mismatch of demand for and supply of P1 places in individual school nets. She said that the Administration should explore the feasibility of increasing school places by making use of vacant classrooms and borrowing places from neighbouring districts. Temporarily increasing the number of students allocated to each class should be the last resort. Noting the deputations' concerns about the temporary arrangement announced by EDB, Ms LEE urged the Administration to carefully address issues arising from the shortfall of primary school places.

17. Dr Priscilla LEUNG noted from the Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association that schools were generally unwilling to adopt a "partly-enlarged class structure" (大肚班), and sought further elaboration from the Association.

18. In this regard, Mr LEUNG Siu-tong of Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association said that schools were concerned that if the number of operating classes at certain levels largely exceeded that in other levels in the same school, the long-term development of the school would be adversely affected. For example, if a school with 30 classrooms was requested by the Administration to operate nine P1 classes to accommodate the increased demand for P1 places, then, say, after three years, P1 to P3 classes would take up 27 classrooms and the school would need to reduce the number of P1 classes in future due to insufficient classrooms. Under such circumstances, schools were generally unwilling to adopt such a class structure.

19. The Deputy Chairman was concerned that the Administration had referred to the implementation of the temporary arrangement to allocate more students to each P1 class in the North District when making similar arrangement in other districts. He was of the view that the Administration should first review the effectiveness of the practice implemented in the North District before extending it to other districts. Mr Dennis KWOK questioned whether the temporary arrangement for allocating more students to each P1 class in the three districts concerned was the only feasible option. Mr WU Chi-wai enquired how the Administration had come to the view that the increase in student population in Kwun Tong would only be temporary.

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20. SED and DS(Ed)2 stressed that allocating more students to each P1 class in certain school nets was the last resort after due consideration of all other options. For example, in Tai Po, only one or two schools in Tai Po had vacant classrooms to provide additional school places. The schools in Tai Po had therefore reached a consensus that more students would be allocated to each P1 class in all primary schools in the district. Referring to the Annex of the Administration's paper on the projected school-age population aged 6 who were residing in Hong Kong, SED and DS(Ed)2 pointed out that the projections had been compiled based on the Hong Kong Population Projections 2012-2041 released by the Census and Statistics Department in July 2012. Reference had also been made to the "Projections of Population Distribution 2013-2021" published by the Planning Department in March 2013. The school-age population aged 6 in Kwun Tong was forecast to increase in the next few years and then decline from the 2018-2019 school year onwards. The Administration would closely monitor the projected demand and there was a plan to construct a new primary school at Anderson Road, Kwun Tong.

21. Dr Helena WONG enquired whether the temporary arrangement of allocating more students to each P1 class in Kwun Tong would lead to the reduction in the number of P1 classes. On the provision of P1 places in Yuen Long, Dr WONG sought the reasons for allocating more students per P1 class to increase school places in school nets 73 and 74 but not in school net 72.

22. In reply, DS(Ed)2 clarified that the actual number of classes to be operated in the 2014-2015 school year might be lower than the provisional number of P1 classes estimated for the Central Allocation exercise. However, there would not be any reduction in the number of P1 classes in Kwun Tong. Regarding the provision of school places in Yuen Long, DS(Ed)2 informed members that the shortfall of P1 places in school nets 73 and 74 was so acute that the demand could not be met after making use of vacant classrooms of schools in the school nets and, in the case of school net 74, after borrowing places from its neighbouring school net 72 (Tin Shui Wai). It was necessary to increase the number of students allocated to each P1 class in these two school nets.

*Provision of additional resources to schools*

23. Noting the temporary arrangement to be implemented in five school nets to increase the supply of P1 school places, Dr Fernando CHEUNG was of the view that the Administration should adopt a more flexible approach in providing additional resources to schools to cope with the

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increase in P1 student intake. When a school operating five P1 classes was allocated with five more students to each of its P1 classes, the additional resources to be provided should be commensurate with those required for operating an additional P1 class. Mr Dennis KWOK concurred with Dr CHEUNG's view and highlighted the need for sufficient resources to sustain the effective implementation of SCT.

24. Mr IP Kwok-him cautioned that the additional teachers provided to schools to meet the increased demand for school places might become surplus teachers when the student population declined in a few years' time. This would undermine the stability of the teaching force. He was therefore of the view that flexibility should be allowed for implementing certain temporary measures and in the provision of additional resources to schools.

25. Ms Starry LEE noted that the allocation of five more students to each P1 class would have significant implication on the resources of a school implementing SCT and operating four to five P1 classes. She urged the Administration to carefully examine the provision of additional resources to schools. The Chairman noted that all stakeholders expected sustainable development of SCT in primary schools. In case temporary arrangements were required to increase the supply of P1 places in individual school nets, the Administration should see to it that complementary support would be provided to the schools concerned to safeguard learning and teaching effectiveness.

26. DS(Ed)2 explained that in parallel with the progressive implementation of SCT in the 2009-2010 school year, the Administration had provided additional resources in terms of teaching posts to primary schools allocated with 30 students per P1 class to enhance learning and teaching effectiveness. The additional resources provided for schools allocated up to 30 students per P1 class as a temporary arrangement under POA 2014 had followed this standing practice with reference to the teaching and learning situation of schools maintaining 30 students per class. DS(Ed)2 reiterated that the arrangement of allocating more students to each P1 class was a temporary measure. The Administration would closely monitor the demand for school places and where necessary, would review the complementary support provided to schools.

*Consultation with the school sector*

27. Noting some deputations' criticism about EDB's lack of prior consultation with the schools in the districts concerned before finalizing the temporary arrangements, Mr WONG Kwok-hing enquired whether

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the Administration would undertake to initiate discussion with the school sector on the feasibility of other options and the provision of additional support to schools. Ms Starry LEE concurred that the Administration should always maintain effective communication with the school sector.

28. In response, SED pointed out that the Administration had held discussions with schools in the districts concerned and explored all other options before coming up with the temporary arrangement of allocating more students to each P1 class. DS(Ed)2 supplemented that during the whole POA cycle, EDB had discussed with schools in those school nets with an anticipated shortfall of P1 places. When the registration of P1 students under the Discretionary Places Admission Stage of POA 2014 was finalized with information available, EDB worked out the projected demand for P1 places in the Central Allocation Stage for discussion with the schools concerned. After parents had made school choice for the Central Allocation in January 2014, EDB arranged another round of discussion with the school sector on the provision of P1 places. DS(Ed)2 assured members that the Administration would continue to maintain close communication with the school sector.

29. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung remarked that the adoption of temporary arrangements to address the fluctuations in student population had reflected a lack of long term policy and planning on education. Mr LEUNG enquired whether EDB would, in consultation with the school sector, work out appropriate arrangements for those schools which were not prepared to accept the allocation of additional students to each P1 class, and whether EDB would allow some schools to increase the number of P1 classes instead.

30. DS(Ed)2 reiterated that in the course of consultation with the schools in the five school nets of three districts on the temporary arrangements, the Administration had examined all other alternatives such as the availability of sufficient vacant classrooms in the school net / district concerned and borrowing of places from neighbouring school nets. She referred to Kwun Tong where very few vacant classrooms were available and hence additional places provided by operating additional classes were not sufficient to meet the shortfall in P1 places.

31. Noting the Administration's explanation, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che sought confirmation from the attending deputations whether schools in Kwun Tong had reached any consensus with the Administration.

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32. In this regard, Ms CHAN Chui-chun of Lam Tin Methodist Primary School pointed out that schools in Kwun Tong had not been fully consulted on the temporary arrangements to meet the anticipated increase in demand for P1 places. She recalled that she had requested EDB to step up communication and obtain more accurate information from individual schools on making optimal use of vacant classrooms. However, she was not aware of such steps being taken prior to EDB's announcement of the temporary arrangement to be implemented in Kwun Tong.

33. Mr LAW Lai-yin of Carmel Leung Sing Tak School recalled that at a meeting held in December 2013 attended by 32 school principals of primary schools in Kwun Tong, EDB had advised that schools in Kwun Tong would be required to operate an additional 22 classes of P1 in the 2014-2015 school year to fully meet the projected shortfall. No consensus had been reached at that meeting on the necessary arrangements to be implemented. Subsequently, on 15 December 2013, EDB informed all primary schools in Kwun Tong of the temporary arrangement to allocate more students to each P1 class in POA 2014.

34. Noting the differences in the explanation given by the Administration and the deputations, Dr Kenneth CHAN commented that there had been a communication gap between the Administration and the school sector. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung shared Dr CHAN's view.

35. In this connection, DS(Ed)2 further explained that based on information from schools, EDB was aware that only about two or three vacant classrooms were available in Kwun Tong which could hardly meet all the anticipated demand for P1 places in the district. When considering other alternatives, the school principals in Kwun Tong referred to the option of borrowing school places from neighbouring school nets and advised that based on past experience, parents would subsequently seek admission to schools in Kwun Tong. It was only after parents making school choice for the Central Allocation that a few schools in Kwun Tong suggested operating additional classes by making use of their remaining classrooms instead of being allocated with more students to each P1 class. At that juncture, EDB had practical difficulty in accepting the suggestion as parents had already made reference to the provisional number of school places for Central Allocation, which was calculated on the basis of 30 students per P1 class, in making their choices.

36. The Chairman remarked that the Administration should arrange further discussion with the school sector to narrow the differences in views. The Deputy Chairman asked whether the Administration would

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re-negotiate with the schools regarding the temporary arrangement adopted in the districts concerned.

37. SED highlighted that in 2008, when promulgating the implementation details of SCT in public sector primary schools, one of the considerations was that should the actual demand in any POA cycle exceed the supply of classrooms in the school net where a school was situated, EDB might need to slightly increase the number of students allocated to each P1 class in the school net concerned for that particular school year, as a temporary arrangement. Three school nets in the North District had adopted similar temporary arrangement from the 2011-2012 to 2013-2014 school years to meet the increased demand for P1 places.

38. DS(Ed)2 reiterated that the provision of additional resources/teachers to individual schools had followed the established practice under the prevailing SCT policy. Regarding the POA 2014 exercise, stakeholders including the school sector had been informed of the schedule. By now, parents had already made school choice for Central Allocation on the basis of the provisional number of Central Allocation places of individual schools. The results of Central Allocation would be released in early June as scheduled. Hence, it was not practicable at this stage to make further revision to the temporary arrangement of allocating more students to each P1 class in the school nets concerned.

39. The Deputy Chairman considered that even if the allocation arrangements for POA 2014 could not be further revised at this juncture, some other key issues, notably the basis or methodology for determining the provision of additional resources to schools, could be re-negotiated. He urged the Administration to follow up this matter.

*(Post-meeting note: At the request of the Deputy Chairman and on the instruction of the Chairman, the Administration was requested to provide written response to the questions raised in the Deputy Chairman's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)653/13-14(01)]. The Administration's written responses were circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)778/13-14(02) on 5 June 2014.)*

Motions

40. The Chairman informed members that he had received the wording of two motions, both tabled at the meeting. The first motion was proposed by the Deputy Chairman and seconded by Dr Helena WONG. The other one was proposed by Dr Helena WONG and seconded by Dr Fernando

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CHEUNG. With the agreement of members, the Chairman said that he would proceed to deal with the motions without further debate as the Panel had thoroughly discussed the matters concerned.

41. With the concurrence of the Chairman, DS(Ed)2 referred to her earlier explanation and stressed that it was not feasible at this stage for the Administration to discuss with the school sector with a view to making further changes to POA 2014 because the computer-processing of Central Allocation was at the final stage with the POA results to be announced in early June 2014. Nevertheless, the Administration would continue to engage the school sector in discussion on the allocation arrangements for the coming POA cycles.

42. The Chairman put to vote the Deputy Chairman's motion. Eleven members voted for the motion, no member voted against and no member abstained. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed (wording of motion at **Appendix II**).

43. The Chairman put the motion moved by Dr Helena WONG to vote. Twelve members voted for the motion, no member voted against and one member abstained. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed (wording of motion at **Appendix III**).

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written responses to the motions passed at the meeting were circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)778/13-14(01) on 5 June 2014.)*

**V. Construction of an annex to Baptist Lui Ming Choi Secondary School in Shatin**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)645/13-14(02) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

Briefing by the Administration

44. At the invitation of the Chairman, Under Secretary for Education ("US(Ed)") briefed members on the Administration's proposal as set out in LC Paper No. CB(4)645/13-14(02) on the construction of an annex to Baptist Lui Ming Choi Secondary School ("the School") in Shatin for the implementation of the New Senior Secondary academic structure. The School was currently operating 30 classes but the existing school premises built in the 1970s had only 25 classrooms. The School needed to operate

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five floating classes and use special rooms as classrooms. Members noted that the Administration planned to submit the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and the Finance Committee ("FC") for approval on 4 June 2014 and 27 June 2014 respectively.

Discussion

*Extension project of the School*

45. Dr Helena WONG expressed her support for the proposed project and urged for its early implementation. She considered that the operation of five floating classes in the School due to insufficient number of classrooms was not conducive to effective learning and teaching, and enquired for how long such unsatisfactory arrangement had been in place.

46. US(Ed) advised that with the increase in student intake by the School and much more grouping and split classes as a result of the implementation of the New Senior Secondary curriculum, the existing classrooms and facilities of the School could not fully meet the demands for teaching and learning. Subject to funding approval, the project would be carried out in two phases, with construction work expected to commence in December 2014. Regarding Dr Helena WONG's enquiry about the arrangement of floating classes at the School, the Administration would check with the School and provide the information when available.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)852/13-14(01) on 19 June 2014.)*

47. Dr Kenneth CHAN welcomed the proposed project for the purpose of improving the teaching and learning environment. Noting that the Administration had consulted this Panel on 24 October 2005 on the review of the School Building Programme, he was concerned whether there had been a delay in taking forward the proposed project. He also asked when the proposed extension project was first initiated.

48. In reply, US(Ed) explained that in October 2005, the Panel was consulted on the general principles and policy on taking forward re-provisioning and redevelopment projects to upgrade the teaching and learning environment of existing schools. The current proposed project was the result of ongoing discussion between the Administration and the School following the principles and policy supported by the Panel.



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49. Dr Kenneth CHAN enquired about the measures to minimize possible disruption to the School during the construction period. Noting recent cases in which further approval was required for increasing the approved project estimate of some public works projects, Dr CHAN urged the Administration to closely monitor the costs of the proposed project. The Deputy Chairman supported the proposed project and shared the concerns of Dr CHAN.

50. US(Ed) noted members' views. He assured members that necessary measures would be implemented to mitigate the noise impact arising from the construction works. Meanwhile, some noise-generating works would be scheduled and carried out outside sensitive school hours.

51. While supporting the proposed project, Dr Fernando CHEUNG was concerned about the barrier-free access and facilities at the School, both before and after the proposed extension project. In response, US(Ed) informed members that school improvement works, including the installation of a passenger lift and provision of toilets for persons with physical disability, had been carried out in 1999. The scope of the proposed project included conversion works to enhance the connection between the new annex and the existing school building so that the barrier-free facilities could serve both the new annex and the existing building.

*Upgrading the facilities of existing school premises*

52. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that the operation of floating classes due to insufficient classrooms was not unique to the School. To cope with the increase in grouping and split classes as a result of the implementation of the New Senior Secondary curriculum, he urged the Administration to ascertain the number of secondary schools which required upgrading of facilities or redevelopment/reprovisioning. To facilitate consideration by members, Mr LEUNG suggested that the Administration should put forward improvement/redevelopment proposals for schools in one batch instead of submitting individual projects one at a time.

53. US(Ed) advised that all along, the Administration had worked closely with individual schools to explore various options, such as in-situ improvements, reprovisioning etc. to upgrade the facilities in existing schools so as to enhance the teaching and learning environment. In taking forward a school improvement project, the Administration and the school concerned would take steps to consult stakeholders including parents of the school concerned, schools in the vicinity and where necessary, the relevant

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District Council. To facilitate timely implementation of such projects, the current practice was to submit the proposed project(s) to the Legislative Council for consideration and funding approval as soon as practicable after completion of the necessary procedures.

54. Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed support for the proposal, and requested the Administration to provide information on those secondary schools operating in sub-standard premises which would require upgrading or other redevelopment/reprovisioning options. In this regard, US(Ed) advised that school premises built in different periods followed the standards prevailing at the time of construction. The teaching and learning environment of these schools premises was also upgraded through the School Improvement Programme and regular maintenance for meeting present-day requirements as well as changes in teaching and learning needs. US(Ed) indicated that the Administration did not have the specific information on schools as requested by Dr QUAT.

55. Noting the Administration's explanation, Dr Elizabeth QUAT considered that the Administration should at least conduct a stock-taking exercise on existing secondary schools to ascertain whether their facilities could meet the prevailing standards and needs.

56. US(Ed) said that individual schools had the flexibility to make appropriate arrangements in accordance with their own circumstances and for the benefit of their students, such as making use of their special rooms as classrooms, to provide the necessary facilities to meet teaching and learning needs.

*Summing up*

57. Concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the Panel would support the Administration's submission of the proposal to PWSC.

**VI. A 36-classroom primary school in Area 36 in Fanling**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)645/13-14(03) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

Briefing by the Administration

58. At the invitation of the Chairman, US(Ed) briefed members on the proposal to build a 36-classroom primary school in Area 36 in Fanling for

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the reprovisioning of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Ma Kam Chan Memorial Primary School ("Ma Kam Chan School"), which was currently accommodated in premises not fully meeting prevailing standards in Choi Yuen Estate, Sheung Shui, as set out in LC Paper No. CB(4)645/13-14(03). Members noted that the Administration planned to submit the proposal to PWSC and FC for approval on 4 June 2014 and 27 June 2014 respectively.

Discussion

*Design standard of public sector schools*

59. The Deputy Chairman sought clarification on the aspects of the school premises of Ma Kam Chan School that were regarded as "sub-standard premises" ("不符合標準校舍") as stated in the Administration's paper.

60. US(Ed) explained that the existing school premises of Ma Kam Chan School in Choi Yuen Estate were designed for a 24-classroom primary school and were constructed in 1984 in accordance with the requirements and standards prevailing at that time. Some of the existing facilities of Ma Kam Chan School were not up to the current standards.

61. In this connection, the Deputy Chairman considered that the Administration should adopt a set of standards on existing schools built before 2000 to ensure that they could operate in a suitable teaching and learning environment. He also asked the Administration to provide information on public sector primary schools and secondary schools accommodated in premises which fell short of the current design standards and requirements.

62. Dr Kenneth CHAN recalled that according to the Administration's reply to his written question raised at the Council meeting on 9 April 2014, there were currently 28 public sector primary schools operating in so-called "matchbox-style school premises" constructed between mid-1960s and 1980 at public housing estates. He was concerned about the planning and progress of upgrading these school premises. To facilitate follow-up by the Panel, Dr CHAN said that the Administration should provide a list of schools currently accommodated in sub-standard premises that required improvement works or reprovisioning/redevelopment.

63. In this regard, US(Ed) advised that schools built in accordance with past standards would be upgraded to meet current standards. Some options

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included the construction of a new annex to the existing school building, improvement works, reprovisioning to new premises and in-situ redevelopment. Usually, requests for reprovisioning or in-situ redevelopment were initiated by the schools concerned. US(Ed) further explained that under the established mechanism, once a school site was identified to be suitable for reprovisioning of existing schools, the Education Bureau would invite eligible school sponsoring bodies to apply for the sites through the School Allocation Exercises. In this case, the site in Area 36, Fanling was allocated to Ma Kam Chan School for reprovisioning of its existing school premises.

64. The Chairman remarked that the description of "sub-standard premises" as "不符合標準" in Chinese as stated in the Administration's paper might have given the impression that the existing school premises were of a low quality and unsuitable for use. To avoid misunderstanding, he suggested that the Administration should describe more clearly in its paper that the existing school premises fell short of present-day design standard of public sector schools as the school was built many years ago according to past standards.

*Facilities and school premises of special schools*

65. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed his support for the proposed reprovisioning project. He shared the Deputy Chairman's concern that there were still a number of schools built decades ago which could not meet prevailing standards, in particular the lack of barrier-free access and facilities. Referring to the unsatisfactory conditions at Hong Chi Morninghill School in Tuen Mun which currently shared school premises with another special school, Dr CHEUNG urged the Administration to consider giving priority to the reprovisioning of special schools operating in sub-standard premises and to take expeditious action to address the needs of special schools.

66. US(Ed) advised that reprovisioning was not the only option to upgrade the facilities of existing school premises. As regards the Hong Chi Morninghill School in Tuen Mun, the Administration and the school were exploring feasible options to improve the school facilities in order to cater for the special needs of students.

*Summing up*

67. Concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the Panel would support the Administration's submission of the proposal to PWSC.

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**VII. Any other business**

68. With the permission of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman referred to the motion moved by him and passed by the Panel under agenda item IV earlier on. He recalled that according to the Administration, it would continue to discuss with the school sector regarding the allocation arrangements in future. The Deputy Chairman nevertheless stressed that the motion had urged the Administration to re-negotiate with the school sector matters related to the allocation of more students to each P1 class, notably the provision of additional resources to schools. He requested the Secretariat to inform the Administration of his further explanation.

*(Post-meeting note: The Administration was invited to note the Deputy Chairman's further explanation in connection with the Panel's request for written responses to the motions passed, i.e. by way of the letter dated 14 May 2014 to the Administration.)*

69. Dr Kenneth CHAN noted that according to a deputation attending the meeting under agenda item IV, EDB had issued a circular in 2008 regarding the implementation of SCT in public sector primary schools. He requested that a copy of this circular should be provided to members for information.

*(Post-meeting note: The EDB Circular No. 19/2008 on Small Class Teaching in Public Sector Primary Schools was issued to members on 13 May 2014 vide LC Paper No. CB(4)662/13-14.)*

70. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:43 pm.

**Panel on Education**  
**Meeting on Monday, 12 May 2014, at 4:30 pm**

**Agenda item IV: Policy on small class teaching in primary schools and issues related to increasing the number of students allocated to each Primary One class**

**Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations**

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
1.	Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association [LC Paper No. CB(4)653/13-14(02)]	The Association expressed support for the implementation of small class teaching ("SCT") and disagreed with the Administration's decision to allocate more students to each Primary One ("P1") class in the five school nets. Schools were generally reluctant to adopt the approach of operating a large number of classes at certain levels in a school. The Administration was urged to consider borrowing the surplus places from neighbouring school nets and strengthen its communication with the school sector for the purpose of working out appropriate arrangements for allocation of P1 places.
2.	FDBWA Chow Chin Yau School [LC Paper No. CB(4)664/13-14(01)]	The School considered it appropriate to implement certain temporary measures, such as making use of vacant classrooms or allocating more students to each P1 class, to cope with the increase in demand for school places in Tuen Mun in the coming few years. However, in anticipation of a progressive decline in number of students starting from the 2019-2020 school year, the measures to be implemented during the coming few years should be temporary and reversible. In the meantime, there was no strong justification to build new schools in Tuen Mun. The Administration was requested to uphold its policy on SCT.
3.	S.K.H. Tin Shui Wai Ling Oi Primary School [LC Paper No. CB(4)653/13-14(03)]	The School was of the view that allocating more students to each P1 class should be adopted only when all other options to increase the supply of P1 school places were not practicable. The School highlighted that in the present case, it was the Administration that required certain schools implementing SCT to admit more students. Hence, the Administration should provide additional resources on the basis of an additional class under SCT if the school concerned was allocated an additional 25 students. The School also opposed the practice of operating a larger number of classes at certain levels in a school, which would eventually distort the class structure.

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
4.	Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union [LC Paper No. CB(4)653/13-14(04)]	The deputation was of the view that the Administration should provide very strong justifications for any deviation from the prevailing policy on implementing SCT in primary schools. The deputation queried the arrangement of increasing the number of students allocated to each P1 class by five students instead of providing an additional P1 class which comprised 25 students in a school. The Administration was also urged to improve communication with the school sector and make better planning to provide sufficient school places.
5.	Lam Tin Methodist Primary School [LC Paper No. CB(4)664/13-14(02) ]	According to the School, 32 public sector primary schools in Kwun Tong had stressed the importance of upholding the quality of education and the implementation of SCT when discussing with the Education Bureau ("EDB") in November 2013 the possible measures to increase the supply of P1 places in the district. However, EDB had eventually announced to allocate more students to each P1 class in the district for the reason that there were not sufficient vacant classrooms in the district. The School clarified that this was not the case for all the 32 primary schools in Kwun Tong. It urged the Administration to consider allowing individual schools to operate additional P1 classes each comprising 25 students under the prevailing policy on SCT, and to provide additional resources to the schools accordingly.
6.	Yuen Long Primary School Heads Association [LC Paper No. CB(4)664/13-14(03)]	The Association urged for the continuation and sustainable development of SCT in primary schools. While the schools in Yuen Long were agreeable to the temporary arrangements to allocate more students to each P1 class so as to increase the supply of P1 places in the district, the Association urged the Administration to provide additional resources to schools with reference to the relevant arrangements adopted in the implementation of SCT. The Administration was urged to set up a designated working group to collect accurate information on the supply of P1 places in individual districts, school nets and schools, as well as to discuss with the school sector to work out a longer term plan to cope with the fluctuation in student population in the coming decade.
7.	Hong Kong Society of Small Class Teaching [LC Paper No. CB(4)664/13-14(04)]	The deputation briefed the Panel on the enhanced effectiveness of teaching and learning in primary schools after implementation of SCT. It urged that the Administration and the school sector should spare no effort to implement SCT for the benefit of the students.
8.	Tuen Mun District Primary School Heads Association [LC Paper No. CB(4)664/13-14(05)]	The Association expressed its grave concern about the lack of long term planning and the unrealistic projection of the demand and supply of school places on the part of the Administration. According to the Association, a primary school in Tuen Mun had been given approval to operate two P1 classes, but eventually four classes of students were allocated to the school concerned. Such allocation arrangement would adversely affect the operation of a school.

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Major views and concerns
9.	Carmel Leung Sing Tak School	<p>The School referred members to EDB Circular No. 19/2008 which had stated that EDB might need to make temporary arrangement on allocation in a particular school net for a particular school year, and discussion with the schools concerned would be arranged if and when necessary. However, according to the School, it was a common practice for EDB to announce its decision for implementation by schools without prior consultation. In the School's view, the administrative arrangements for allocating more students to each P1 class up to a class size of 30 students had deviated from the prevailing policy on implementing SCT. The School considered that the provision of additional resources should enable the schools implementing SCT but allocated with additional students to maintain the quality and effectiveness in teaching and learning under SCT.</p>

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
8 July 2014



**就議程項目"小學小班教學政策及增加小一每班派位學生人數  
的相關事宜"通過的議案**

**Motion passed under the agenda item "Policy on small class teaching in primary schools and issues related to increasing the number of students allocated to each Primary One class"**

**議案措辭**

本委員會要求局方重新就加派問題與學界重新磋商。

(葉建源議員動議，黃碧雲議員和議)

**Wording of the Motion**

(Translation)

That this Panel urges the Education Bureau to re-negotiate with the school sector issues relating to the allocation of more students to each primary one class.

(Moved by Hon IP Kin-yuen and seconded by Dr Hon Helena WONG)

**就議程項目"小學小班教學政策及增加小一每班派位學生人數  
的相關事宜"通過的議案**

**Motion passed under the agenda item "Policy on small class teaching in primary schools and issues related to increasing the number of students allocated to each Primary One class"**

**議案措辭**

本委員會要求教育局局長堅守小班教學政策，反對局方以暫時加派方式，去解決小一學位不足的問題。

(黃碧雲議員動議，張超雄議員和議)

**Wording of the Motion**

(Translation)

That this Panel urges the Secretary for Education to uphold the policy on small class teaching and opposes the Education Bureau's adoption of the temporary arrangement of allocating more students to each primary one ("P1") class to address the shortage of P1 places.

(Moved by Dr Hon Helena WONG and seconded by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG)