

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)604/17-18
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/HS/1/16

Subcommittee on Children's Rights

**Minutes of the twelfth meeting
on Saturday, 25 November 2017 at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)
Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

Member attending : Hon Claudia MO

Members absent : Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon HUI Chi-fung

Public Officers attending : **Agenda item I**

Education Bureau

Mr Joe NG
Principal Education Officer (Curriculum Development)1

Social Welfare Department

Mrs Helen KWOK
Assistant Director of Social Welfare
(Youth and Corrections)

Department of Health

Dr Thomas CHUNG
Consultant Community Medicine
(Student Health Service)

Hospital Authority

Dr Linda YU
Chief Manager (Integrated Care Programs)

**Attendance by
invitation**

: Agenda item I

The Civic Party

Mr Simon HUNG Ling-fai
Deputy Spokesperson (Education)

Passion Babies

Ms CHEUNG Yiu-sum
Presenter

Miss CHAN Pui-ching

香港革新教育家長同盟

Miss WONG Lai-heng
召集人

Ms CHAN Sze-nga

Mr CHEUNG Sze-yin

Miss LI Xiao-wu

Miss LI Yuet

Mr YEUNG Sik-ho

Hong Kong Christian Service Shamshuipo East Happy
Teens Club

Ms CHU Lai-ying
Service Supervisor

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of
Hong Kong

Mr KWOK Wing-kin
Deputy Spokesperson (Education)

The Lion Rock Institute

Mr NG Kin-wah
Event Officer

特殊學習需要權益聯會

郭凱盈小姐

Mr WHY

Lab in Hong Kong

Mr Tommy CHEUNG
Convenor

Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union

Mr TIN Fong-chak
Executive Committee Member

Mr CHEUNG Kwan-ting

Mr NG Kong-fung

Mrs WONG Ching-yung

香港社會工作者總工會

許麗明女士
總幹事

Mrs CHAU Mei-mei

家長聯盟

張艷璿女士
發言人

Miss CHAN Yu-ling

Social Service Centre For Personality Development
Limited

Ms YU Hau-chu
Service Director

Education Forum Hong Kong

Mr Cody WONG Tze-hei
Spokesperson

心義行服務社

Mrs Sandy CHOW
家長

Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights

Miss WONG Lok-yin
助理項目主任

Miss NG Ching-wai

Mr SUM Kai-hong

Miss Isabella LEE Zhi-xin

功課遊戲要平衡

陳喻彬先生

社工復興運動

黎柏然先生

兒童不兒

黃元藝先生

Demosisto

Mr CHENG Ka-long
Standing Committee Member

特殊學習需要家長組

孫曉嵐小姐

關注學童發展權利聯席

何汝瑛小姐

民間青年政策倡議平台

何詩慧小姐

Ms HO Shuk-yi

Ms Gloria CHAN Ching-yee

Clerk in attendance : Ms Angel WONG
Chief Council Secretary (4)4

Staff in attendance : Miss Mandy NG
Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (4)4

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I. Rights of children amid examination and schoolwork stress

Meeting with deputations/individuals and the Administration

(LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(01) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

Action

Other papers

Written submissions from deputations/individuals not attending the meeting

- (LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(20) -- Submission from The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
(*Chinese version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(21) -- Submission from a member of the public (*Chinese version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(22) -- Submission from a member of the public (*Chinese version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(23) -- Submission from Sekai CHAN
(*Chinese version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(24) -- Submission from Cecilia LEE
(*English version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(25) -- Submission from Eliza CHAN
(*Chinese version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(26) -- Submission from Ms Suki SO
(*Chinese version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(27) -- Submission from Car Car (*Chinese version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(28) -- Submission from Ms WONG Suk-nam (*Chinese version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(30) -- Submission from Ms L M (*English version only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)289/17-18(02) -- Submission from Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation (*Chinese only*)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)289/17-18(03) -- Submission from Against Child Abuse (*Chinese version only*)

Action

Meeting with deputations/individuals and the Administration for agenda item I

Members expressed regret at the Education Bureau's ("EDB") attendance arrangement at the meeting and requested for an explanation from the Bureau.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper CB(4)498/17-18 on 17 January 2018.)

2. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex I**).

3. The Subcommittee received views from 39 deputations/individuals attending the meeting and 12 written submissions from deputations which had not attended the meeting. The major views and concerns of deputations/individuals were summarized as follows:

- (a) according to Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ("the Convention"), every child should have the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities and to participate in cultural life and the arts. However, students in Hong Kong were subject to an overload of homework, tests and examinations that deprived them of these basic rights;
- (b) the education system in Hong Kong, which was exam and homework-oriented rather than student-centric, failed to develop each child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest as stipulated in Article 29 of the Convention;
- (c) as parents in Hong Kong often got mindful and nervous about their children's performance, children had a very tight schedule every day. They had to rush to attend tutorial classes and interest classes, do endless homework, and prepare for dictations, tests and examinations after long class hours. The long hours and hard work imposed on them would hamper their physical and psychological development;
- (d) negative effects of excessive homework and examinations included children's frustration and exhaustion, lack of play, rest and family time and loss of interest in learning. Schools should refrain from unduly overburdening their students with homework, tests and examinations so as to ensure that they had sufficient time for rest and leisure to pursue their personal interest. The Administration should review the prevailing education system, with a view to alleviating

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students' academic pressure and fostering a balanced development and a healthy lifestyle for them;

- (e) pre-school students who were not supposed to have any pressure were suffering from academic pressure. For the purpose of catching up with the academic level of primary education, students attending nursery were asked to write with pencils/pens while kindergarten ("KG") students were assigned to do mechanical copying as homework. The Administration should re-examine the interface between KG and primary education;
- (f) many SEN students in mainstream schools were fed up with their studies. Schools should take into account SEN students' needs in curriculum development, differentiate homework and assessment to suit their abilities. The Administration should conduct a holistic review on the implementation of the integrated education policy, allocate additional resources to early identify SEN students as well as better support their teaching and learning, and the need for greater social equity in the broader public education system;
- (g) whole-day primary schooling was supposed to be more favourable to students, however, its implementation had deviated from its intended purpose of providing an environment conducive to an all-round and balanced education for students. In reality, time was not arranged for students to do their assignments in schools. Recess and lunch were cut short. Consideration should be given to group all taught-lessons in the morning and free up the afternoon for homework and extra-curricular activities. Duration of taught lessons should be shortened while the total time of recess and lunch break should be maintained at 100 minutes a day ;
- (h) although EDB had issued guidelines to urge schools to formulate an appropriate school-based homework policy, schools still assigned heavy homework to students. EDB should suggest "an upper homework time limit" for all schools and ensure that schools had formulated and implemented the policy;
- (i) in formulating school-based homework and assessment policy, schools should take into account parents' views, strike a balance between the quality and quantity of homework, take into due consideration of learning diversity among students, and conduct regular reviews to ensure students have sufficient time for rests, enjoying the company of family members, playing games or doing physical exercises, pursuing personal interests, and developing a healthy lifestyle;

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- (j) schools should carry out measures to reduce homework load and homework time to alleviate pressure of students. For instance, capping the amount of time spent on homework each day, allowing students to finish part of their homework assignments within school hours, assigning less or no homework during weekends, arranging at least one long holiday homework-free, and providing tutorial sessions to give less able students extra individual guidance on homework;
- (k) homework was meant to help children and the teacher know which skills were missing and what needed improvement. Parents should be educated not to correct their children's homework or not to do the homework for their children;
- (l) unnecessary tests or assessments, such as the Basic Competency Assessment Research Study ("BCA") at Primary Three level, should be abolished. Schools and students should be allowed to choose whether to take part in the School-based Assessment of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination. Parents and students should participate in TSA at Primary Six and Secondary Three levels of their own accord;
- (m) traditionally, marks were deducted for every mistake a student made in dictations. To give students a sense of achievement, schools could consider giving points for every correct answer;
- (n) students were susceptible to emotional problems because of the burden of learning and pressure of exams. There were increasing risks of child suicide and domestic violence triggered by growing pressure to study. There should be sufficient social workers, counseling personnel and education psychologists at schools to early identify students with mental health issues and help needy students handle their problems. The policy of one school one social worker for each primary school should be implemented as early as possible. Teachers' workload should be reduced so as to enable them to have more capacity in helping students resolve their academic and emotional problems;
- (o) many students and parents viewed universities as a meal ticket for a job. However, to avoid undue pressure of students caused by public examinations, the Administration should increase the number of places of subsidized degree programmes and provide diversified pathways to secondary students. As some parents might derail their children's choice if they did not want to go to a university, the

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Administration should strengthen the promotion of vocational and professional education and training and promote the recognition of qualifications under the Qualifications Framework to change parents' entrenched perception of Applied Learning subjects as a second choice;

- (p) the Administration could collaborate with non-governmental organizations and higher institutions to enhance parent education so as to prevent parents from excessively boosting their children's learning and focusing too much on academic scores;
- (q) schools and the Administration should teach children how to handle pressure;
- (r) the Administration should provide more family-friendly measures to support parents, such as introducing standard working hours, increasing the provision of child care services and after-school care services, and providing more recreation facilities for children; and
- (s) the Commission on Children to be set up by the Administration should extensively canvass views of children for the formulation of children-related policies, and assess the impact of prevailing policies to ensure the best interests of children.

4. Sharing deputations' views, members expressed grave concerns about students' tight schedule and undue pressure. They appealed to the Administration for taking concrete measures to address the problems, such as reviewing the curriculum of junior primary schools in light of the characteristics of children. The Chairman called on the Administration to relay their views to various councils, boards and committees under the aegis of EDB.

5. On the views and concerns raised by members and deputations at the meeting, the Administration made the following responses:

- (a) the Administration noted the views expressed by members and deputations. Relevant Bureaux/Departments would strengthen its support services for students under their respective purview;
- (b) EDB monitored the implementation of its guidelines on the homework policy through the established mechanism, such as focus inspections, regular school visits and external school reviews, etc. Given the diverse learning needs and abilities of students, it was unprofessional to set standard homework time on an across-the-board basis;

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- (c) to effectively support students in learning, schools and parents had to work together to foster a close home-school partnership. Parents might take the initiative to approach schools regarding the homework load. If parents had concerns about the school-based homework policy, they could approach Regional Education Offices of EDB direct; and
- (d) assessments, such as BCA, were conducted with the aim of providing feedback to schools for improvement in learning and teaching. The Administration would decide on the future arrangements of BCA upon completion of its review.

6. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide a written response to the views and concerns raised by deputations and members at the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written information was issued to members vide LC Paper No.CB(4)548/17-18 on 29 January 2018.)

Motion

7. The Chairman referred members to the motion moved by the Deputy Chairman (wording of the motion at **Annex II**) and put it to vote. A majority of members present voted for the motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was passed and asked the Administration to provide a written response to it.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written information was issued to members vide LC Paper No.CB(4)548/17-18 on 29 January 2018.)

II. Any other business

8. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 17:20 pm.

Subcommittee on Children's Rights

Proceedings of the twelfth meeting on Saturday, 25 November 2017 at 2:30 pm in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda Item I – Rights of children amid examination and schoolwork stress</i>			
000911 - 002825	Chairman Deputy Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Mr IP Kin-yuen Dr CHENG Chung-tai Ms Claudia MO Education Bureau ("EDB")	Opening remarks Members' request for the Administration's explanation regarding the absence of principal officials of EDB from attending the meeting	Paragraph 1 of the minutes refers
002826 - 003144	Chairman The Civic Party	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)311/17-18(01)]	
003145 - 003455	Chairman Passion Babies	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(03)]	
003456 - 003806	Chairman Miss CHAN Pui-ching	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(04)]	
003807 - 004126	Chairman 香港革新教育家長同盟	Presentation of views [LC Paper Nos. CB(4)248/17-18(05) and CB(4)248/17-18(29)]	
004127 - 004454	Chairman Ms CHAN Sze-nga	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(06)]	
004455 - 004809	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Sze-yin	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(07)]	
004810 - 005149	Chairman Miss LI Xiao-wu	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(08)]	
005150 - 005423	Chairman Miss LI Yuet	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(15)]	
005424 - 005744	Chairman Mr YEUNG Sik-ho	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(09)]	
005745 - 010137	Chairman Hong Kong Christian Service Shamshuipo East Happy Teens Club	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(10)]	
010138 - 010441	Chairman Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong	Presentation of views	
010442 - 010717	Chairman The Lion Rock Institute	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)289/17-18(01)]	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
010718 - 011050	Chairman 特殊學習需要權益聯會	Presentation of views	
011051 - 011400	Chairman Mr WHY	Presentation of views	
011401 - 011717	Chairman Lab in Hong Kong	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(16)]	
011718 - 012059	Chairman Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(12)]	
012100 - 012340	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwan-ting	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(13)]	
012341 - 012755	Chairman Mr NG Kong-fung	Presentation of views	
012756 - 013111	Chairman Mrs WONG Ching-yung	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(14)]	
013112 - 013447	Chairman 香港社會工作者總工會	Presentation of views	
013448 - 013759	Chairman Mrs CHAU Mei-mei	Presentation of views	
013800 - 014116	Chairman 家長聯盟	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(11)]	
014117 - 014422	Chairman Miss CHAN Yu-ling	Presentation of views	
014423 - 014823	Chairman Social Service Centre For Personality Development Limited	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(17)]	
014824 - 015159	Chairman Education Forum Hong Kong	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(18)]	
015200 - 015520	Chairman 心義行服務社	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(19)]	
015521 - 015703	Chairman Deputy Chairman Mr IP Kin-yuen	Motion moved by the Deputy Chairman	Paragraph 7 of the minutes refers
015704 - 020025	Chairman Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)289/17-18(03)]	
020026 - 020311	Chairman Miss NG Ching-wai	Presentation of views	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
020312 - 020612	Chairman Mr SUM Kai-hong	Presentation of views	
020613 - 020936	Chairman Miss Isabella LEE Zhi-xin	Presentation of views	
020937 - 021228	Chairman 功課遊戲要平衡	Presentation of views	
021229 - 021555	Chairman 社工復興運動	Presentation of views	
021556 - 021802	Chairman 兒童不兒	Presentation of views	
021803 - 022139	Chairman Demosisto	Presentation of views	
022140 - 022559	Chairman 特殊學習需要家長組	Presentation of views	
022600 - 022740	Chairman 關注學童發展權利聯席	Presentation of views	
022741 - 023131	Chairman 民間青年政策倡議平台	Presentation of views	
023132 - 023508	Chairman Ms HO Shuk-yi	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(4)248/17-18(02)]	
023509 - 023810	Chairman Ms Gloria CHAN Ching-ye	Presentation of views	
023811 - 024155	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung	Mr LEUNG's calling on the Administration to put in place measures to alleviate students' study pressure	
024156 - 024618	Chairman Mr IP Kin-yuen	Mr IP's views on the role of parents in handling children's schoolwork stress and the need to review existing education policies	
024619 - 025343	Chairman EDB Department of Health Social Welfare Department	The Chairman's remarks and the Administration's response to the views of members and deputations	
<i>Agenda Item II – Any other business</i>			
025344 - 025448	Chairman	Closing remarks	Paragraph 6 of the minutes refers

兒童權利小組委員會
Subcommittee on Children's Rights

在2017年11月25日會議上
就議程項目"在考試及功課壓力下兒童的權利"通過的議案
Motion passed under the agenda item
"Rights of children amid examination and schoolwork stress"
at the meeting on 25 November 2017

議案措辭

本委員會促請教育局需檢視「功課指引」的內容及有效性，以及考慮設立：

- (1) 最高功課時間；
- (2) 限制學校於星期五給予學生的功課量應與平日上課日子一樣；及
- (3) 學校需釋出最少一個長假期不給予任何功課，讓學生擁有真正的學習自主決定權。

(邵家臻議員動議)

Wording of the Motion

(Translation)

This Subcommittee urges the Education Bureau to review the homework guidelines and their effectiveness, and to consider:

- (1) setting maximum homework time;
- (2) requiring schools to assign same amount of homework on Fridays and other school days; and
- (3) requiring schools to arrange at least one long holiday homework-free so as to let students have the right to learn in a truly self-directed way.

(Moved by Hon SHIU Ka-chun)