

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)561/16-17
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 14 November 2016, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP(Chairman)
Hon IP Kin-yuen (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin

Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon HO Kai-ming
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon CHAN Chun-ying
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho
Hon Nathan LAW Kwun-chung
Dr Hon YIU Chung-yim
Dr Hon LAU Siu-lai

**Members
absent**

: Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon LUK Chung-hung
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH

**Public Officers
attending**

: Agenda item III
Mr Eddie NG, SBS, JP
Secretary for Education

Mrs Marion LAI, JP
Permanent Secretary for Education

Dr K K CHAN
Deputy Secretary for Education (5)

Mr Sheridan LEE
Principal Assistant Secretary (Curriculum Development)
Education Bureau

Agenda item IV

Mr Eddie NG, SBS, JP
Secretary for Education

Mrs Marion LAI, JP
Permanent Secretary for Education

Mrs Michelle WONG, JP
Deputy Secretary for Education (3)

Mr WOO Chun-sing
Principal Assistant Secretary (Kindergarten Education)
Education Bureau

Agenda item V

Education Bureau

Mr Eddie NG, SBS, JP
Secretary for Education

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP
Under Secretary for Education

Mrs Michelle WONG, JP
Deputy Secretary for Education (3)

Mr Godwin LAI
Principal Assistant Secretary (Special Education)

Dr Verena LAU
Senior Specialist
(Educational Psychology Service/Kowloon)

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr Vincent FUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary (Civic Affairs)1

Food and Health Bureau

Mr FONG Ngai
Principal Assistant Secretary for
Food and Health (Health)3

Social Welfare Department

Mr Peter NG
Assistant Director (Youth and Corrections)

Hospital Authority

Dr Linda YU
Chief Manager (Integrated Care Programs)

Attendance by invitation : Agenda item V

Committee on Prevention of Student Suicides

Professor Paul YIP
Chairman

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

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

Miss Mandy NG
Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant(4)4

Miss Emma LAM
Clerical Assistant(4)3

Action

I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

- (LC Paper No. CB(4)1215/15-16(01) -- Letter dated 13 June 2016 from Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yea concerning the information on non-local students of University Grants Committee-funded institutions
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1215/15-16(02) -- Administration's written response dated 30 June 2016 to the letter dated 13 June 2016 from Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yea concerning the information on non-local students of University Grants Committee-funded institutions
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1235/15-16(01) -- Information paper provided by the Administration on extension of retirement age for teaching staff in aided schools
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1245/15-16(01) -- Information paper provided by the Administration on the latest development of the work of the Committee on Professional Development of Teachers and Principals
- LC Paper No. CB(4)47/16-17(01) -- Letter dated 24 October 2016 from Mr Bill TANG Ka-piu, a member of the Islands District Council, concerning the construction project of a special school in Tung Chung
- LC Paper No. CB(4)72/16-17(01) -- Administration's written response dated 8 November 2016 to the letter dated

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24 October 2016 from Mr Bill TANG Ka-piu, a member of the Islands District Council, concerning the construction project of a special school in Tung Chung)

Members noted the above papers issued since the last meeting.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(Appendix to LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17 -- List of outstanding items for discussion)

2. The Chairman said that the discussion items proposed by members had been incorporated into the "List of outstanding items for discussion" ("the List"). If members had any enquiries on the List, they could contact the Secretariat after the meeting.

3. The Chairman informed members that the Administration had proposed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for 12 December 2016 at 4:30 pm –

- (a) a special school for students with mild, moderate and severe intellectual disabilities in Area 108, Tung Chung; and
- (b) latest development on the review of the Territory-wide System Assessment.

The Chairman said that she would finalize with the Deputy Chairman the items to be discussed at the next regular meeting with reference to the List, and inform members in due course.

(Post-meeting note: Upon finalization by the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, the agenda for the meeting to be held on 12 December 2016 was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)158/16-17 on 24 November 2016.)

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. She reminded members to declare interests, if any, in the matter under discussion.

III. Promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education

(LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(01) -- Paper provided by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(02) -- Background brief entitled "Promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat)

5. Members noted the background brief prepared by the Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(02)].

Briefing by the Administration

6. At the Chairman's invitation, the Secretary for Education ("SED") briefed members on the latest development on the promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics ("STEM") education, and the Administration's proposal to provide a one-off grant of \$200,000 to each public sector secondary school for school-based STEM-related activities, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(01)]. Subject to members' views, the Administration would submit the proposal to the Finance Committee ("FC") for approval.

Discussion

Funding support for schools

7. Mr WU Chi-wai enquired whether funding support similar to that for secondary schools would be provided to primary schools. The Permanent Secretary for Education ("PS(Ed)") advised that in March 2016, a one-off grant of \$100,000 had been disbursed to each primary school for STEM promotion.

8. Dr Elizabeth QUAT supported all measures that could help promote STEM education. She sought information on the performance indicators, if any, for evaluating the effectiveness of the provision of the one-off grant. Mr Charles MOK said that he had reservation about the provision of the one-off grant, and questioned about the Administration's objectives of providing the grant.

9. PS(Ed) advised that with the provision of the STEM grant, it was expected that there would be wider participation of schools and students in STEM-related activities in partnership with different organizations, as well as greater interest on the part of students in pursuing further studies in STEM-related programmes in future.

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10. The Deputy Chairman, Mr Charles MOK and Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed concern about the provision of the funding support in the form of a one-off grant. Citing the high annual recurrent expenditure, about \$160,000, of the virtual reality device as an example, the Deputy Chairman considered that the one-off grant of \$200,000 was insufficient in the long term. The Deputy Chairman, Mr MOK and Dr QUAT enquired whether the Administration had any ongoing funding and planning for the continued development of STEM education.

11. SED explained that the one-off grant was proposed in response to the requests of some schools for additional resources to further develop STEM. The Administration would continue to maintain close contacts with the school sector and provide appropriate support when necessary. The Deputy Secretary for Education (5) ("DS(Ed)5") added that the Administration would provide professional development programmes to further nurture teachers' curriculum leadership and cross-curricular collaboration.

Issues related to procurement of services

12. Noting that some schools might engage service providers to organize STEM-related courses for their students, Mr Charles MOK and Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed concern about the varying standard of these providers and the high course fees charged by them. They also enquired whether the Administration would provide schools with guidelines on how to select these providers. In reply, PS(Ed) advised that the Education Bureau ("EDB") would issue guidelines to schools on the use of the STEM grant and provide assistance to them.

13. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan noted from media reports that some course instructors employed by the service providers were only secondary school leavers and some were not well prepared for the courses. He asked how the Administration would monitor the performance of these instructors.

14. SED responded that flexibility was provided for schools to implement their school-based STEM-related activities. It was a common practice for students to assist teachers/instructors in STEM activities in other countries as this would enhance the interaction among students and other stakeholders. DS(Ed)5 added that there would be sufficient teachers' training programmes in the next few years, and hotline support had been provided for the school sector.

Issues related to relevant curricula

15. Mr Charles MOK and Dr Elizabeth QUAT queried why the Administration was still promoting STEM when foreign countries were promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics ("STEAM") education.

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16. SED said that when promoting STEM education, STEAM elements were also included. Students could make use of technology in conducting art activities, and learn how to express themselves and appreciate others' works through application of technology in art activities.

17. Mr Charles MOK and Mr WU Chi-wai expressed concern as to whether relevant curricula would be renewed to align with STEM development and to arouse students' interest in STEM. Dr CHENG Chung-tai said that while other countries emphasized integration of disciplines and life education in the implementation of STEM, STEM education was delivered in the form of extra-curricular activities in Hong Kong.

18. DS(Ed)5 said that the curricula of the Science, Technology and Mathematics Education Key Learning Areas ("KLA") and the curriculum of primary General Studies would be updated. The revised KLA Curriculum Guides were expected to be available by the end of 2016.

Support for schools and teachers

19. Mr MA Fung-kwok supported the provision of the STEM grant. However, he expressed concern that schools not actively promoting STEM might have difficulties in using the grant effectively to organize STEM-related activities for their students. In addition to issuing guidelines on the use of grant, the Administration should provide relevant training programmes to teachers so that schools would not need to engage service providers in the long run. Dr Elizabeth QUAT shared a similar view.

20. SED advised that there were a lot of channels and exchange activities, such as the InnoTech Expo 2016, to strengthen collaboration among teachers. The officers of EDB would also reach out to schools to understand the need and difficulties encountered by schools and teachers in implementing their STEM activities. PS(Ed) supplemented that sharing sessions for schools would be arranged and collaboration among schools and tertiary institutions that excelled in STEM disciplines would be encouraged. PS(Ed) further said that schools would use the grant until the end of the 2018-2019 school year and the unspent provision would be clawed back to ensure proper use of the grant.

21. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung supported the initiatives in promoting STEM education. However, he expressed concern about the additional workload on teachers as schools were required to report progress of the use of the grant to EDB annually. Mr LEUNG also asked whether the grant could be used for employing additional manpower to undertake the associated administrative work. Dr CHENG Chung-tai hoped that the implementation of STEM would not create unnecessary administrative work for teachers.

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22. PS(Ed) said that the implementation of STEM education might increase the workload of teachers, however, teachers would gain much satisfaction in the process. PS(Ed) further said that it was necessary for schools to report progress of the use of the grant in order to ensure proper use of public money, but the Administration would make an effort to minimize the associated administrative work. Relevant information would be collected to monitor the progress of the implementation of STEM education.

23. To help minimize the administrative work related to the reporting mechanism, Mr Holden CHOW suggested that the Administration should evaluate the effectiveness of the grant with reference to students' participation rate in activities, students' motivation in learning STEM subjects, and students' demonstration of self-confidence and competence in learning.

24. Referring to paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper which specified that students would be nominated to participate in local and international competitions, Mr Holden CHOW asked how the Administration would encourage more students/schools to participate in these activities.

25. SED advised that EDB had all along been providing students/schools with more opportunities of participation in local and international STEM-related competitions/activities. Examples included International Junior Science Olympiad, InnoTech Expo 2016.

26. Dr CHENG Chung-tai referred to the professional development programmes set out in Annex 2 of the Administration's paper and sought further information about the item on "Current Position and Role of Technological Development in the Mainland - Visit to the Innovation Technology Industry".

27. In reply, SED advised that STEM learning activities would be organized within and outside the classroom. Exchange activities with the relevant industries formed an essential part of STEM education. Participants could benefit direct from these exchange activities.

28. Mr HO Kai-ming noted with concern that the number of school laboratory technicians might be reduced in the light of a drop in student population. He opined that more laboratory technicians should be needed for STEM promotion, particularly with the implementation of integrated education. He hoped that the Administration could give the assurance that no laboratory technician would be laid off.

29. SED said that he had communicated with the school laboratory technicians. They well understood that they played an important role in promoting STEM education. They would be provided with further training to gear them up for future requirements of their job. PS(Ed) added that the Administration was confident there would be sufficient laboratory technicians to provide support in

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STEM-related activities, taking into account the interests of the laboratory technicians.

Summing up

30. Concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the Panel supported the Administration's submission of the relevant proposal to FC. However, the Administration should consider members' views and concerns expressed at the meeting. PS(Ed) undertook to include members' views and concerns in the guidelines on the use of the grant.

IV. Latest Development in Migration to Free Quality Kindergarten Education

(LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(03) -- Paper provided by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(04) -- Background brief entitled "Issues related to the provision of free kindergarten education" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat)

31. Members noted the background brief prepared by the Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(04)].

Briefing by the Administration

32. At the Chairman's invitation, SED briefed members on the latest development in respect of the migration of kindergartens ("KGs") to the free quality KG education policy to be implemented in the 2017-2018 school year, and the Administration's proposal to provide a one-off start-up grant to KGs to facilitate their smooth preparation for the implementation of the new policy, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(03)]. Subject to members' views, the Administration would submit the proposal to FC for approval in December 2016.

Discussion

One-off start-up grant

33. Noting that the calculation of the start-up grant would be based on the number of students enrolled in each KG, Ms Starry LEE expressed concern on the resources available for smaller scale KGs. SED advised that small scale KGs would not be disadvantaged as the proposed start-up grant comprised a per school

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grant of \$200,000 for each KG and a per capita grant of \$800 for each student based on the enrolment in each KG. The total amount of the grant would be capped at \$300,000 per KG. Ms Tanya CHAN and Dr CHENG Chung-tai expressed concern that the total amount which capped at \$300,000 per KG might not be sufficient for use in three school years.

34. The Deputy Chairman indicated his support for the provision of the start-up grant. Noting that KGs could deploy the grant to employ additional staff, hire translation services, procure equipment, revamp website, etc, the Deputy Chairman was of the view that the Administration should consider providing the grant on a recurrent basis. He enquired whether these expenses would be covered by the future subsidy under the Free Quality KG Education Scheme ("the Scheme").

35. SED stressed that the Administration had all along maintained close contacts with the KG sector. The start-up grant was solely proposed for KGs to prepare for the implementation of the Scheme in the 2017-2018 school year. The expenses directly attributable to school operation would be covered by the subsidy under the Scheme.

Whole-day and long whole-day KG services

36. Members including Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Mr HUI Chi-fung, Ms Tanya CHAN, Dr CHENG Chung-tai, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, Ms Starry LEE and Mr Holden CHOW were gravely concerned that whole-day ("WD") and long whole-day ("LWD") KG services would not be fully subsidized. They opined that WD/LWD KGs had provided vital services to working parents/single parent families. There was a pressing need to increase the provision of WD/LWD places in view of the increased demand. They were worried that many KGs would not offer WD/LWD services if these services were not fully subsidized. They urged the Administration to provide full subsidy to WD/LWD KGs.

37. Mr SHIU Ka-chun supported the provision of quality KG education. He expressed doubt whether the strategy of the Steering Committee on Population Policy to unleash the potential of local labour force could be achieved if WD/LWD KG services were not fully subsidized. He was of the view that a children's commission should be set up so as to put various services for children under one roof.

38. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed concern that the level of subsidy for half-day ("HD") KG place would be less than the tuition fee threshold for HD KG classes under Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme.

39. Mr HUI Chi-fung declared that he was the parent of a student attending local non-profit-making LWD KG. He opined that if WD/LWD KG services

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would not be fully subsidized, the objective of providing 15 years of free education could hardly be achieved. He enquired about the extra financial resources incurred if WD/LWD services were fully subsidized.

40. SED said that HD, WD and LWD KGs had their respective roles in catering for the needs of different families. Flexibility should be allowed in the modes of operation of the KG sector and parents' choice should be respected. The Administration would monitor the student population trend and make projection on the demand for KG places. Meanwhile, the planning standards for provision of KG places would be reviewed and revised as necessary from the present 250 WD and 730 HD places to 500 WD and 500 HD places respectively as a long-term goal for every 1 000 children aged between three and six.

41. On subsidy levels, SED advised that premised on the principle that WD/LWD services should be provided on a co-payment basis, the Government and parents would each bear part of the additional cost. Additional resources would be provided for eligible WD/LWD KGs under the Scheme. Various student financial assistance schemes were also available for parents who were financially in need to ensure that no student would be denied access to education due to a lack of means.

42. PS(Ed) advised that on top of the basic HD unit subsidy, additional subsidy at the levels of 30% and 60% of the HD unit subsidy would be provided for each WD and LWD KG place respectively. The suggestion of providing full subsidy for WD/LWD KGs would involve implication in deployment of public resources. Regarding the tuition fee under PEVS, PS(Ed) advised that in the 2015-2016 school year, the level of tuition fees of a majority of KGs under PEVS was below the tuition fee threshold, i.e. \$33,770. Under the Scheme, school-specific grants, such as rental subsidy, grants for KGs admitting eight or more non-Chinese speaking ("NCS") students, would be provided to KGs on top of the basic HD subsidy.

43. Mr KWOK Wai-keung considered it important to strengthen the communication between the EDB and the Labour and Welfare Bureau regarding the provision of WD/LWD KG and child-care services in order to unleash the potential of the local labour force.

44. The Deputy Secretary for Education (3) ("DS(Ed)3") advised that EDB had all along worked in collaboration with the Labour and Welfare Bureau in the provision of services to children. For example, the fees of special child care centres administered by the Social Welfare Department would be waived upon implementation of the new KG education policy.

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Issues related to curriculum

45. Whilst supporting the provision of the start-up grant, Mr Michael TIEN expressed concern about the amount of homework assigned to KG students. He referred to a survey conducted by an organization revealing that every day, over 20% of kindergarten students had more than four homework assignments and nearly 30% of them spent two hours on homework. He urged the Administration to include specific guidelines in the revised Guide to the Pre-primary Curriculum ("the Guide") to ensure all school-based homework could be finished at schools, and to closely monitor the implementation of homework policy in KGs through focused inspections. Mr TIEN also took the view that KGs should not ask students attending nursery classes to write with pencils/pens, or arrange mechanical copying and calculation for them.

46. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan concurred with Mr Michael TIEN's view that students attending nursery classes should not be asked to write with pencils/pens. He enquired about the Administration's stance in this regard and whether clear guidelines on writing would be included in the revised Guide.

47. SED advised that he did not support the practice of arranging students attending nursery classes to write with pencils/pens and young children should not be subject to undue pressure. SED further advised that the Guide which covered homework policy was under review and the revised version was expected to be published by the end of the first quarter of 2017.

48. DS(Ed)3 advised that the Performance Indicators, which formed the basis of school self-evaluation and Quality Review, were being refined to tie in with the review of the Guide and the new policy. Homework policy of KGs would be covered under the domain of Learning and Teaching in the Performance Indicators.

Support for students with special needs

49. Mr Wilson OR pointed out that Members of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong had all along stressed the importance of early identification and early intervention for students with special educational needs ("SEN students"). He enquired whether a cross bureaux/departments platform would be established to develop initiatives to cater for SEN students, whether additional resources would be allocated to strengthen the support for them, and whether their waiting time for assessment would be shortened.

50. SED advised that the Government had launched a pilot scheme under which on-site pre-school rehabilitation service was provided for children on the waiting list of subvented pre-school rehabilitation service. The scheme was expected to benefit over 2 900 children with special needs. Services would be enhanced in a progressive manner as it would take time to train adequate professionals.

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Support for non-Chinese speaking students

51. Mr KWOK Wai-keung expressed concern about the difficulties encountered by NCS children applying for admission to local KGs. He urged the Administration to ensure the provision of equal education opportunity to these children.

52. DS(Ed)3 advised that EDB had advised KGs through different channels, including school circulars and briefing sessions, reminding them of providing information in English to facilitate NCS parents choosing suitable KGs for their children. KGs were required to put in place a fair admission mechanism for all children. EDB would collect information from KGs under the Scheme on vacancy situation and provide assistance to NCS children who encountered difficulty in securing a KG place.

Issues related to teaching force

53. Noting that the overall teacher-pupil ratio would be improved from 1:15 to 1:11 and the planning standards would be revised to increase the provision of WD KG places from 250 to 500 places for every 1 000 children aged between three and six, Mr Holden CHOW urged the Administration to ensure sufficient provision of KG teachers for the enhancement.

54. DS(Ed)3 advised that the Administration had communicated with teacher education institutions ("TEIs") for the purpose of meeting the needs of the KG sector. For example, in view of a growing demand for KG teachers who could provide support for SEN students and NCS students, TEIs had been requested to strengthen their training in these aspects.

55. Mr Holden CHOW requested the Administration to provide further information on its projection on the provision of KG teachers in the next few years.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)415/16-17(01) on 12 January 2017.)

56. Ms Tanya CHAN and Ms Starry LEE expressed concern about KG teachers' salary. Ms CHAN opined that KG teachers' professional capability was vital to the delivery of quality KG education. She was concerned about the recognition of past service when experienced teachers changed employment and the salary level for experienced teachers. Ms Starry LEE considered that the Administration should provide salary protection for experienced KG teachers.

57. SED advised that the Administration attached great importance to maintaining the stability of teaching force and hence KGs were encouraged to pay teaching staff salaries within the recommended salary ranges under the Scheme. KGs were encouraged to establish a professional ladder for KG teachers.

Action

Premises-related issues

58. Noting that the reimbursed amount under the Rent Reimbursement Scheme widely ranged from \$3,100 to \$350,000 per month, Dr Elizabeth QUAT called on the Government to increase government-owned KG premises in new public housing estates or residential development projects to ensure proper use of public money. Mr Wilson OR concurred with the need to reserve sites/premises for KG use during the town planning stage.

59. DS(Ed)3 advised that under the Scheme, KGs operated in public housing estates would continue to be eligible to rent reimbursement, while those in self-owned premises would be provided with other school-specific grants to alleviate the financial burden.

60. SED advised that the Administration would reserve sites/premises for KG use in new public housing estates. It was also exploring the feasibility of co-location of KGs and primary schools, and increasing KG space in private housing development. The projected decline of KG student population in the next few years would be taken into account when considering the reservation of sites for KGs.

61. Mr Wilson OR requested the Administration to provide information on the reserved KG sites/premises in the coming five years. SED advised that the Administration would provide the requested information where practicable after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)415/16-17(01) on 12 January 2017.)

Others

62. Dr Elizabeth QUAT sought information about the regulation, if any, over KGs' collection of miscellaneous fees. SED advised that KGs would charge fees for school items and paid services, such as school uniforms, school bags and school bus service, which parents might purchase on a voluntary basis.

Summing up

63. Concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the Panel was supportive of the submission of the proposal to FC for approval.

Motions

64. The Chairman referred to the three motions respectively moved by Mr Michael TIEN, Mr HUI Chi-fung, and Ms Starry LEE and seconded by Mr Wilson OR. Members agreed to deal with the motions.

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65. At the Chairman's invitation, Mr Michael TIEN spoke on the motion moved by him urging, amongst others, the Administration to examine the homework policies of KGs when revising the Guide. Speaking on the motion moved by him, Mr HUI Chi-fung highlighted that the Administration should provide full subsidies for WD and LWD KGs. Ms Starry LEE spoke on the motion moved by her and seconded by Mr Wilson OR urging, amongst others, the Administration to provide sufficient manpower resources for smaller scale nursery schools and establish a professional development ladder and remuneration system for KG teachers.

66. At the Chairman's invitation, SED said that the Administration had noted members' concerns on various issues related to the implementation of the free quality KG education. He reiterated that the Administration would explain to stakeholders the details of its policy and provide necessary resources and support for KGs.

67. The Chairman put the motion moved by Mr Michael TIEN to vote. A majority of the members present voted for the motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried (wording of motion at **Appendix I**).

68. The Chairman put the motion moved by Mr HUI Chi-fung to vote. A majority of the members present voted for the motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried (wording of motion at **Appendix II**).

69. The Chairman then put the motion moved by Ms Starry LEE and seconded by Mr Wilson OR to vote. A majority of the members present voted for the motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried (wording of motion at **Appendix III**).

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)415/16-17(01) on 12 January 2017.)

70. At 6:28 pm, the Chairman informed members that the meeting would be extended for 15 minutes to 6:45 pm.

V. The recommendations in the Final Report of the Committee on Prevention of Student Suicides

(LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(05) -- Paper provided by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(06) -- Background brief entitled "Issues related to student suicide" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat)

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71. Members noted the background brief prepared by the Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(06)]. The Chairman said that she had received the wording of a motion under this agenda item to be moved by the Deputy Chairman. The wording of the motion was tabled.

(Post-meeting note: The wording of the motion was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)126/16-17(01) on 15 November 2016.)

Briefing by the Administration

72. At the Chairman's invitation, SED briefed members on the Final Report of the Committee on Prevention of Student Suicides ("the Committee"), details of which were set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)79/16-17(05)].

Meeting arrangement

73. At 6:37 pm, the Chairman sought members' view on further extending the meeting to 7:00 pm.

74. As it was envisaged that the discussion could not be completed even the meeting was further extended to 7:00 pm, some members proposed to arrange a special meeting to discuss the subject with the Administration and a public hearing to receive views from deputations.

75. The Chairman noted members' views. She said that apart from the public hearing, a special meeting might be arranged if necessary. She would finalize with the Deputy Chairman the meeting arrangements, and notify members in due course.

(Post-meeting note: The notice of special meeting held on 7 January 2017 was issued to members vide LC Paper CB(4)288/16-17 on 9 December 2016.)

VI. Any other business

76. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:42 pm.

教育事務委員會
Panel on Education

在 2016 年 11 月 14 日會議上
就議程項目"邁向免費優質幼稚園教育的最新發展"通過的議案
Motions passed under the agenda item
"Latest Development in Migration to Free Quality
Kindergarten Education"
at the meeting on 14 November 2016

議案措辭

有團體調查顯示，超過兩成幼稚園學童每日要完成四份以上家課，近三成學童每日須花兩個小時完成家課，過多的家課量及過深的程度恐怕會損害學生的學習興趣和身心健康，同時窒礙學生的多元發展。為有效實踐免費優質幼稚園教育的願景，讓學生能夠愉快學習、均衡發展，本會促請政府當局：

- (一) 詳細研究幼稚園的家課政策，在2017年推出經修訂的《學前教育課程指引》時，明確指示幼稚園不應安排幼兒班執筆寫字，以及不應安排機械式、操練式抄寫及計算家課，並確保部分能鞏固課堂學習的學術類功課能於校內完成；
- (二) 加強質素評核、重點視學工作，包括增加外間觀察員，以緊密監察幼稚園的教育質素及家課政策，以確保學生不會受過度操練及沉重家課量影響；
- (三) 監察幼稚園與小學教育的銜接，確保幼稚園不會因為要追趕小學程度，提早對學生傳授過深的知識及提供過多的功課，為學生帶來不必要的壓力。

(田北辰議員動議)

Wording of the Motion

(Translation)

According to a survey conducted by an organization, over 20% of kindergarten students have to finish more than four homework assignments each day, and nearly 30% of them have to spend two hours to finish their homework each day. It is very likely that excessive homework, both in terms of quantity and difficulty, will dampen the learning interest, physical and mental health of students as well as hinder their diversified development. To effectively implement the vision of free quality kindergarten education, which is to facilitate happy learning and balanced development among students, this Panel urges the Administration to:

- (1) critically examine the homework policies of kindergartens by explicitly stating in the revised Guide to the Pre-primary Curriculum to be published in 2017 that kindergartens should neither arrange students attending nursery classes to write with pencils/pens, nor arrange mechanical drilling of copying and mathematics exercises for them, and that kindergartens should ensure that part of the academic homework that aims to consolidate classroom learning can be finished at school;
- (2) enhance quality assessments and focused inspections, including increasing the number of external observers to closely monitor the teaching quality and homework policies of kindergartens, so as to ensure that students will not be affected by excessive drilling and heavy homework load; and
- (3) monitor the interface between kindergarten and primary education to ensure that kindergartens will not, for the purpose of catching up with the academic level of primary education, prematurely teach students knowledge that is too difficult for them to grasp, and will not give out too much homework, which will bring unnecessary pressure to students.

(Moved by Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun)

議案措辭

本會動議，對於 15 年免費教育未有全面落實表示遺憾，免費幼稚園政策忽略全日制幼稚園的需求，並未減輕家長經濟及照顧幼兒負擔，亦對婦女勞動人口參與率幫助不大，要求落實全面資助全日制和長全日制幼稚園，及建立幼師專業發展階梯和薪酬制度，逐步提高幼兒教育的質素。

(許智峯議員動議)

Wording of the Motion

(Translation)

That this Panel expresses regret that the 15-year free education has not been fully implemented; and as the free kindergarten policy has neglected the demand for whole-day kindergartens, failed to alleviate the financial burdens of parents and their burdens in caring for their young children, and offered little help in enhancing the labour force participation rate of women, this Panel demands the provision of full subsidies for whole-day and long whole-day kindergartens as well as the establishment of a professional development ladder and remuneration system for kindergarten teachers, so as to progressively improve the quality of early childhood education.

(Moved by Hon HUI Chi-fung)

議案措辭

政府雖然準備在2017年落實免費幼稚園教育，但學界與家長仍希望對部份細節作進一步改善，就此，本會促請政府完善有關計劃，包括：為全日和長全日制幼稚園提供足夠資助、為規模較小的幼兒學校提供充足的人力資源，以維持學校的基本營運條件、建立幼师專業發展階梯和薪酬制度，並為資深幼师提供薪酬保障。

(李慧琼議員動議，柯創盛議員和議)

Wording of the Motion

(Translation)

That, although the Government plans to implement free kindergarten education in 2017, the school sector and parents still intend to further refine some of the details; in this connection, this Panel urges the Government to improve the relevant plan, including providing sufficient subsidies for whole-day and long whole-day kindergartens, providing sufficient manpower resources for smaller scale nursery schools to maintain their basic operating conditions, establishing a professional development ladder and remuneration system for kindergarten teachers, and providing remuneration protection for experienced kindergarten teachers.

(Moved by Hon Starry LEE Wai-king and seconded by Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing)