

Panel on Education
List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 10 November 2016)

Proposed timing
for discussion

Post-secondary education

- 1. Issues related to the University Grants Committee("UGC")-funded sector in respect of -**
 - (a) the appointment and extension of appointment of teaching staff in UGC-funded institutions; and**
 - (b) grievance procedures of UGC-funded institutions**

Dr Hon Helena WONG proposed to discuss the appointment and extension of appointment of teaching staff in UGC-funded institutions. Hon IP Kin-yuen proposed to discuss grievance procedures of UGC-funded institutions.

To be
confirmed

- 2. Issues related to the governance of UGC-funded institutions**

Subsequent to the issue of the Report entitled "Governance in UGC-funded Higher Education Institutions in Hong Kong" by UGC in March 2016, members exchanged views with the Administration, UGC and the eight UGC-funded institutions on the implementation of the Report's recommendations at the meeting on 9 May 2016. At its special meeting on 18 June 2016, the Panel met with deputations and the Administration to discuss issues relating to institutional governance with reference to the Report. Some members were gravely concerned about the lack of transparency in the operation of university councils, the capabilities of council members to discharge their responsibilities, UGC's functions and role. They proposed that the matter be followed up by the Panel.

To be
confirmed

At the meeting of 28 October 2016, Hon Tanya CHAN proposed to review the governing legislation of individual UGC-funded institutions that the Chief Executive was the ex-officio Chancellor of these institutions. Hon IP Kin-yuen proposed to discuss issues related to

Proposed timing
for discussion

governance of post-secondary institutions.

3. A Member's Bill to amend the University of Hong Kong Ordinance

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen.

To be
confirmed

4. Review of the policy on admission of students under the non-Joint University Programmes Admission System

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen. The subject was last discussed on 10 February 2014.

To be
confirmed

5. Regulation of non-local higher education programmes

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen and Dr Hon Helena WONG. Dr WONG proposed to follow up with the Education Bureau on its report of inquiry into Lifelong College.

To be
confirmed

6. Review of the policy on provision of funding for UGC-funded institutions and subsidy for non-local students attending UGC-funded post-graduate research programmes

Item proposed by Dr Hon Helena WONG.

To be
confirmed

Secondary and primary education

7. Review on the policy for Direct Subsidy Scheme schools

Item proposed by Hon Michael TIEN, Dr Hon Helena WONG, Hon IP Kin-yuen and Hon LAM Cheuk-ting. The subject was last discussed on 13 January 2014.

To be
confirmed

8. Review of the New Senior Secondary curriculum and the Liberal Studies subject

Item proposed by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung and Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG. Hon Mrs Regina IP suggested that

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

teaching of Chinese literary classics and culture should be strengthened. Issues related to the subject were discussed on 8 June and 15 July 2015.

9. Issues related to provision of international school places

Item proposed by Dr Kenneth CHAN, a Member of the last legislative term. The subject was last discussed on 10 February 2014.

To be
confirmed

10. Review on the teaching of Chinese History subject in secondary schools

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG, Hon Mrs Regina IP, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan and Hon LAM Cheuk-ting. Concerns were raised about the curriculum content of the Chinese History subject, the decline of students enrolling in the subject at senior secondary level, and teaching of the subject as an independent subject at junior secondary level. The subject of Chinese history education was last discussed on 9 February 2015.

To be
confirmed

11. Review on the implementation of Territory-wide System Assessment ("TSA")

Item proposed by Hon Michael TIEN, Hon CHAN Chi-chuen, Hon Claudia MO and Dr Hon Helena WONG. Hon IP Kin-yuen proposed to discuss the report on the 2016 Tryout Study (Primary 3) which was expected to be released in November 2016. The subject of TSA was last discussed on 22 March 2016.

December
2016

The Administration proposed to report the feedback of TSA 2016 Tryout Study (Primary 3) and the latest development on the review of TSA at the meeting on 12 December 2016.

12. Implementation of whole-day primary schooling and homework policy in primary schools

Item proposed by Hon Michael TIEN and Hon Claudia MO.

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

13. Discussion of controversial topics in schools

Item proposed by Hon Michael TIEN and Hon CHAN Chi-chuen. They were concerned about the policy and guidelines, if any, in respect of the discussion of controversial topics, such as the notion of Hong Kong's secession from China, in schools.

To be
confirmed

14. Policy on promotion of reading and Extensive Reading Scheme in primary and secondary schools

Hon Michael TIEN proposed to discuss the policy on promotion of reading. Hon IP Kin-yuen proposed to discuss the Extensive Reading Scheme in primary and secondary schools.

To be
confirmed

15. School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes

Item proposed by Hon Michael TIEN.

To be
confirmed

16. Promotion of sports and art education in schools

Item proposed by Hon Michael TIEN.

To be
confirmed

17. Issues related to diversified curricula in aided secondary schools and development pathways of secondary school leavers

Item proposed by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan.

To be
confirmed

18. Planning for the provision of primary and secondary school places in the light of student population

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen.

To be
confirmed

Issues related to the provision and allocation of school places were discussed at the meetings on 18 March, 12 May and 16 July 2014 when the Panel discussed the measures to address issues arising from the drop in secondary student population and issues related to increasing the number of students allocated to each Primary One class.

Proposed timing
for discussion

19. Education for ethnic minorities

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen.

To be
confirmed

20. Student suicide and study pressure

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen. The Administration had proposed to brief the Panel on the recommendations in the Final Report of the Committee on Prevention of Student Suicides at the meeting on 14 November 2016.

November
2016

21. Support for students with special educational needs ("SEN")

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki. Dr KWOK was concerned that the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Integrated Education appointed by this Panel during the last term had not been fully implemented by the Administration. He proposed discussion on the formulation of policies and strategies for supporting SEN students.

To be
confirmed

22. Handling bullying and sexual harassment in schools

Item proposed by Dr Helena WONG.

To be
confirmed

Information technology education

23. Support for implementing e-learning and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics ("STEM") education

Item proposed by Hon Charles MOK.

To be
confirmed

Issues related to implementation of e-learning were discussed at the meetings on 11 May and 9 November 2015 when the Panel discussed the progress of implementing the Support Scheme on e-Learning in Schools and the progress on implementation of the Fourth Strategy on Information technology in Education respectively.

Proposed timing
for discussion

The Administration proposed to discuss the promotion of STEM education at the meeting on 14 November 2016.

November
2016

24. Issues related to nurturing information technology talents

Item proposed by Hon Charles MOK.

To be
confirmed

The subject was last discussed by the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting ("ITB Panel") at its meeting on 9 June 2014 when the Administration consulted ITB Panel on the funding proposal to implement the Enriched IT Programme in secondary schools. *Members may consider whether discussion on the subject should be arranged by ITB Panel and members of Panel on Education be invited to join the discussion.*

25. Internet Learning Support Programme

Item proposed by Hon Charles MOK.

To be
confirmed

Issues related to Internet Learning Support Programme ("ILSP") were last discussed by ITB Panel at its meeting on 16 February 2016 when the Administration consulted ITB Panel on the proposal to extend ILSP. *Members may consider whether discussion on this subject should be arranged by ITB Panel and members of Panel on Education be invited to join the discussion.*

Issues related to manpower of school

26. Staff establishment and salary structure in primary schools

Members shared the concern of the primary school sector that while the qualifications and level of responsibilities of primary school teachers and principals were comparable to those of their secondary school counterparts, the salary scales of the former compared much less favourably than those of the latter. At the meeting on 11 April 2016, the Panel passed a motion urging the Administration to

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

expeditiously conduct a review on the existing arrangements.

In its written response, the Administration advised that as staff establishment and salary structure of primary schools were complex matters involving a wide scope of issues, it would require time to deliberate the subject.

On behalf of the Panel, the Chairman wrote to the Administration expressing disappointment with its response, which did not give any positive undertaking to carry out a review. The Secretary for Education acknowledged the concerns of members and the school sector for serious consideration, and reiterated that as the subject was complex, the Administration would map out the way forward and update the Panel on further progress at an appropriate time.

At the meeting on 28 October 2016, Hon IP Kin-yuen proposed to follow up the subject.

27. Teaching and non-teaching manpower of special schools

Item proposed by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG and Hon IP Kin-yuen.

To be
confirmed

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG was concerned about the policy on provision of native-speaking English teachers ("NETs") in special schools for children with intellectual disability and the Administration's follow-up action in the light of the judgement regarding the Education Bureau's non-provision of a NET for a special school for children with intellectual disability. Hon IP Kin-yuen proposed to discuss the review of social worker establishment in special schools.

The subject was last discussed on 14 December 2015.

28. Remuneration for contract teachers in primary and secondary schools

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen.

To be
confirmed

Proposed timing
for discussion

Issues related to the subject were last discussed at the meeting on 12 January 2015 when the Panel discussed the employment opportunities for young teachers.

Issues related school premises and facilities

29. Issues related to primary schools operating in matchbox-style and sub-standard premises

At the meeting on 22 March 2016, the Panel met with representatives of the school sector and the Administration to discuss issues related to reprovisioning of sub-standard premises. Members were concerned that there were still 28 public sector primary schools operating in matchbox-style sub-standard premises in public housing estates constructed decades ago. To obtain first-hand understanding on the difficulties faced by these schools, the Panel, accompanied by the Under Secretary for Education, paid a visit to three primary schools accommodated in matchbox-style school premises in April 2016.

To be
confirmed

To follow up the school visit and provide a forum for the Administration and the school sector to explore short-, mid- and long-term measures, the Panel Chairman convened two closed meetings in mid-May and July 2016, at which good progress was made. Members were informed that the Administration had visited more matchbox-style primary schools and engaged a consultant to examine feasible ways to tackle common problems arising from the design of these school premises. Meanwhile, the Subsidized Primary School Council had coordinated information on the problems faced by individual schools for follow-up by the Administration. Members considered that the Panel should continue to follow up the matter and handle the problems faced by other sub-standard school premises in stages.

At the meeting on 28 October 2016, Hon IP Kin-yuen proposed to follow up this subject.

Proposed timing
for discussion

30. Installation of air-conditioning systems for aided schools

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen.

To be
confirmed

Issues related to kindergarten education

31. Support for kindergarten students with special educational needs

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen. The Subcommittee to Study the Implementation of Free Kindergarten Education ("the Subcommittee") had dealt with this matter in the course of its study and submitted its report to the Panel on 25 January 2016.

To be
confirmed

Issues related to the subject were last discussed on 1 February 2016 when the Administration briefed the Panel on the free quality kindergarten education policy.

In addition, the Panel had obtained the House Committee's agreement on 5 February 2016 for the priority allocation of a debate slot for Hon Starry LEE to move a motion for debate on the Subcommittee's report at the Council meeting of 4 May 2016. The said motion debate had not been held owing to the heavy agenda of Council meetings.

32. Issues related to the implementation of free kindergarten education policy

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen, Hon Tanya CHAN and Dr Hon Helena WONG.

To be
confirmed

Hon IP Kin-yuen was concerned about various issues related to the implementation of free kindergarten education policy, such as two-year period covered by the tide-over grant for kindergartens with a large number of long-serving teachers, setting of amount of subsidy to kindergartens and the level of tuition fees and miscellaneous charges under the free kindergarten education policy.

Proposed timing
for discussion

Dr Hon Helena WONG proposed to discuss the provision of subsidy for and planning of whole-day and long whole-day kindergartens.

Hon Tanya CHAN suggested that the Administration should brief the Panel on the implementation of free kindergarten education policy. The Administration proposed to brief the Panel on the latest development in migration to free quality kindergarten education at the meeting on 14 November 2016.

November
2016

33. Support for non-Chinese speaking students under the free kindergarten education policy

Item proposed by Hon Michael TIEN.

To be
confirmed

34. Salary structure of kindergarten teachers

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen. The subject was last discussed at the meeting on 2 July 2016.

To be
confirmed

Others

35. Issues related to the restructuring of the Vocational Training Council

Item proposed by Hon HO Kai-ming.

To be
confirmed

Hon HO Kai-ming was concerned about the possible impact on the students and staff of the Business Services Centre under the Vocational Training Council upon its cessation of operation in 2016-2017.

36. Safety of drinking water in schools and measures to follow up the incidents of excessive lead found in the drinking water of certain schools

Item proposed by Dr Hon Helena WONG.

To be
confirmed

Issues related to the incidents of lead in the drinking water were discussed by Panel on Housing on 22 July 2015,

Proposed timing
for discussion

Panel on Health Services on 24 August 2015, Panel on Welfare Services on 9 November 2015, and House Committee on 1 September and 8 October 2015.

At the special meeting of the House Committee on 11 July 2016, the Administration had briefed members on the latest situation of the incident of lead in drinking water, and the follow-up actions taken by the Administration in response to the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Excess Lead Found in Drinking Water.

37. Prerequisite attributes of the future Secretary for Education

Item proposed by Hon IP Kin-yuen.

To be
confirmed

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 November 2016