

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(4)392/19-20  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

**Panel on Education**

**Minutes of policy briefing-cum-meeting  
held on Friday, 1 November 2019 at 10:45 am  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon IP Kin-yuen (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP  
Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon SHIU Ka-chun  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

Hon HUI Chi-fung  
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
Hon AU Nok-hin  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS  
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

**Members attending** : Hon SHIU Ka-fai  
Hon KWONG Chun-yu

**Members absent** : Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP  
Hon HO Kai-ming  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding

**Public Officers attending** : Agenda Item III  
  
Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP  
Secretary for Education  
  
Mrs Ingrid YEUNG, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Education  
  
Dr CHOI Yuk-lin, JP  
Under Secretary for Education  
  
Mr Esmond LEE, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Education (1)  
  
Ms Priscilla TO, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Education (2)  
  
Mrs Michelle WONG, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Education (3)  
  
Mrs CHAN SIU Suk-fan  
Deputy Secretary for Education (4)

Mrs HONG CHAN Tsui-wah  
Deputy Secretary for Education (5)

Ms May CHAN, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Education (6)

Agenda item IV

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP  
Secretary for Education

Mrs Ingrid YEUNG, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Education

Mrs CHAN SIU Suk-fan  
Deputy Secretary for Education (4)

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

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

Miss Rachel WONG  
Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Sandy HAU  
Legislative Assistant (4)4

---

Action

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

(LC Paper No. CB(4)851/18-19(01) -- Information paper provided by the Administration concerning the detailed design of hostel projects funded under the Hostel Development Fund

LC Paper No. CB(4)952/18-19(01) -- Letter dated 17 April 2019 from Hon HO Kai-ming concerning the Code of Aid for Aided Schools

Action

- LC Paper No. CB(4)952/18-19(02) -- Administration's written response dated 28 May 2019 to the letter dated 17 April 2019 from Hon HO Kai-ming concerning the Code of Aid for Aided Schools
- LC Paper No. CB(4)961/18-19(01) -- Letter dated 3 May 2019 from Hon SHIU Ka-chun concerning the progress in the implementation of life planning education
- LC Paper No. CB(4)961/18-19(02) -- Administration's written response dated 31 May 2019 to the letter dated 3 May 2019 from Hon SHIU Ka-chun concerning the progress in the implementation of life planning education
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1078/18-19(01) -- Information paper provided by the Administration concerning the home-school co-operation and parent education
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1079/18-19(01) -- Referral from Legislative Council Members' meeting with Sai Kung District Council members on 24 May 2019 regarding the request to open the recreational facilities of the Hong Kong Design Institute for public use
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1099/18-19(01) -- Information paper provided by the Administration concerning arrangements for secondary schools participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation System to notify in advance the successful applicants of their inclusion in the lists of successful applicants for discretionary places

Action

- LC Paper No. CB(4)1123/18-19(01) -- Information paper provided by the Administration concerning annual progress report on implementation of Hostel Development Fund
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1128/18-19(01) -- Letter dated 6 May 2019 from Hon IP Kin-yuen concerning the enhanced support measures for schools to cater for students with special educational needs
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1128/18-19(02) -- Administration's written response dated 19 July 2019 to the letter dated 6 May 2019 from Hon IP Kin-yuen concerning the enhanced support measures for schools to cater for students with special educational needs
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1130/18-19(01) -- Letter dated 30 April 2019 from Hon SHIU Ka-chun concerning the enhanced support measures for schools to cater for students with special educational needs
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1130/18-19(02) -- Administration's written response dated 22 July 2019 to the letter dated 30 April 2019 from Hon SHIU Ka-chun concerning the enhanced support measures for schools to cater for students with special educational needs
- LC Paper No. CB(4)1182/18-19(01) -- Joint letter dated 26 June 2019 from Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan and Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan concerning the political mobilization and dissemination of political propaganda in schools by teaching staff

Action

LC Paper No. CB(4)1182/18-19(02) -- Administration's written response dated 21 August 2019 to the joint letter dated 26 June 2019 from Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan and Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan concerning the political mobilization and dissemination of political propaganda in schools by teaching staff

LC Paper No. CB(4)1242/18-19(01) -- Information paper entitled "Language Fund – Implementation of Initiatives" provided by the Administration)

Members noted that the above papers had been issued since the last meeting.

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

(Appendix I to LC Paper No. CB(4)47/19-20 -- List of outstanding items for discussion)

2. The Chairman informed members that the List of outstanding items for discussion had incorporated the items proposed by members at and after the meeting on 18 October 2019. She and the Deputy Chairman would meet with the Secretary for Education ("SED") on 7 November 2019 to consider the timing for discussing the items on the List.

**III. Briefing by the Secretary for Education on the Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)47/19-20(01) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

*Other relevant documents*

The Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address

The Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address Supplement

Action

Briefing by the Administration

3. SED briefed members on the initiatives on education in the 2019 Policy Address, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(4)47/19-20(01)).

*(Post-meeting note: The speaking note of SED was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)81/19-20(1) on 1 November 2019.)*

Discussion

*Supporting ethnic minority students in learning Chinese*

4. Ms Claudia MO pointed out that the Equal Opportunities Commission, Hong Kong Unison and parents of non-Chinese speaking ("NCS") students including ethnic minorities considered the "Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework" ("the Framework") ineffective in helping NCS students learn Chinese as a second language. In her view, many teachers were not well equipped with the skills in teaching NCS students Chinese language as a second language and the Education Bureau ("EDB") did not monitor whether schools had deployed the resources for implementing the Framework effectively. With the provision of enhanced additional funding to support NCS students, EDB should develop a comprehensive plan to facilitate their effective learning of Chinese language. Mr Vincent CHENG urged EDB to enhance teachers' professional capabilities in teaching Chinese as a second language.

5. SED said that in response to the Office of the Ombudsman's recommendation of increasing funding for schools admitting less than ten NCS students, EDB would, as announced in the 2019 Policy Address, provide enhanced funding for such schools under a two-tiered arrangement as from the 2020-2021 school year to facilitate the implementation of the Framework. EDB would also continue to closely monitor the effective use of additional funding by schools for the support of NCS students. EDB and teachers considered the Framework useful in helping NCS students learn Chinese as a second language. EDB had also been providing school-based professional support services and professional development programmes to equip teachers with necessary knowledge and skills in teaching NCS students Chinese language. In fact, the support measures needed time to take root and create a sustainable impact on students' learning. EDB would continue to provide professional training to teachers and explore how to gauge NCS students' progress in learning Chinese language.

Action

6. Permanent Secretary for Education ("PS(Ed)") supplemented that in the past five school years, around 4 300 Chinese Language teachers from over 700 schools had attended the relevant professional development programmes organized by the Curriculum Development Institute. In addition, more than 60 Chinese Language teachers had completed the programmes which aimed to enhance their pedagogical knowledge and skills in teaching Chinese language to NCS students under the "Professional Enhancement Grant Scheme for Chinese Teachers (Teaching Chinese as a Second Language)" funded by the Language Fund. Meanwhile, EDB would strengthen parent education to help NCS parents support their children's learning.

*Enhancing school facilities*

7. Apart from the \$1 billion to be reserved for conducting minor internal conversions for schools, the Deputy Chairman urged EDB to consider implementing a new phase of School Improvement Programme ("SIP") to improve the conditions of schools operating in premises built according to previous building standards, and expedite the reprovisioning/redevelopment of these schools. SED advised that the minor internal conversion works programme aimed to facilitate more flexible use of existing space by schools operating in premises constructed according to past building standards. EDB completed the five phases of SIP. Beginning from phase four, facilities of participating schools had been upgraded, wherever technically feasible, to the prevailing standards of school premises built after 2000. Meanwhile, EDB would continue the annual major repairs programme, the emergency repairs mechanism and the existing reprovisioning and redevelopment/extension programmes.

8. Mr Tony TSE enquired about the implementation timeline and tender requirements of the \$1-billion minor internal conversion works programme. Given the present economic downturn, he suggested the Administration to engage more small-and-medium enterprises to participate in the programme. SED responded that EDB all along conducted open tender exercises in accordance with established mechanism and procedure for hiring suitable contractors to undertake conversion and maintenance works.

*Basic Law education*

9. Mr MA Fung-kwok pointed out that many youngsters had challenged the national sovereignty and acted against the "one country, two systems" principle by for example, desecrating the national flag or emblem in recent months. He expressed disappointment that the Basic Law education, which had been implemented for 22 years, had failed to achieve its intended purposes or to meet public expectation. As the 2019 Policy Address had not put much focus on the promotion of Basic Law education, he asked whether and how EDB would review the strategies taken in promoting Basic Law education in order to improve ways



Action

of promotion. Mr CHU Hoi-dick did not subscribe to Mr MA's view. SED responded that EDB would review the effectiveness of existing strategies to promote Basic Law education and step up its efforts to explore effective promotion measures.

*Development of post-secondary education sector*

10. Ms CHAN Hoi-yan opined that EDB should step up efforts in the promotion of vocational and professional education and training by making reference to the successful implementation experience of overseas countries such as Finland. She also sought further information on the Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for Self-financing Post-secondary Education. SED advised that no recurrent subsidy was provided to the self-financing post-secondary education sector. The Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for Self-financing Post-secondary Education was proposed to be introduced to provide support for self-financing post-secondary institutions interested in offering designated sub-degree or undergraduate programmes that met market needs but required high start-up costs, so as to help such programmes take off and to alleviate the financial burden of students brought upon them by tuition fees. The Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education would be responsible for assessing the proposals to be submitted by the institutions.

11. Mr SHIU Ka-chun suggested that the Administration should expand the scope of the Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong ("NMTSS") to cover students pursuing self-financing undergraduate programmes offered by the University Grants Committee ("UGC")-funded universities and sub-degree graduates pursuing further studies in self-financing post-secondary institutions. SED advised that while NMTSS covered full-time self-financing locally-accredited local and non-local first-year-first-degree and top-up degree programmes offered by the eligible institutions, self-financing undergraduate programmes offered by the eight UGC-funded universities were not covered. The Administration had no plan to review NMTSS's eligibility criteria for the time being.

12. Mr CHU Hoi-dick said that the University of Hong Kong Convocation had recently passed a motion urging the Chief Executive ("CE") to resign as the Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong. He enquired whether the Administration would consider amending the relevant provisions of the University of Hong Kong Ordinance (Cap. 1053). SED advised that CE was the Chancellor in accordance with the ordinances governing the universities. The governing structures of UGC-funded universities had been reviewed several years before, and universities had unanimously agreed that CE should continue to be their ex-officio Chancellor. EDB did not see a need to discuss the matter.

Action

*Political disputes and violence in schools*

13. Dr Priscilla LEUNG, Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok and Ms Elizabeth QAUT expressed grave concern about political disputes, violence and vandalism in schools, which affected school operation, harmed students in different ways and threatened safety of staff members. Ir Dr LO enquired about EDB's follow-up actions to recent campus vandalism and urged EDB to take concrete measures to ensure a peaceful and safe learning environment for students.

14. SED emphasized that the Administration objected to all forms of violent conduct and criminal acts. While post-secondary institutions were independent and autonomous organizations responsible for handling matters taking place on campus, including protests and confrontations, EDB had maintained close liaison with them and provided them with assistance as necessary.

15. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr KWONG Chun-yu and Mr SHIU Ka-chun questioned the need for EDB to require schools to provide information, such as the number of students who wore masks, chanted slogans, boycotted classes, formed human chains, etc. at schools. Mr LEUNG opined that the arrangement had brought pressure on and strained the relationship among principals, teachers and students. Mr KWONG considered that the arrangement might provoke white terror. He and Mr SHIU enquired about the number of schools that had reported the information; the use of the information collected, for example, whether such information had been passed to the Police for follow-up; and whether support had been provided to schools.

16. SED explained that disputes in society in recent months had brought pressure on the school sector. Different people including students might wish to express their views on these social issues. EDB, which was responsible for overseeing the effective implementation of educational programmes, had to understand the situation of schools so as to offer schools/students appropriate support and advice when necessary. Schools were not required to provide exact figures and student names and the information collected was only for EDB's reference. No follow-up actions on individual student had been taken. As the learning environment in schools had become peaceful and orderly again, EDB had no longer asked for the information. Schools were encouraged to contact EDB for assistance if needed.

17. Mr Michael TIEN enquired whether schools were given autonomy in handling the ad hoc incidents that occurred in schools, and whether EDB had issued guidelines advising schools how to handle the incidents and how to deal with students who covered their faces outside schools. SED advised that before commencement of the academic year, EDB had met with the representatives of various councils and school heads to discuss relevant arrangements. Guidelines had also been issued to schools advising them how to handle if students demanded

Action

classes boycott and reminding schools to pay attention to the emotions of teachers and students. EDB had emphasized the basic principle that schools were not places for expressing political demands. Given the mission and actual circumstances of individual schools, schools were allowed flexibility in formulating school-based measures to deal with various possible situations. When the Prohibition on Face Covering Regulation ("the Regulation") was made, EDB had written to all schools, urging them to remind students not to cover their faces in any manner when they went out (except for religious or health reasons) so as not to breach the law inadvertently.

18. Mr HUI Chi-fung questioned the need for EDB to issue the notice regarding the Regulation to kindergartens and primary schools. SED agreed that there was room for improvement in the issuance of guidelines in this regard and reiterated that EDB's sole aim was to care for students and to provide them a safe, stable and peaceful environment to learn normally and grow healthily.

19. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan said that many overseas schools had installed closed-circuit television ("CCTV") systems in school premises to protect students from violence and bullying. She suggested that EDB should consider setting up a funding scheme to support schools to install CCTV systems if they so wished. Ms Elizabeth QUAT supported the suggestion and urged EDB to actively explore the feasibility of taking forward the suggestion.

20. SED explained that CCTV systems were not standard items of school facilities. To his understanding, certain schools had installed CCTV systems for security reasons. Schools wishing to install CCTV systems should first consult the stakeholders and those with financial difficulties might seek EDB's assistance. EDB would consider their requests on a case-by-case basis.

*Students' involvement in public activities*

21. Dr Priscilla LEUNG, Ms Elizabeth QUAT and Ms Starry LEE were saddened that many students had treated their teachers or school heads with disrespect and had been arrested for participating in street violence. Dr LEUNG considered it necessary for EDB to safeguard the professional quality of education to meet public expectation and review the implementation of Liberal Studies subject. Ms QUAT opined that students' involvement in street violence had reflected distorted values of young people and problems in our education system. Ms LEE criticized EDB for not handling seriously cases involving students' participation in unlawful activities. She considered it necessary for EDB to stop students from taking part in unlawful activities and set up a high-level committee to directly handle education-related issues arising from the recent disputes in society. Mr Tony TSE opined that it was incumbent on schools to help students distinguish right from wrong. Schools/EDB should seriously handle the conduct issues of students and follow up for students who had committed an offence.

Action

22. Mr CHU Hoi-dick, the Deputy Chairman, Dr Helena WONG and Mr HUI Chi-fung did not agree that the education system had played a role in the recent social issues and opined that the Government should have listened to the voices of the youngsters. The Deputy Chairman called on post-secondary institutions to cherish diversity of views and promote rational discussion, and students to respect others' rights and people holding contrary views. Dr WONG opined that youngsters' pursuit of democracy and freedom should be appreciated. Mr AU Nok-hin enquired whether EDB had helped school/university heads to be free from political pressure in rendering support to students who had experienced police brutality and arbitrary arrest.

23. SED reiterated that schools should not be used as venues for different political stances to vie for influence and should be given more room for handling issues arising from the recent social disputes. He further advised that EDB had all along made its best endeavours to provide quality education in Hong Kong. In the past months, EDB had been working closely with schools to help them handle issues arising from the recent social events. At the school level, teachers would help students improve their behaviour and build up positive values according to the established school-based discipline and counselling mechanism.

24. Ms CHAN Hoi-yan, Mr SHIU Ka-fai and Mr Vincent CHENG called on members and the public to stop glorifying violence and inciting students to participate in unlawful activities. Mr SHIU expressed concern that some students who had committed serious offences during the recent social disputes were still allowed to go to school before receiving the Court's sentence. He also called on EDB to inform students of the interim injunction order granted by the High Court against promotion, encouragement and incitement of the use or threat of violence through an Internet-based platform or medium

25. SED called upon members to oppose all violent acts and students should express their views in a lawful and peaceful manner. He further advised that schools always put the safety of students at top priority. If necessary, schools might suspend schooling of certain students who might pose danger to other students. On Mr SHIU Ka-fai's suggestion regarding the interim injunction order, SED responded that EDB would take necessary follow-up actions shortly. In addition, a resource pack would be prepared for schools to educate students the right attitude in using and evaluating information on the Internet.

*Teachers' professional conduct*

26. Noting that EDB would closely monitor and investigate suspected cases of professional misconduct of teachers, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen sought information on the monitoring mechanism, number of suspected cases under investigation and outcome of the investigations. Moreover, he drew the Administration's attention that teachers were under enormous pressure in dealing with the relations between

Action

parents and students in recent months. The Administration should handle suspected cases of professional misconduct carefully to avoid adversely affecting morale and increasing turnover of teachers.

27. Dr Priscilla LEUNG, Mr Vincent CHENG, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan and Ms Elizabeth QUAT believed that most of the teachers had upheld professional values and conduct. However, as teachers served as students' role models, it was necessary for EDB and teachers' associations to seriously follow up if a teacher was found to have committed a serious offence or an act of misconduct, such as inciting students to participate in unlawful activities, producing inappropriate learning and teaching materials, etc. Mr CHEUNG noted that the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279) only provided for refusal and cancellation of registration for a teacher, but not suspension of teachers. He suggested EDB to amend the Ordinance so that EDB could take appropriate punitive actions, such as suspending teachers who had committed misconduct from duty for a limited time.

28. SED advised that EDB had been handling complaints of alleged professional misconduct of teachers in a fair and just manner. Full consideration would be given to the facts and circumstances of every case before a decision was made. He firmly believed that most of the teachers had upheld professionalism in discharging their duties. Hence, EDB was seriously following up every suspected case in the hope of safeguarding the professional image of teachers. Members could refer the case to EDB if they received any complaints against teachers. Schools would be requested to conduct investigation, etc. when handling professional misconduct of teachers. PS(Ed) added that EDB would adopt various measures to handle professional misconduct of teachers, for instance, requesting schools to conduct investigation into misconduct allegations and monitor the performance of teachers who had committed misconduct, reprimanding teachers etc. If a teacher repeatedly committed misconduct, EDB would take further follow-up actions. For cases of serious nature, EDB would consider cancellation of the registration of the teachers.

29. Mr CHU Hoi-dick sought the Administration's stance on the remark of a police officer that he had lost confidence in Hong Kong's education and would send his children to the Mainland to receive education. SED advised that while the Administration duly respected the parental choice of education for their children, the education in Hong Kong was of high quality.

30. The Chairman said that a motion proposed by Ms Elizabeth QUAT and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, and an amendment motion proposed by Dr Helena WONG (wording of the motions in **Appendices I and II** respectively) were tabled (and subsequently issued vide LC Paper Nos. CB(4)120/19-20(01)-(02)). She would deal with the motion and amendment motion later at the meeting. Members noted and raised no objection.

Action

**IV. Provision of a subsidy to day-school students**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)47/19-20(02) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

31. SED briefed members on the funding proposal on provision of a subsidy of \$2,500 for each day-school student while explaining the major education-related initiatives in the 2019 Policy Address under agenda item III. Details of the proposal were set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)47/19-20(02)].

Discussion

*Subsidy amount*

32. Mr KWONG Chun-yu pointed out that private tuition and extra-curricular activities imposed great financial burden for parents of students, in particular those from grass-roots families. While expressing support to the funding proposal, he considered that the subsidy of \$2,500 per student was grossly insufficient to relieve parents' financial burden. In order to provide appropriate assistance, the Administration should take into account the needs of grass-roots families and significantly increase the subsidy upon regularization in the 2020-2021 school year. Dr Helena WONG expressed support that the subsidy should be regularized and increased, if possible.

33. Mr Vincent CHENG, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan and Ms Starry LEE welcomed the Administration to take on board the suggestion of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong to provide a subsidy for parents to purchase textbooks at the beginning of a school year. Mr CHEUNG urged the Administration to constantly review ways to assist needy students, including increasing the subsidy amount.

34. SED advised that the provision of a subsidy of \$2,500 to each day-school student in the 2019-2020 school year was one of the relief measures announced by the Financial Secretary. In formulating the relief measure, the Administration had given due regard to economic situation, the needs of various sectors in the community, government affordability and fiscal sustainability. In fact, this relief measure would involve about \$2.25 billion and benefit about 900 000 students. CE had also announced in her 2019 Policy Address that the measure would be regularized starting from the 2020-2021 school year. The Administration would not rule out the possibility of reviewing the subsidy amount if needed.

35. Mr Vincent CHENG said that as increases in textbook prices in recent years had imposed great financial burden on parents, most of the parents would spend the subsidy on textbooks and publishers might further increase the prices of

Action

textbooks in the light of the provision of subsidy. He called on EDB to constantly review the Recommended Book List, contain unnecessary textbook price increases and make reference to Finland to provide textbooks to all students direct in the long run.

36. SED responded that parents had the discretion and flexibility to use the subsidy of \$2,500. On textbooks, EDB met with publishers regularly to discuss textbook related issues, with a view to monitoring textbook prices. With the implementation of "debundling" policy and the development of e-textbooks, textbook prices were normally adjusted according to the inflation rate in the past few years. Sometimes, textbook prices were higher due to an increase in the production costs, such as paper and printing. EDB would continue to maintain communications with publishers to monitor textbook price increases.

*Eligibility criteria*

37. Dr Helena WONG enquired about the reasons for not providing the subsidy to post-secondary students including those taking Associate Degree programmes and self-financing undergraduate programmes offered by the eight UGC-funded universities. In her view, relief measures should be implemented for all students in need, irrespective of their level of education.

38. SED stressed that the subsidy was specifically provided for secondary day-school, primary school and kindergarten students. The Administration offered different financial assistance to students at different levels, taking into account their needs and support to parents. At present, there were different financial support measures including means-tested financial assistance and a non-means-tested loan scheme provided to post-secondary students. The Administration would consider other measures to address the needs of post-secondary students when necessary.

39. The Deputy Chairman sought clarification on whether foreign students (children of expatriates) would be eligible for the subsidy, and further suggested that the Administration should draw reference from overseas countries to offer subsidies to infants and preschool children, so as to ease the heavy financial burden of these parents.

40. SED clarified that all students (including children of expatriates) studying in secondary day-schools, primary schools and special schools as well as kindergartens would be eligible for the grant. On provision of subsidies to infants and preschool children, SED responded that it fell outside the scope of this relief measure and should be considered in a separate context. Meanwhile, the Administration was open to suggestions on how to address the needs of different sectors of the community.

Action

*Implementation arrangement*

41. Mr Tony TSE advised that he supported all forms of subsidies for students and had been calling for more relief measures to ease parents' financial burden, such as introducing tax allowance on child education. In the light of the chaos caused by the \$4,000 handout under the Caring and Sharing Scheme, he sought details on the implementation arrangements of the proposed subsidy, including whether applications could be made online and whether 30 contract staff were sufficient for handling over 900 000 applications. He also suggested that the Administration should make good use of schools' student information in disbursing the subsidy so as to ensure a smooth implementation and avoid high administrative cost.

42. Ms CHAN Hoi-yan welcomed the provision of subsidy. To avoid unnecessary chaos, she urged the Administration to make preparation work before seeking approval from the Finance Committee ("FC"), such as exploring the feasibility of making use of schools' payment online systems in processing applications and disbursing the subsidy. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan was worried that confusion would likely be caused if parents were allowed to submit applications online and via schools. Mr Vincent CHENG expressed concern that the provision of subsidy would likely bring additional work to teachers and schools.

43. SED explained that EDB was still working on the implementation details of the provision of subsidy. In the course of formulation of details, EDB would draw on the past experiences gained from similar initiatives to ensure a smooth implementation. Application forms would be distributed and student status would be verified via schools. To facilitate applications, parents would be given an option to download the forms from the website. Parents would only be requested to provide minimal necessary information such as name and bank account number. In order not to strain the administrative burden of schools and teachers, involvement of school would also be kept to minimum. Contract staff would be recruited and a new office would be set up to develop IT systems concerned, handle financial matters, process applications, etc. EDB would review the application procedures, staff workload and manpower arrangements of the new office upon regularization of the subsidy.

44. In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry on the administrative cost for the provision of subsidy, SED estimated that an administrative cost of several million dollars per year would be required and undertook to provide more accurate information in its paper to FC.

45. Mr Vincent CHENG and Ms Starry LEE enquired about the timeline for disbursing the subsidy in the 2019-2020 school year. SED advised that the Administration would seek funding approval from FC at the earliest possible time.



Action

As more time would be needed to finalize the implementation details, the Administration expected to accept applications about six weeks after the approval of FC, and start to disburse the subsidy about six weeks after receiving the applications.

Summing up

46. The Chairman concluded that the Panel unanimously supported the Administration to submit the proposal to FC.

*(At about 12:28 pm, the Chairman directed that the meeting be extended for 15 minutes to 1:15 pm.)*

**V. Proposal to set up a subcommittee to study the development of textbooks and teaching materials for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools**

(LC Paper No. CB(4)68/19-20(01) -- Letter dated 30 October 2019 from Hon YUNG Hoi-yan to the Chairman of Panel on Education)

47. The Chairman referred members to a letter from Ms YUNG Hoi-yan [LC Paper No. CB(4)68/19-20(01)], proposing the setting up of a subcommittee to study the development of textbooks and teaching materials for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools ("the proposal"). The Chairman drew members' attention that five policy subcommittees were on the waiting list, of which three had not yet commenced work since appointment and two were awaiting re-activation of work. The proposed policy subcommittee would be the fourth one to commence work, if formed.

48. Ms Tanya CHAN noted that the proposal was included in the agenda at a very short notice and questioned its urgency. Due to time constraints, Dr Helena WONG considered that discussion of the proposal should be postponed to allow members sufficient time to express their views. Ms CHAN and Dr WONG requested the Chairman to put the proposal on the List of outstanding items for discussion.

49. The Chairman responded that the development of textbooks and teaching materials was of widespread public concern and suggested arranging a special meeting to discuss the proposal. Ms Tanya CHAN expressed concerns that it was not a common practice to hold a special meeting to discuss the establishment of a subcommittee and objected to the Chairman's suggestion. Ms Starry LEE suggested discussing the proposal at the next regular meeting.

Action

50. The Chairman advised that she would put the proposal on the List of outstanding items for discussion. She and the Deputy Chairman would discuss with SED the timing for discussing the proposal at the work plan meeting.

**VI. Motion**

51. Members had diverse views on whether the motion of Ms Elizabeth QUAT and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan and the amendment motion of Dr Helena WONG proposed under agenda item III should be proceeded with. The Chairman put this matter to vote. Ms Tanya CHAN claimed a division and Mr HUI Chi-fung requested to ring the voting bell for five minutes to notify members of the voting. Due to insufficient time, the Chairman said that the voting would continue at the next meeting.

**VII. Any other business**

52. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:14 pm.

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
16 March 2020

教育事務委員會  
Panel on Education

在 2019 年 11 月 1 日的政策簡報會及會議上  
就議程項目 "教育局局長就行政長官 2019 年施政報告作出簡報"  
提出的議案

Motion proposed under the agenda item "Briefing by the Secretary for  
Education on the Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address"  
at the policy briefing-cum-meeting on 1 November 2019

**議案措辭**

本委員會要求教育局：

- (1) 嚴肅追究違法違紀老師，包括發放煽動仇恨言論或慫恿學生參與非法集會或街頭暴力事件；
- (2) 向所有學校的學生呼籲不要在網上發放任何暴力罪行或仇恨言論。

(葛珮帆議員及張國鈞議員動議)

**Wording of the Motion**

(Translation)

This Panel urges the Education Bureau to:

- (1) seriously pursue the responsibility of teachers who have breached the law and discipline, including disseminating comments that incite hatred or persuading their students to participate in unlawful assemblies or street violence;
- (2) call upon the students of all schools not to disseminate on the Internet comments relating to violence offences or hatred.

(Moved by Hon Elizabeth QUAT and Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan)

教育事務委員會  
Panel on Education

在 2019 年 11 月 1 日的政策簡報會及會議上  
就議程項目"教育局局長就行政長官 2019 年施政報告作出簡報"  
提出的議案

Motion proposed under the agenda item "Briefing by the Secretary for  
Education on the Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address"  
at the policy briefing-cum-meeting on 1 November 2019

**議案措辭**

本委員會要求教育局：

- (1) 嚴肅追究林鄭特首及官員，施政違反民意，及強推送中惡法，激化社會矛盾，老師應好好保護學生，避免在街頭暴力事件受傷；
- (2) 向所有學校的學生呼籲，要好好保護自己，不要被暴力傷害。

(葛珮帆議員及張國均議員動議，並經黃碧雲議員修正)

**Wording of the Motion**

(Translation)

This Panel urges the Education Bureau to:

- (1) seriously pursue the responsibility of the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, and her officials for intensifying social conflicts by implementing policies against the public opinion and unrelentingly pushing through the draconian China extradition law, while teachers should properly protect their students from getting injured in street violence;
- (2) call upon the students of all schools to properly protect themselves from getting hurt by violence.

(Moved by Hon Elizabeth QUAT and Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan,  
amended by Dr Hon Helena WONG)