

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)845/19-20
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

Panel on Education

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 3 July 2020 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 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
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 MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
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
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
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 LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

Members attending : Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

Member absent : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Public Officers attending : Agenda item II

Dr CHOI Yuk-lin, JP
Under Secretary for Education

Mr Joe NG
Principal Assistant Secretary
(Quality Assurance and School-based Support)
Education Bureau

Mr CHAN Fu-man
Principal Education Officer (Kowloon)
Education Bureau

Mr Ashley LEUNG
Principal Education Officer (Curriculum Development)
Education Bureau

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

Staff in attendance : Miss Joyce CHAN
Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Miss Mandy NG
Senior Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Rachel WONG
Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (4)4

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

- (LC Paper No. CB(4)678/19-20(01) -- Referral from the Public Complaints Office of the Legislative Council Secretariat regarding "Policy to support home learning of cross-boundary students"
(Restricted to members only)
- LC Paper No. CB(4)747/19-20(01) -- Letter dated 1 June 2020 from Hon IP Kin-yuen concerning Mainland-Hong Kong Teachers Exchange and Collaboration Programme
- LC Paper No. CB(4)747/19-20(02) -- Administration's written response dated 23 June 2020 to the letter dated 1 June 2020 from Hon IP Kin-yuen concerning Mainland-Hong Kong Teachers Exchange and Collaboration Programme
- LC Paper No. CB(4)778/19-20(01) -- Information paper provided by the Administration concerning annual progress report on implementation of the Hostel Development Fund)

Members noted the above papers issued since the last meeting.

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2. Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Ms Claudia MO, Mr Charles MOK, Ms Tanya CHAN, Mr KWONG Chun-yu, Mr Jeremy TAM, the Deputy Chairman, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Mr HUI Chi-fung and Dr Helena WONG expressed dissatisfaction with the Chairman's decision to cancel agenda item IV "Promotion of STEM education: work progress and related enhanced support measures" originally scheduled for this meeting, and add "Development of textbooks and teaching materials for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools" to be the first discussion item. They recalled that the Chairman had put to vote Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan's motion on whether a special meeting should be held to discuss the development of textbooks and teaching materials at the Panel meeting on 3 June 2020. Twelve members voted for the motion and twelve voted against. The motion was not carried. However, the Chairman disrespected members' views and scheduled a special meeting in late June, which was eventually cancelled due to a lack of quorum. They considered it unacceptable that the Chairman was adamant in scheduling the item on top of this meeting's agenda without consulting members. Cancellation of an important item on STEM was also inappropriate.

3. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, Mr Holden CHOW, Ms YUNG Hoi-yan, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, Mr SHIU Ka-fai, Mr Vincent CHENG and Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that issues relating to the development of textbooks and teaching materials had aroused wide public concern. Many parents had complained that some textbooks and teaching materials of kindergartens ("KGs"), primary and secondary schools contained biased and inaccurate views. In fact, related issues should have been discussed at the Subcommittee to Study the Development of Textbooks and Teaching Materials for Kindergartens, Primary and Secondary Schools. However, as some members filibustered, the Subcommittee still failed to elect the Chairman and commence its work. There was a need for the Panel to discuss the subject matter at this meeting to address parents' concern. The discussion was not targeted at teachers. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan shared a similar view and highlighted that the Chairman had acted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") in deciding on the agenda for this meeting.

4. The Chairman advised that after consulting with the Clerk and the Legal Adviser, she had replied to the six letters from 13 members concerning the special meeting in late June. In gist, she, as the Chairman, could exercise the power conferred under RoP 77(11) and RoP 79C to determine the date, time, place and agenda of Panel meetings. In determining the agenda for the special meeting and today's meeting, she had taken into consideration the voting results of Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan's proposal to hold a special meeting to discuss matters relating to the development of textbooks and teaching materials for KGs, primary and secondary schools. The proposal put to vote had nothing to do with RoP 46(3) which referred to motions moved in the Council. Moreover, she had consulted the Education Bureau ("EDB") before revising today's agenda. According to EDB,

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there was no urgency in discussing the item of STEM which reported the work progress of promoting STEM in primary and secondary schools and the change would not cause any inconvenience.

(Post-meeting note: The six letters from 13 Panel members and the Chairman's two replies were issued to members vide LC Paper Nos. CB(4)771/19-20(01)-(07) on 26 June 2020 and CB(4)786/19-20 on 2 July 2020.)

(Some members shouted aloud in their seats.)

5. The Chairman further advised that she had acceded to the Deputy Chairman's request to discuss the item "Report of the delegation of the Panel on Education on its duty visit to Finland" at this meeting. Hence, it was also a queue-jumping item. The Deputy Chairman clarified that this was not queue jumping. Delegation members only requested to share with the Panel their experience acquired from the duty visit as soon as practicable. He considered the Chairman's expression "queue-jumping" offensive and requested her to withdraw it. The Chairman responded that the expression was not offensive and directed that the discussion of agenda item II should commence.

(Some members continued to shout aloud in their seats.)

6. The Chairman reminded members who shouted aloud in their seats that their conduct was grossly disorderly. She would order members to withdraw from the meeting if they continued to do so.

7. Mr HUI Chi-fung and Dr Helena WONG left their seats and gathered in front of the Chairman's bench. Ms Tanya CHAN continued to shout aloud in her seat. The Chairman ordered Mr HUI, Dr WONG and Ms CHAN to withdraw from the meeting under RoP 45(2).

(As Ms Tanya CHAN refused to withdraw from the meeting, at 11:32 am, the Chairman directed that the meeting be suspended. The meeting resumed at 11:42 am.)

8. The Chairman advised that she would not waste any more of the Panel's time to deal with repeated procedural matters. The meeting would proceed to the discussion of issues relating to the development of textbooks and teaching materials for KGs, primary and secondary schools.

9. Ms Tanya CHAN and Ms Claudia MO continued to shout aloud. The Chairman ordered Ms CHAN and Ms MO to withdraw from the meeting. The two members subsequently withdrew from the meeting.

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II. Development of textbooks and teaching materials for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools

(LC Paper No. CB(4)785/19-20(01) -- Paper provided by the Administration)

Briefing by the Administration

10. Under Secretary for Education ("US(Ed)") briefed members on the learning and teaching resources adopted by schools, including the development, selection and monitoring of textbooks and teaching resource materials. Details of the briefing were set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)785/19-20(01)].

Discussion

Monitoring of textbooks and teaching materials

11. Dr Fernando CHEUNG noted from the Administration's paper that EDB had adopted various measures to ensure the quality of textbooks and teaching materials. For instance, textbooks for most subjects in KGs, primary and secondary schools had been reviewed under a rigorous textbook review mechanism and guidelines had been provided to remind schools to be prudent in the selection of teaching materials. He considered these measures effective and enquired about the reasons for tightening the monitoring of textbooks and teaching materials, such as the need to ensure political correctness.

12. US(Ed) advised that EDB attached great importance to assuring the quality of learning and teaching resource materials. The measures undertaken by EDB, which included the implementation of textbook review mechanism, provision of guidelines to remind schools of proper selection of learning and teaching materials, etc. had been effective in ensuring the quality of learning and teaching resource materials. Under such circumstances, teachers could flexibly adopt different teaching materials to cater for the diverse learning needs of students.

13. Ms Elizabeth QUAT pointed out that many parents had complained about the biased and inaccurate textbooks and teaching materials (such as worksheets, notes, quizzes) of various subjects in KGs, primary and secondary schools. In particular, there was widespread public concern that the textbooks and teaching materials of the subject of Liberal Studies ("LS") were not objective and impartial. While most teachers upheld their professional values and conduct, a few teachers had prepared learning and teaching materials based on their political stance and with biased and negative views, misleading students. This reflected

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poorly on EDB's role in monitoring the quality of learning and teaching materials. As regards LS textbooks, she considered that the one-off professional consultancy service for publishers of senior secondary LS textbooks could not ensure the quality of textbooks as publishers only participated in the service on a voluntary basis. The Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong urged EDB to include LS textbooks in the prevailing textbook review mechanism.

14. Mr CHAN Chun-ying noted from the Administration's paper that the personnel rendering the one-off professional consultancy service for publishers of senior secondary LS textbooks had finished reviewing the submitted textbooks in late June 2020. He enquired about the number of LS textbooks submitted for review, the role of EDB in providing feedback to the publishers (i.e. whether publishers were allowed to exercise flexibility in following up with the amendments suggested by EDB) and the examples of suggested amendments. He also asked whether the consultancy service would be extended to cover the learning and teaching materials for other subjects in primary and secondary schools.

15. US(Ed) explained that EDB had always been monitoring the quality of learning and teaching through various measures to safeguard the well-being of students. Textbooks for KGs, primary and secondary schools, except those for senior secondary LS subject, had to be reviewed under the textbook review mechanism, and all textbooks that had undergone the review were listed on the Recommended Textbook List. As regards LS textbooks submitted for review, EDB had met with the publishers concerned and provided them with professional advice for improving the quality of the textbooks. The publishers concerned were expected to make amendments as early as possible so that the revised textbooks could be ready for schools' adoption in the coming school year. Taking into account the experience of the professional consultancy service, EDB would deliberate on long-term quality assurance measures for LS subject, including the feasibility of establishing a textbook review mechanism.

16. In the light of the many textbooks and teaching materials containing biased views, Ms Elizabeth QUAT did not subscribe to EDB's explanation that EDB had adopted stringent measures to ensure the quality of resource materials. She strongly urged EDB to conduct a review on the textbook review mechanism and put in place improvement measures where appropriate.

17. Mr SHIU Ka-chun pointed out that the Administration had commissioned a study in 2015, during which views of about 2 900 Secondary 5 students were collected on LS subject and political participation. The findings revealed that there was no correlation between LS subject and students' participation in social movement. However, EDB introduced a professional consultancy service to review LS textbooks after series of social incidents last year. He questioned that compulsory participation in the service was required for

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publishers. Moreover, he noted that candidates of 2020 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination were asked to analyse a dilemma between press freedom and social responsibility based on the sources provided in LS examination. Candidates did not need to provide their own stance in the answer. He considered that EDB should not introduce the professional consultancy service before making reference to this examination question's answers.

18. US(Ed) advised that EDB fully understood the public concern about the biased teaching materials of LS subject and had devoted effort to enhance the quality of LS textbooks with a view to improving learning effectiveness. The provision of one-off professional consultancy service had nothing to deal with social incidents or assessment methods of the subject.

19. Mr Charles MOK pointed out that many teaching materials of STEM education were developed by teachers based on their school context and development focuses. He enquired whether adequate support measures were in place to facilitate STEM teachers in developing school-based teaching materials, and whether pressure would be imposed on teachers in the development of teaching materials.

20. US(Ed) advised that STEM education was implemented through existing subjects under the Science, Technology and Mathematics Education Key Learning Areas and the primary General Studies, with a view to enhancing students' integration and application of STEM-related knowledge and skills to solve daily life problems and nurturing their creativity, collaboration and problem-solving skills as well as innovativeness. In view of the above features of STEM education, teachers would flexibly adopt learning and teaching resources in various STEM disciplines and compile school-based teaching materials, as appropriate, to enhance learning effectiveness. EDB had always been monitoring the quality of learning and teaching resources developed for various subjects, including STEM education.

Enhancement measures to monitor the quality of textbooks and teaching materials

21. Mr CHAN Chun-ying said that the teaching materials prepared by teachers, in particular those for the subjects of History and LS, were of wide public concern. He suggested that an electronic platform be set up for uploading teaching materials selected and developed by teachers so that parent-teacher associations ("PTAs") could play a role in monitoring the materials.

22. US(Ed) responded that schools had adopted various measures to communicate with parents and stakeholders in monitoring the teaching resource materials selected and developed by teachers in the light of the needs of individual schools. In fact, parents could also understand the teaching resource materials

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selected by schools through their children's homework.

23. Ms Elizabeth QUAT agreed with Mr CHAN Chun-ying that EDB could consider involving PTAs in monitoring teaching materials. She also urged EDB to take appropriate punitive actions against those teachers who committed an act of misconduct in the development of inappropriate teaching materials having regard to the gravity of each case, for instance, monitoring their classroom teaching performance, suspending them from duty for a limited time, etc.

24. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan pointed out that parents had been increasingly worried about their children's learning in schools as some teachers did not adopt an objective and impartial manner in teaching. Some teaching materials developed by teachers had misled students and caused negative impacts on students, such as containing hatred messages against the Police. EDB should seriously follow up inappropriate school-based teaching materials and take follow-up actions against teachers who biased teaching with their political stance.

25. US(Ed) responded that under no circumstances should teachers teach their students on the basis of their political stance or mislead their students and impart negative values. Upon receipt of a complaint about teaching materials of a particular school, the school concerned would follow up and submit a report to EDB. If teaching materials were found problematic, the school concerned should stop using them immediately, issue a statement to address parents' concern and review the school's monitoring mechanism. At teachers' meetings, school management should explain the school policy for selecting and developing teaching materials and monitoring mechanism. If the school was found negligent in its management and monitoring in teaching, EDB would follow up in a serious manner. If any teacher was found to have violated the professional conduct, EDB would take follow-up actions having regard to the gravity of each case.

26. Mr Tommy CHEUNG opined that problems with the subject of LS were already known to the public. EDB should deal with these problems. On school-based teaching materials, he considered that PTAs and incorporated management committees could be involved in monitoring teaching resource materials. However, EDB should have the responsibility to monitor the contents and quality of the teaching materials even school management was held accountable. On top of school visits and focus inspections conducted by EDB, he suggested that closed-circuit television ("CCTV") systems should be installed in all schools as a measure to monitor the quality of teaching and learning.

27. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan considered that EDB had failed to perform its role of monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. Many young people were misled to participate in social incidents last year and were arrested. EDB should make every effort to take steps, such as installation of CCTVs, to safeguard the well-being of students.

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28. US(Ed) responded that EDB fully understood the importance of education and undertook to continue to strengthen values education in schools so as to nurture positive values and attitudes in students. For schools wishing to install CCTV systems in school premises, they should have justifiable reasons and consensus among stakeholders. They must also observe the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) and the Guidance on CCTV Surveillance Practices published by the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data. At present, schools mainly installed CCTV systems for crime prevention.

29. The Deputy Chairman held the view that there were social incidents due to the injustice in society, the Administration's failure to listen to the public's views and the Police's arbitrary arrests. Teachers would not base their teaching on their political stance to mislead their students. As a matter of fact, the school sector welcomed discussion to enhance the professionalism of the teaching force, however, there had been malicious criticism, unfair allegation and anonymous complaints against the sector recently. Suppressing teachers would be harmful to the development of education in Hong Kong. US(Ed) reiterated that teachers being a role model for students should uphold their professional conduct to meet public expectations of education professionals.

30. The meeting ended at 12:47 pm.