

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supplementary information on
233EP - Fourth primary school in Whampoa Garden
263EP - Primary school in area 27, Tin Shui Wai
264EP - Second primary school in area 101, Tin Shui Wai

INTRODUCTION

When Members considered PWSC papers referenced PWSC(1999-2000)48, PWSC(1999-2000)49 and PWSC(1999-2000)50 on the three school project items **233EP**, **263EP**, **264EP** at the Public Works Sub-Committee Meeting on 16 June 1999, the Administration undertook to consult the User Group on the Review of the Design of New Schools (UG) on the proposal to provide a cover for the basketball court at the roof-top of the assembly hall block so that activities carried out there will not be affected by wet weather.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

2. We have consulted the UG on the above proposal. Views were rather mixed. The Administration has also looked into the issue in depth. After careful consideration, we are of the view that the basketball court at the roof-top of a school should not be provided with a cover, for the following reasons –

- (a) from a professional educational viewpoint, the Education Department considers that the current design provides more space for students to play in open air, which is what pupils need;
- (b) in the standard school design adopted between late 1980s and 1996, the roof-top playground was provided with a cover. However, it was found that the facility was unpopular with schools, and teachers and students preferred to use playgrounds in open air at the ground level for sports activities. As a result, roof-top

/playgrounds

playgrounds in subsequent standard school designs were no longer provided with covers; and

- (c) the current standard school design has already included a covered playground, a covered multi-purpose area, an assembly hall and an indoor student activity centre where recreational activities can be carried out in wet weather.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3. If we were to provide the roof-top with a concrete cover, there would be additional financial implications of \$1.54 million (at December 1998 prices) in the construction cost for each of the three schools.

Education and Manpower Bureau
December 1999

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