

EDUCATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Education Committee was held in Belfast Region Boardroom, 40 Academy Street, Belfast at 2.00 pm on Thursday 11 June 2015.

PRESENT: Ms S O'Connor (Acting as Chairperson)

Rev A Adams
 Ms A Andrews
 Fr T Bartlett
 Mr D Cargo
 Mrs M Culbert
 Dr M Dynan
 Mr M Gray-Sloan
 Sr C Hegarty

Rev R Herron
 Sir G Loughran
 Mrs D McDonald
 Dr A McMorrان
 Dr I McMorris
 Mr R Pollock
 Miss R Rainey
 Ms N Toman

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G Boyd (Interim CEO, EA)
 Mr B Mulholland (RMD NE and W Regions)
 Mr G Butler (RMD SE and S Regions)
 Mr R Gilbert (SEO, NE Region)
 Mr P Mackey (SEO, W Region)
 Mr T Hesketh (Director, RTU)

Mr M Donaghy (ASEO, S Region)
 Mr P Lawther (ASEO, Belfast Region)
 Ms S McCartan (Development Officer - Area Planning)
 (W Region)
 Mr M McConkey (ASEO, Belfast Region)
 Ms K Scott (ASEO, SE Region)
 Mr J Unsworth (ASEO, S Region)
 Mrs H Spence (Sen Executive Officer, NE Region)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Dr Dynan and Rev Herron declared an interest in item 7.1.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair welcomed members to the first formal meeting of the Education Authority (EA) Education Committee. She reported that for Item 5.1 business would be conducted 'In Committee' and officers would be asked to leave. A proposer and seconder would be required to move Into Committee.

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare any conflicts of interests during the course of the meeting.

The Chair noted that a venue for all meetings had not as yet been determined. Any suggestions from members in relation to a venue should be directed through the Interim Chief Executive's office.

3.1 Approval of Appointments to Boards of Governors – South Eastern Region

On the proposal of Rev Herron and seconded by Mr Cargo members agreed to approve the tabled list of appointments.

Mr Cargo asked how many Boards of Governors were deficit members. Mr Boyd reported that most of the Boards of Governors were now constituted and informed members that a report on the current position would be brought to the Board.

4. Governance

4.1 Committee Functions/Scheme

On the proposal of Miss Rainey and seconded by Dr McMorris members gave their approval to the scheme with an amendment that a quorum shall consist of 5 members for the Education Committee.

4.2 Communication Arrangements with other Committees

The Chair reminded members that at the first meeting of the EA Board on 30 April it was agreed that consideration would be given to the communication arrangements in relation to all committees, to ensure that members were apprised of the key issues arising across the full range of committees supporting the work of the EA Board. To this end the approved minutes of each committee will be a standing item on the agenda to all EA Board meetings and the minutes will be circulated to members in advance with the Board papers.

The Chair or Lead Senior Officer of the respective committees will present a short synopsis of the business of each committee meeting to the full EA Board.

Where members have a particular interest or wish to explore issues in more detail, the matter will be dealt with outside of the full Board meeting between the Lead Officer and the Board member.

The Chair intends to meet with the Committee Chairs as a group periodically throughout the year, to further facilitate the sharing of information between committees.

On the proposal of Mrs McDonald and seconded by Dr Dynan this was agreed by members.

On the proposal of Rev Adams and seconded by Mrs Culbert members agreed to go into committee. At this point officers in attendance, left the room with the exception of Mr Boyd, Mr Mulholland and Mr Butler.

5. School Improvement

5.1 Restructuring of the School Improvement Service to include RTU

Mr Mulholland (Regional Managing Director – North-Eastern and Western Regions) presented a proposal on the restructuring of the School Improvement Service to include RTU. Members discussed a proposal to make savings of approximately £1.8 million in the areas of School Improvement and Leadership and Management Development and Governance. Members discussed the paper at length. On the proposal of Mr Cargo and seconded by Miss Rainey members agreed to adopt the proposal.

On the proposal of Rev Adams and seconded by Miss Rainey members agreed to come out of committee. At this point officers returned to the room.

5.2 Delivering Social Change Improving Literacy and Numeracy Signature Programme

5.2.1 Year 1 Interim Report

Mr Mulholland presented the Year 1 Interim Report and informed members that it would be discussed in more detail at a future Education Committee meeting. Members agreed to note the report.

5.2.2 ETI Evaluation of the Implementation of the Delivering Social Change: Improving Literacy and Numeracy Signature Programme

Mr Mulholland presented the ETI Evaluation of the Implementation of the Delivering Social Change: Improving Literacy and Numeracy Signature Programme report. Members agreed to note the report.

5.3 ETI Inspection Report Outcomes

Mr Mulholland presented the ETI Inspection Report Outcomes. Members agreed to note the report.

6. Shared Education

6.1 DSC Shared Education Signature Project

Mr Mulholland presented the DSC Shared Education Signature Project Report. Members agreed to note the report.

6.2 Shared Education Campus Programme

Mr Mulholland presented the Shared Education Campus Programme Report. Members agreed to note the report.

7. Area Planning

7.1 Lisanelly Campus – Ownership, Governance and Management

Dr Dynan and Rev Herron declared an interest in this item.

Mr Butler (Regional Managing Director – South-Eastern and Southern Regions) outlined the purpose of the paper i.e. to inform the Education Authority on the progress towards determining the future ownership, governance and management arrangements of the LSEC and as set out in the document, the next steps to be taken between now and September. Recognising that the Education Authority has ownership responsibility for the three controlled schools, decisions on the arrangements will be sought from the Authority at that time and signed off through a Memorandum of Agreement. Members agreed to note the paper.

7.2 Development Proposals

For Publication

7.2.1 Development Proposal Nos: 416, 417 and 418 – Proposed amalgamation of St Comhghall’s College, Lisnaskea and St Eugene’s College, Roslea

Mr Butler outlined the proposed amalgamation of St Comhghall’s College, Lisnaskea and St Eugene’s College, Roslea. On the proposal of Rev Herron and seconded by Dr McMorris members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the proposals.

7.2.2 Development Proposal No 403 – Proposal to extend the approved enrolment number for Bocombra PS from 300 pupils to 320 pupils

Mr Donaghy outlined the proposal to increase the approved enrolment number for Bocombra PS from 300 pupils to 320 pupils noting that there had been two objections but letters of support from other schools in the area. Mr Cargo asked if the Controlled Schools Body (CSSB) had been consulted. Mr Boyd reported that they would be meeting with the CSSB soon and that they would seek their comments and feedback before proceeding.

7.2.3 Development Proposal No 404 – Proposal to discontinue St James’ PS, Mullaghbrack (Drumatee)

On the proposal of Rev Herron, seconded by Dr McMorris members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the Development Proposal for the closure of St James’ PS, Mullaghbrack (Drumatee).

Response to Published Development Proposals

7.2.4 Development Proposal Nos 400, 401 and 402 – Proposal to close St Joseph’s College and increase the enrolment number and admissions numbers at Dominican College and Loreto College

Following a wide ranging discussion around potential conflict of interests Mr Boyd was asked to seek legal advice. On the proposal of Rev Adams and seconded by Dr McMorris the consideration of these responses was deferred.

For Pre-Consultation

7.2.5 Cliftonville Controlled Integrated Primary School – approval to proceed to the pre-consultation stage of the development process in support of an increase in admission number and enrolment number

On the proposal of Rev Adams and seconded by Mrs Culbert members agreed to recommend to the Board progression to the pre-consultation stage of the development process in support of an increase in admission number and enrolment number in Cliftonville Integrated Primary School.

7.2.6 Strandtown Primary School – approval to proceed to the pre-consultation stage of the development process in support of an increase in admission number and enrolment number

On the proposal of Mr Cargo and seconded by Dr McMorris members agreed to recommend to the Board progression to the pre-consultation stage of the development process in support of an increase in admission number and enrolment number in Strandtown Primary School.

Update on Development Proposal Outcomes

7.2.7 Development Proposal Nos 223 and 224 – Avoneil Primary School and Elmgrove Primary School – update on Ministerial approval

Mr Butler updated members on the Ministerial decision for the approval of Development Proposals for Avoneil Primary School and Elmgrove Primary School.

It was noted that Judicial Review pre-action correspondence had been received in relation to Avoniel Primary School. Mr Cargo suggested that a consultation group be set up. Mr McConkey informed members that there were plans for a consultation group to be established in September.

7.2.8 Development Proposal No 225 – Malvern Primary School – update on Ministerial decision

Members noted that the Minister had carefully considered Development Proposal No 225 and turned down the proposal to close Malvern Primary School. The school has been instructed to adhere to its annual budget and if the deficit is not reduced to 5% from 2016/17 financial year then another Development Proposal will be brought forward. The Minister has suggested that the EA should now engage urgently with the community as a whole in order to draw up firm proposals for a wider area solution.

Rev Adams stressed the importance of a solution set within the context of the Area Plan.

8. Any Other Business

There were no items under Any Other Business.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The second meeting of the Education Committee will be held on Thursday 10 September 2015 in Antrim Board Centre.

CHAIRPERSON

DATE