

**EDUCATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The fourth meeting of the Education Committee was held in Antrim Board Centre, 17 Lough Road, Antrim at 1.00 pm on Thursday 12 November 2015.

PRESENT: Rev R Herron (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
Mrs D McDonald
Dr I McMorris
Ms S O'Connor
Mr R Pollock
Miss R Rainey

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G Boyd (CE)
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)

Mrs H Duffy (Head of HR & Organisational Planning
W Region)
Mr M Donaghy (ASEO, S Region)
Ms S McCartan (Development Officer - Area Planning)
(W Region)
Mr M McConkey (ASEO, Belfast Region)
Mr R Sayers (ASEO, SE Region)
Mrs H Spence (Sen Ex Officer, NE Region)

The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting and requested, with the agreement of members, that the Development Proposals be taken first.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr A McMorran and Ms N Toman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare any interests during the course of the meeting. The following interests were declared:

Fr Bartlett declared an interest in Items 7.2, 7.3.7, 7.3.8, 7.3.9, 7.3.10 and 7.3.11

Mr Cargo declared an interest in Item 7.3.1

Dr Dynan declared an interest in Item 7.3.9

Mrs McDonald declared an interest in Item 7.3.2

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2015 were agreed on the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Rev Adams.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 EN (NI) System (Page 2 Item 5.1)

Rev Herron reminded members that there will be no Education Committee in December. The Education Authority Board meeting will take place on Thursday 10 December at which essential business will be discussed.

The C2K presentation on the EN (NI) system will take place on 10 December at the Authority Board Meeting.

Rev Herron also reminded members that the C2K/Capita conference will take place on Tuesday 17 November in the Titanic Building, Belfast.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.1 Pearson Teaching Awards

Rev Herron reported that two Belfast teachers have won gold at the annual Pearson Teaching Awards in London. They are Miriam Donnan, vice-principal of Fleming Fulton School in Belfast who was named special needs teacher of the year and the award for head teacher of the year in a primary school went to Dinah McManus, principal of Holy Family Primary School, Belfast.

5.2 Equality Commission Report: 'Key Inequalities in Education'

Rev Herron informed members that the recent statement issued by the Equality Commission on Key Inequalities in Education is part of a wider report. Members agreed to consider this at the January Education Committee and to have this as an agenda item.

Action: To be raised as an agenda item for January meeting.

5.3 Shared Education Bill

Rev Herron informed members that The Shared Education Bill was introduced to the Assembly on 2 November 2015. The second reading took place on 10 November 2015 and is expected to reach its final stage in March 2016. He advised members that as they will be expected to comment on the Bill it will be discussed at the January Education Committee.

Action: To be raised as an agenda item for January meeting.

5.4 Request for use of a school by Film Production Company

Rev Herron informed members that The Fall Series 3 Production Company, in collaboration with the BBC, has requested the use of the former Orangefield High School to be used as a set for The Fall Series 3. Due to the need to meet tight timescales, access to the premises is required by the film company as soon as possible. Members were assured that all insurances, legal documents, etc will be in place and verified before the company goes on site. The fees have been agreed in order to enter into a licensing agreement with the company. On the proposal of Dr McMorris, seconded by Mr Pollock, members agreed to approve this subject to EA solicitors, DE and Land and Property Services approval. Mr Cargo requested that surrounding schools be made aware that the school would be in use for this purpose.

Action: Ensure surrounding schools are informed of the use of Orangefield HS premises and Belfast Region to ensure all due processes are followed.

6. Restructuring the School Improvement Service

Mr Mulholland outlined the necessary changes that have had to be made in order to meet the target for savings within the School Improvement Service incorporating CASS, RTU and C2K.

Mr Mackey reminded members that the first proposal to make savings of approximately £1.8 million in the areas of School Improvement and Leadership and Management Development and Governance had been brought to the June Education Committee. This target has been achieved through the Voluntary Severance Scheme and the full year savings will potentially exceed the original estimate.

Mrs Duffy detailed the use of Voluntary Severance and Transferred Redundancy along with negotiations with Trade Unions and staff themselves. In addition to the interim proposal this has been subject to an Equality screening process. The proposal will be posted on the EA website following the Education Committee meeting inviting comment from key stakeholders.

Members discussed the paper at length. Concerns were raised that there would be sufficient support for schools. Mr Mulholland pointed out to members that such a major reduction in funding and resultant restructuring would inevitably impact on the service. The interim/transitional arrangements are designed to maximise the support to schools within the resources available. He emphasised that service delivery will change in the new model with a focus on ensuring school development is targeted where most needed. It was acknowledged that schools would be encouraged to focus on the professional resources within themselves.

Following some discussion members felt that rather than interim this would be best described as transitional and time bound. It was also felt that there should be regular updates on how the service is being rolled out.

Ms Andrews expressed her concerns that the IM sectors needs should be adequately met within the new transitional structure. There was discussion around the recent establishment of a group to examine the needs of leadership and management in the IM sector. It was

proposed that the Education Committee be represented on such a working group. Mr Cargo agreed that an EA representative should be on such a group and proposed that Ms Andrews be that representative. This was seconded by Ms O'Connor and agreed by members.

Fr Bartlett expressed his thanks and those of the members to all the officers who have worked hard to achieve these savings. On the proposal of Fr Bartlett and seconded by Mr Cargo members agreed to approve the interim restructuring of the SDS as presented.

Action: Proposal to go onto the EA website to invite comment from stakeholders.

7. Area Planning Issues

7.1 Area Planning Presentation – Gregory Butler (EA) and Jacqui Durkin (DE)

Ms Durkin (DE) gave a presentation on Area Planning and Development Proposals setting out the objectives and recommendations for both these areas.

This was followed by a presentation by Mr Butler on the role of Area Planning within the EA and the support structure with other departments and working groups.

Following the presentation a discussion took place where members focused on the respective roles of DE and the EA in the process.

7.2 Annual Action Plan

Mr Butler presented the Annual Action Plan. It was recognised that this Annual Action Plan is an update on the recommendations/proposals contained within the former ELBs published Strategic Area Plans. On the proposal of Ms O'Connor, seconded by Dr McMorris, members agreed the Action Plan should be forwarded to DE.

Mr Butler thanked Ms Durkin and Mrs Finlay (DE) and also Mr Gilbert and Ms McCartan (EA) for their input to the Action plan.

7.3 Development Proposals

For Publication

7.3.1 Development Proposal No 412 – Castle Gardens PS, Newtownards – Proposal that the admission number of Castle Gardens PS should decrease to 406 at which point the school would become a two stream entry school with an admission of 58 and an approved enrolment of 406 with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr Sayers outlined the proposal to decrease the admission number of Castle Gardens PS from 87 to 58 decreasing the enrolment number to 406 at which point the school would become a two stream entry school with an admission of 58 and an

approved enrolment of 406 with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Ms O'Connor, seconded by Sr Hegarty, members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the Development Proposal.

7.3.2 Development Proposal No 428 – Drumcree College, Portadown – Proposal from CCMS to publish the proposal to close Drumcree College, with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. This proposal is linked to Development Proposal No 429 to open a Key Stage 3 school on the site of Drumcree College.

Mr Donaghy outlined the proposal to close Drumcree College with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Sr Hegarty, seconded by Mrs Culbert, members agreed to recommend to the Board the request for publication of the Development Proposal.

7.3.3 Development Proposal No 429 – Drumcree College, Portadown – Proposal from CCMS to publish the proposal to open a Key Stage 3 school on the site of Drumcree College with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. This proposal is linked to Development Proposal No 428 to close Drumcree College.

Mr Donaghy outlined the proposal to open a Key Stage 3 school on the site of Drumcree College with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Ms O'Connor, seconded by Sr Hegarty, members agreed to recommend to the Board the request for publication of the Development Proposal.

7.3.4 Development Proposal No 431 – Cliftonville Integrated PS – Proposal from CCMS to publish the proposal to increase the admission number of Mercy College from 110 to 115 and the enrolment number from 650 to 750 and to become co-educational with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr McConkey outlined the proposal to increase the admission number of Cliftonville Integrated PS from 48 to 58 and the enrolment number from 338 to 406 with effect from 1 September 2016. On the proposal of Ms O'Connor, seconded by Sr Hegarty, members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the Development Proposal.

7.3.5 Development Proposal No 432 – Strandtown PS, Belfast - Proposal to increase the enrolment number of Strandtown PS from 943 to 1044 and the admission number from 236 to 261 with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr McConkey outlined the proposal to increase the enrolment number of Strandtown PS from 943 to 1044 and the admission number from 236 to 261 with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Rev Adams, members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the Development Proposal.

7.3.6 Development Proposal No 445 – Strangford College, Newtownards – Proposal to increase the admission number from 80 to 110 in Year 8, and from 50 to 60 in Year 13 through an annual phased increase in the College’s enrolment number up to 670 with effect from 1 September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr Sayers outlined the proposal to increase the admission number from 80 to 110 in Year 8, and from 50 to 60 in Year 13 through an annual phased increase in the College’s enrolment number up to 670 from 1 September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Dr McMorris, seconded by Mr Gray-Sloan, members agreed to note the publication of the Development Proposal.

7.3.7 Development Proposal Nos 440, 441 and 442 – Little Flower Girls’ School, Belfast and St Patrick’s College, Belfast - Proposal from CCMS to publish the proposal to discontinue Little Flower Girls’ School, Belfast and St Patrick’s College, Belfast and to establish a new Catholic 11-19 co-educational post-primary school with an enrolment number of 1300, admission number of 195 to Year 8 and facilitating a 6th form centre of 325 places.

Mr McConkey outlined the proposal to discontinue Little Flower Girls’ School, Belfast and St Patrick’s College, Belfast and to establish a new Catholic 11-19 co-educational post-primary school with an enrolment number of 1300, admission number of 195 to Year 8 and facilitating a 6th form centre of 325 places. On the proposal of Mrs Culbert, seconded by Dr McMorris, members agreed to recommend to the Board the request for publication of the Development Proposal.

7.3.8 Development Proposal No 443 – Mercy College, Belfast - Proposal from CCMS to publish the proposal to increase the admission number of Mercy College from 110 to 115 and the enrolment number from 650 to 750 and become co-educational with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr McConkey outlined the proposal to increase the admission number of Mercy College from 110 to 115 and enrolment number from 650 to 750 with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Mrs Culbert, seconded by Dr McMorris, members agreed to recommend to the Board the request for publication of the Development Proposal.

7.3.9 Development Proposal No 444 – Edmund Rice College, Newtownabbey – Proposal from CCMS to expand and become co-educational increasing the enrolment number to 750 with an admissions number of 115 to Year 8 with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr Gilbert outlined the proposal to expand and become co-educational increasing the enrolment number to 750 with an admissions number of 115 to Year 8 with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Rev Adams, seconded by Ms Culbert, members agreed to recommend to the Board the request for publication of the Development Proposal.

Response to Published Development Proposals

- 7.3.10 Development Proposal No 437 – St Colmcille’s PS, Ballymena – Proposal to increase the school’s capacity from 319 to 392. This would permit the school to increase the admissions number from 46 pupils to 56 pupils with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

On the proposal of Mrs McDonald, seconded by Sr Hegarty, members approved the response.

- 7.3.11 Development Proposal 428 – St Brigid’s PS – Proposal to increase the school’s capacity from 319 to 392. This would permit the school to increase the admissions number from 46 pupils to 56 pupils with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

On the proposal of Mrs McDonald, seconded by Dr Dynan, members approved the response.

For Pre-Consultation

- 7.3.12 Development Proposal Nos 419, 420, 421 and 422 – Blythefield PS, Donegall Road PS and Fane Street PS**

Following discussion members agreed to approve the sharing of the consultation responses with key stakeholders in order to address the significant issues addressed therein, and to re-engage with parental focus groups/community groups/political representatives/School Governors and staff to seek an area solution with a view to bringing forward a development proposal by summer 2016.

Update on Development Proposal Outcomes

- 7.3.13 Development Proposal No 303 – Cambridge House Grammar School**

Members agreed to note the Ministerial decision dated 21 October 2015 giving approval to Development Proposal 303 as published and to further consider the Minister’s request to address sixth form provision for all schools in the Ballymena area to ensure sustainable sixth form provision at all schools. This will be considered through the next iteration of the Post Primary Area Plan.

8. Any Other Business

There were no items under Any Other Business.

9. Date of next meeting

The fifth meeting of the Education Committee will be held on Thursday 14 January 2016 at 1.00 pm in Antrim Board Centre.

The meeting ended at 4.47 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

DATE