

**EDUCATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Education Committee held in Antrim Board Centre on 14 January 2016.

**PRESENT:** Rev R Herron (Chairperson)

Rev A Adams  
Fr T Bartlett  
Mr D Cargo  
Mrs M Culbert  
Dr M Dynan  
Sr C Hegarty  
Sir Gerry Loughran

Mrs D McDonald  
Dr A McMorrان  
Dr I McMorris  
Ms S O'Connor  
Mr R Pollock  
Miss R Rainey  
Ms N Toman

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr G Boyd (CE)  
Mr B Mulholland (RMD NE and W Regions)  
Mr G Butler (RMD SE and S Regions)  
Mr P Mackey (SEO, W Region)

Mrs H Duffy (Head of HR & Organisational Planning  
W Region)  
Mr R Sayers (ASEO, SE Region)  
Ms L McCall

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Ms A Andrews and Mr M Gray-Sloan.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2015 were agreed on the proposal of Sr Hegarty, seconded by Mrs Culbert.

*(Mr Cargo left the meeting temporarily at 1.10 pm.)*

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

**4.1 EQUALITY COMMISSION REPORT 'KEY INEQUALITIES IN EDUCATION' (5.2)**

It was noted that this report would be considered by the Committee at its February meeting.

**4.2 SHARED EDUCATION BILL : CALL FOR EVIDENCE (5.3)**

It was noted that the Board had considered and approved a response to the Bill at its meeting on 26 November 2015.

## **5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

### **NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST**

The Committee paid tribute to the following persons who had been acknowledged in the New Year's Honours for services to education in Northern Ireland:

- Mr J P Farrell (former Principal, Macosquin Primary School, Coleraine)
- Mrs B K Green (Principal, Beechlawn Special School)
- Mr E J B McMurrin (Chair of the Board of Governors of Belfast Boys' Model School and Governor of Glenwood Primary School)
- Mr W D Reilly (Chair of the Board of Governors of Omagh Academy and Governor of Newtownstewart Model and Gibson Primary Schools)
- Mrs H R Smyth (Head of Music, Ballyholme Primary School)
- Mr G K Sutton (Chair of the Board of Governors of Wallace High School)

## **6. INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY**

*(Mr Cargo re-entered the meeting at 1.15 pm.)*

Mr Mulholland outlined Rev David Latimer's proposal to hold an international peace day on 21 September 2016. This proposal included plans to bring together representatives of schools and colleges to an event in order to acknowledge the role of young people in peace building and to encourage their participation in regional development.

Mr Mulholland pointed out that Rev Latimer was working with others to get funding to support the event and that while EA resources had not yet been requested for the international peace day, it was possible that a request could be made for assistance in the form of officer time, transport and school meals.

On the proposal of Sr Hegarty, seconded by Mrs McDonald, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board should support the proposal in principle as set out in the paper (E/1/16/6).

## **7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ISSUES**

### **7.1 RESTRUCTURING THE MUSIC SERVICE – INTERIM PROPOSAL**

*Miss Rainey declared an interest in this item as she was a member of the Management Board of the Belfast School of Music.*

Mr Mulholland presented a paper\* (E/1/16/7.1) and set out information on the historical and current delivery structures of the Music Service, the current managerial structure and costs, a proposal for an interim managerial structure and the associated costs, and the risk assessment carried out in respect of the interim proposal.

Mr Mulholland emphasised that the proposed interim structure did not represent any fundamental change to the delivery of music services to pupils. The proposal sought to establish a regionalised management structure which was more streamlined and cost effective. It was not appropriate at this stage to consider an enduring structure without the involvement of the new Director for Children and Young People's Services. He advised

that the interim structure for the Music Service would require a recruitment and selection process. He further drew attention to the risk assessment and said that an equality screening exercise had identified that no equality impact assessment was required. He informed members that Trade Union officials had been made aware of the proposal and, subject to the Board's agreement on the proposed arrangements, plans were in place to meet Music Service staff in the following weeks.

Members expressed their commitment to maintaining and improving the Music Service. They considered that the service provided enrichment. The challenge was one of equality of access to all pupils. Queries were raised in respect of any diminution of service to pupils as a result of a more streamlined service. Ms Duffy said that the proposed interim arrangement had taken account of the remaining cohort of staff to deliver music tuition. The ratio of managers to tutors was provided. It was pointed out that some managers did provide tuition to pupils and this had been factored into the proposals as part of the planning process for the 2016/17 school year. Mr Mackey said that staff within the system would optimise tutorials on a group basis to ensure that there was no diminution of service. A Member suggested that a review should be carried out to ensure the current capacity to deliver music tuition.

The variations in the Music Service across the sub-regions were noted. The Committee also noted that in the reconfiguration of managerial arrangements, consideration would be given to a model of service delivery which included Belfast School of Music.

Members referred to the selection and recruitment process that would be initiated as part of the interim proposal. They pointed out that an interim service should not be in place for a prolonged period and ideally should not exceed one year. Mr Mulholland emphasised this would be a matter for the new Director. It was noted that future consideration of an enduring structure, including a focus on participation and excellence within the Music Service, would fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Services Committee.

On the proposal of Sr Hegarty, seconded by Rev Adams, the Committee agreed to recommend the adoption of the interim arrangements for the Music Service as set out in the paper.

## **7.2 RESTRUCTURING THE EDUCATION LIBRARY SERVICE – INTERIM PROPOSAL**

Mr Mulholland presented a paper\* (E/1/16/7.2) setting out the role of the Education Library Service (ELS), the proposed interim staffing structure and associated costs, and the risk assessment carried out in respect of an interim service.

Members referred to opportunities to liaise with Libraries NI in relation to the responsibilities of this service. Queries were raised with regard to the timeframe being proposed for an interim structure and if any selection and recruitment process would be necessary. Mr Mulholland advised that the proposed interim structure was set within the remaining staffing cohort following the voluntary exit scheme. The staffing structure would be reconfigured in this context and would not require a recruitment and selection exercise. Members pointed out that an interim service should not exceed one year. Mr Mulholland highlighted this as the ideal which the new Director should focus upon.

Attention was given to the risks identified in the transition to an interim service. Mr Mackey pointed out that a revised model of service to schools would require a focus on the identification of clear priorities including better use of the IT infrastructure. Officers would continue to monitor the impacts of a reconfigured service on schools.

On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Mrs Culbert, the Committee agreed to recommend the adoption of the interim arrangements for the ELS as set out in the paper.

### **7.3 INSPECTION OUTCOMES - OVERVIEW**

The Committee noted the report\* (E/1/16/7.3) detailing the outcome of inspections between September and December 2015. It further noted the change in the reporting format used by the Education and Training Inspectorate to summarise the overall effectiveness of schools.

## **8. AREA PLANNING**

### **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

#### **For Publication**

#### **8.1 Development Proposal No 414 - Dundonald Primary School Nursery Unit Proposal to modify the 26 full time place nursery unit to a 52 part time place nursery unit with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter**

Mr Sayers outlined the proposal\* (E/1/16/8.1.1), drawing attention to the consultation which had taken place and the comments received. Discussion ensued in relation to requirements for full time nursery places and associated resources and Early Years provision in the area within both the statutory and voluntary sectors. It was agreed that the Area Planning workshop, to take place on 26 January 2016, would seek to determine an Area Planning model which was based on key educational principles.

On the proposal of Dr McMorris, seconded by Miss Rainey, the Committee agreed to recommend the publication of the Development Proposal.

*(During discussion of this item, Ms Toman left the meeting temporarily at 2.20 pm and re-entered at 2.23 pm. Miss Rainey left at 2.23 pm and re-entered at 2.26 pm. Fr Barlett and Dr Dynan left the meeting at 2.32 pm and re-entered at 2.34 pm.)*

#### **8.2 Development Proposal No 452 - Gaelscoil an Lonnáin Proposal to relocate Gaelscoil an Lonnáin with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter**

Mr Butler outlined the proposal\* (E/1/16/8.1.2) and advised that the EA had consulted the trustees and managers of schools which might be affected by the proposal. No responses had been received.

On the proposal of Dr Dynan, seconded by Dr McMorris, the Committee endorsed the publication of the Development Proposal.

#### **Response to Published Development Proposals**

#### **8.3 Development Proposal No 445 - Strangford College 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, starting from September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter**

The Committee considered the paper\* (E/1/16/8.1.3) including a draft response (Appendix C) to the Proposal. Members discussed the impact on the enrolments of the neighbouring controlled and maintained schools, the unfilled sixth form places in the locality and the religious composition of the pupils attending Strangford College. A Member suggested that the comment in the draft response (Appendix C) relating to the Proposal's impact on neighbouring schools was at variance with the outcome of Drumragh Integrated College's judicial review.

On the proposal of Sir Gerry Loughran, seconded by Mr Pollock, the Committee agreed to recommend that the draft response should be submitted to DE with the following opening statement: "The Education Authority is the managing authority for controlled schools. It also recognises its wider responsibilities to promote integrated education."

A Member highlighted the importance of establishing a mechanism by which local area planning groups could give initial consideration to proposals coming forward by Council areas.

*(During discussion of this item, Rev Adams left the meeting temporarily at 2.55 pm. Mrs Culbert left at 3.05 pm and re-entered at 3.10 pm.)*

#### **8.4 Development Proposal No 446 - Lough View Integrated Primary School Nursery Unit Proposal to modify the 26 full time place nursery unit to a 52 part time place nursery unit with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter**

The Committee considered the paper\* (E/1/16/8.1.4) including a draft response (Appendix C) to the Proposal. On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Dr McMorris, the Committee agreed to recommend that the draft response be approved.

*(During discussion of this item, Ms Toman left the meeting temporarily at 3.11 pm and re-entered at 3.15 pm.)*

### **For Pre-Consultation**

#### **8.5 Tullycarnet Primary School**

The Committee considered the paper\* (E/1/16/8.1.5). On the proposal of Sr Hegarty, seconded by Ms O'Connor, the Committee agreed to recommend that officers should meet the Board of Governors, staff and parents of Tullycarnet Primary School with a view to discussing sustainability issues.

#### **8.6 Annsborough Integrated Primary School and Castlewellan Primary School**

The Committee considered the paper\* (E/1/16/8.1.6). On the proposal of Dr McMorris, seconded by Mr Pollock, the Committee agreed to recommend that officers should meet the Board of Governors, staff and parents of Annsborough Integrated Primary School and Castlewellan Primary School with a view to discussing sustainability issues.

#### **8.7 Glencraig Integrated Primary School**

The Committee considered the paper\* (E/1/16/8.1.7) setting out a proposal that the approved enrolment number at Glencraig IPS should decrease from 252 to 210. The school would continue as a single stream entry with an admission of 30 pupils and an approved enrolment of 210 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.

On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Dr McMorris, the Committee agreed to recommend that the EA should proceed to consult on the above proposal.

### **8.8 Hollywood Nursery School**

The Committee agreed to consider this additional item.

Mr Sayers reported that one of three pre-school provisions in the Hollywood area was closing.

Mr Sayers said that Hollywood Nursery School currently had 52 part time places. The school had received 89 eligible applications by the closing date of 13 January 2016 with an additional 15 from underage pupils. Therefore, to accommodate an oversubscription in the area, he requested consideration to pre-consultation on modifying the 52 part time places at the school to 78 part time places. A Member received clarification that planning permission and parking arrangements would be required in respect of this proposal.

On the proposal of Mr Cargo, seconded by Dr McMorris, the Committee agreed to recommend that the EA should enter into local consultation on the increase in part time places at Hollywood Nursery School with a view to presenting a Development Proposal to the Committee at its next meeting.

### **Development Proposal Outcomes**

#### **8.9 Development Proposal No 324 - Portadown Integrated Primary School**

The Committee noted that the Minister had approved a modified proposal on 4 December 2015 with regard to Portadown IPS. This meant an increase in the year one admissions from 29 to 58 which would result in an overall enrolment number of 406 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. The Committee also noted other modifications, as set out in the paper\* (E/1/16/8.1.8), including a phased increase in admission numbers and an examination of the school site to allow for interim arrangements in advance of a new build.

## **9. STRULE SHARED EDUCATION CAMPUS, OMAGH - MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

*The Chair declared an interest as he served on the Strule Main Campus Phase 2 Project Board and was a member of the Board of Governors of Omagh Academy. Dr Dynan declared an interest as he was a member of the Edmund Rice Schools' Trust (NI) Ltd.*

The Committee noted that the project would bring together six schools on to one campus (Arvalee School & Resource Centre, Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Omagh, Loreto Grammar School, Omagh, Omagh High School, Omagh Academy and Sacred Heart College). The legal advisers representing the DE, EA, CCMS and the voluntary school trustee groupings had drawn up a draft Memorandum of Agreement to reflect agreements and arrangements. Mr Mulholland reported that the draft Memorandum of Agreement was currently being consulted upon with the respective authorities in order to seek its endorsement by the end of February to allow for Ministerial consideration in March.

Members discussed the proposed arrangements for ownership, governance and management of the campus. It was noted that a company limited by guarantee would be established

comprising 12 members in total; 6 to be nominated by the EA and 2 members each nominated by the Sisters of Loreto, the Edmund Rice Schools' Trust (NI) Ltd and St Canice's Educational Trust. A subsidiary campus operating committee would also be established to include representatives from each of the Boards of Governors to manage the shared areas and services.

On the proposal of Mr Cargo, seconded by Ms O'Connor, the Committee agreed to endorse the consultation process in relation to the Memorandum of Agreement\* (E/1/16/9).

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS**

It was agreed that an update on schools and areas which were oversubscribed through the admission process would be provided to the Board when this information was available.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for 11 February 2016.

The meeting ended at 3.35 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRPERSON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**