

**EDUCATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Education Committee held in Antrim Board Centre on 17 May 2016 at 9.30 am

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

Rev A Adams	Ms S O'Connor
Ms A Andrews	Miss R Rainey
Dr M Dynan	

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr G Boyd, Mr J Collings, Mr R Gilbert and Ms L McCall.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Sr C Hegarty and Mr R Pollock

**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 14 APRIL 2016**

It was noted that Fr Bartlett had declared interests in Development Proposals Nos 440, 441 and 444 as well as 443. Subject to this amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2016 were agreed on the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Dr Dynan.

**4. MATTER ARISING**

**4.1 IRISH MEDIUM EDUCATION (4)**

Mr Collings said that the Assistant Senior Education Officer with responsibilities for Irish Medium and he had met the Board Member to discuss issues facing the Irish Medium sector. It had been agreed at that meeting that officers would facilitate a workshop to which all Board Members would be invited to raise awareness of Irish Medium and the specific challenges being experienced in that sector. He said that a letter and accompanying report had been received from the then Minister for Education to encourage partnership arrangements between the EA and the Irish Medium sector.

The Chair clarified that a workshop on Irish Medium meant that a presentation was not therefore required for the Committee.

**Actions:** *Facilitate workshop on Irish Medium Education for all Board Members in due course.*

## **4.2 LEARNING LEADERS – A STRATEGY FOR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (8.1)**

Mr Collings said that the Authority's responsibilities, as set out in the Learning Leaders' strategy document, was being incorporated into the Business Plan and that the implementation plan would take account of the costs of taking forward the strategy. He advised that a meeting had been organised with a DE official to discuss the resource implications of taking forward the strategy. Updates would be provided to the Committee on this matter.

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

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**

The Chair said that Mr Collings was giving consideration to business items for the Committee's consideration over the course of the following year. These would be presented to the Committee in due course.

Mr Boyd suggested that consideration could be given to facilitating a mini conference later in the year.

*Action: Overview of business items over the incoming year to be shared with Committee.*

## **6. SHARED EDUCATION**

### **PEACE IV PROGRAMME : BUSINESS CASE**

Mr Gilbert outlined the content of the Business Case\*\* (E/5/16/6.1) which had been prepared by the Authority, in partnership with LEARGAS, as part of a bid to secure funding against Specific Objective 1 (Shared Education) of the Peace IV Programme. The stage 1 application was required to be submitted on 17 May 2016.

Mr Gilbert referred to supporting partners in the programme and advised that progress reports on the matter would be presented to the Committee. It was noted that this work would fall within the remit of the Shared Education Committee once established.

The Committee acknowledged the tremendous work carried out by officers in bringing forward this Business Case.

On the proposal of Rev Adams, seconded by Miss Rainey, the Committee approved the Business Case.

## **7. AREA PLANNING**

### **7.1 ANTRIM GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

Mr Gilbert presented the paper\* (E/5/16/7.1) which set out a proposal to increase the admission number at the school to 112 pupils.

On the proposal of Rev Adams, seconded by Ms O'Connor, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board should commence the statutory consultation process with regard to this proposal.

## **7.2 BALLYMONEY HIGH SCHOOL**

Mr Gilbert presented the paper\* (E/5/16/7.2) which set out a proposal to establish post 16 provision in Ballymoney High School in a shared education partnership with Our Lady of Lourdes High School.

On the proposal of Ms O'Connor, seconded by Miss Rainey, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board should commence the statutory consultation process with regard to this proposal.

## **7.3 PARKHALL CONTROLLED INTEGRATED COLLEGE**

Mr Gilbert presented the paper\* (E/5/16/7.3) which set out a proposal to establish post 16 provision in the College in collaboration with Antrim Grammar School.

It was noted that the Further Education College in Antrim had closed in recent years. Discussion ensued in relation to the pastoral care element and developmental opportunities provided by a school as opposed to a further education institution. Members also discussed the capital resources that would be required to accommodate the proposal.

On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Rev Adams, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board should commence the statutory consultation process with regard to this proposal.

## **7.4 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 467 – CARR'S GLEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Proposal to reduce the enrolment number from 472 to 420, in line with the admission number of 60, from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter**

The Committee considered the proposal\* (E/5/16/7.4).

On the proposal of Ms O'Connor, seconded by Miss Rainey, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board should publish the Development Proposal.

## **7.5 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 468 – CARR'S GLEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Proposal to establish a new 26 place part time nursery unit with effect from 1 September 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter**

The Committee considered the proposal\* (E/5/16/7.5).

On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Ms O'Connor, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board should publish the Development Proposal.

## **7.6 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL 466 – GAELSCOIL NA MBEANN, KILKEEL**

**Proposal to establish a grant-aided Irish Medium Nursery Unit for 26 children on a part time basis with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter**

The Committee considered the proposal\* (E/5/16/7.6). It noted that there was no unmet demand for Irish medium places in the area and that the existing good quality provision (Naiscoil na mBeann) would be displaced if this proposal was to be approved.

On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Dr Dynan, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board should publish the Development Proposal and approve the EA Response\* (Appendix C) for submission to the Department of Education.

## 7.7 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL OUTCOMES

The Committee noted papers\*\* (E/5/16/7.7, 7.9 and 7.10) advising that the Minister had approved the following Development Proposals:

- DP No 414 Dundonald Primary School (to modify the 26 full time places to a 52 part time place nursery unit with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter)
- DP No 446 Lough View Integrated Primary School (to modify the 26 part time nursery unit to a 52 part time nursery unit with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter)
- DP No 447 Cygnet House Preparatory Department, Bangor (closure with effect from 31 August 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter)

The Committee noted the paper\* (E/5/16/7.8) advising that the Minister had approved Development Proposals Nos 437 and 438 subject to modifications. The Development Proposals would therefore read as follows:

- DP No 437 St Colmcille's Primary School, Ballymena - Approval to an increase in enrolment up to a maximum of 410 pupils with an approved admissions number of 59 with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- DP No 438 St Brigid's Primary School, Ballymena - Approval to an increase in enrolment at St Brigid's Primary School up to a maximum of 410 pupils with an approved admissions number of 59 with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.

## 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 9 June 2016.

The meeting ended at 10.16 am.

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**CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATE**

\* Paper issued with agenda

\*\* Paper issued day prior to meeting