

## EDUCATION AUTHORITY

### MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The third meeting of the Education Committee was held in Antrim Board Centre, 17 Lough Road, Antrim at 1.00 pm on Thursday 8 October 2015.

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

Rev A Adams  
Ms A Andrews  
Fr T Bartlett  
Mrs M Culbert  
Dr M Dynan  
Sr C Hegarty

Sir G Loughran  
Mrs D McDonald  
Dr A McMorrان  
Ms S O'Connor  
Mr R Pollock  
Miss R Rainey

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

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 R Sayers (ASEO, SE Region)  
Mrs K Scott (ASEO, SE Region)  
Mrs H Spence (Sen Ex Officer, NE Region)

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr D Cargo, Dr I McMorris and Ms N Toman.

The Chair introduced Education Authority (EA) Officers and explained their role in the meeting.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Mrs Kim Scott declared an interest in Item 6 as a member of the Governing Body of SERC.

#### **3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2015 were agreed on the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Mrs Culbert.

## **4. MATTERS ARISING**

### **4.1 Appointments of Boards of Governors (Page 2 Item 4.1)**

Following the request for confirmation that schools are not adversely affected by vacant Board of Governor positions, Mr Mulholland reported that, at this time, no schools were found to be inquorate.

Mr Mulholland informed members that an updated report detailing the number of vacancies in each school would be brought to the Membership Committee before the next Board meeting.

### **4.2 Review on Policy on Publishing Admissions Information – Summary of Consultation (Page 3 Item 7.1)**

A copy of the EA Equality Scheme and Interim Disability Action Plan was circulated to members for information.

### **4.3 The EA draft response to NI Assembly Committee for Education Position Paper: Area Planning (Page 5 Item 9.2)**

Members were provided with a copy of the DE response to the NI Assembly Committee for Education Position Paper: Area Planning.

## **5 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

### **5.1 EN (NI) System**

Mr Mulholland reported that following the Board meeting it was agreed that a presentation would be made by C2K staff, updating members on the EN (NI) system complete with benefits realisation. Members agreed that this would come to the Education Committee after the November meeting. Rev Herron reminded members that no meeting was scheduled for December and asked if members wished to meet in December or defer to January.

Mr Mulholland informed members that an invitation would issue to each of them to attend a conference in the Titanic Building on 17 November. This will be an opportunity to provide significant insight into the system and will provide a background for members when they receive the presentation from the C2K members.

Ms O'Connor suggested that a Management Structure of C2K would be helpful.

Following a short discussion Ms O'Connor stated that it was most likely that there would be meetings in December to cover EA business matters. Rev Herron requested that the dates for December meetings be issued.

*Action: Members to be informed of dates for December meetings.*

## **6 Consultation on New Further Education Strategy for NI**

Mrs Scott presented the Consultation on New Further Education Strategy for Northern Ireland which seeks the views of stakeholders on a series of policy commitments that will establish the future direction of Further Education in Northern Ireland.

On the proposal of Dr Dynan and seconded by Miss Rainey members agreed to approve the draft response.

Rev Herron requested that when the final strategy document is completed that it be made available for discussion on how it should be implemented.

## **7 Support for Syrian Refugees**

Mr Gilbert provided a report on the ongoing preparations to support the anticipated arrival in Northern Ireland of Syrian refugees. Regular updates will be provided to members. Following discussion members agreed to note the report.

## **8 School Improvement Issues**

### **8.1 Update on Restructuring the School Improvement Service**

Mr Mackey presented a presentation on the update on restructuring of the School Improvement Service. Mr Mackey stressed to members that this was an interim arrangement and would be reviewed when the full SMT has been established. The final papers for the interim proposal will be presented at the November meeting of the Education Committee.

Following a lengthy discussion members noted the detail of the update. Ms O'Connor proposed that the structure be accepted subject to review when formal structures have been put in place. This was seconded by Dr Dynan and noted by members with approval.

*Action: Further detail to be presented to members at November meeting.*

## **9 Shared Education Issues**

### **9.1 DSC: Shared Education Signature Project**

Mr Gilbert presented a report on the Shared Education Signature Project. Fr Bartlett raised some concerns about the use of monies from outside organisations. Members noted the report.

## 10 Area Planning Issues

### 10.1 Development Proposals

#### For Publication

- 10.1.1 Development Proposal No 405 – Ballymacash PS, Lisburn – Proposal that the admission number of Ballymacash PS should increase from 54 to 58 and its enrolment number should increase 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 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

Mr Sayers outlined the proposal to increase the admission number of Ballymacash PS from 54 to 58 increasing 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 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Rev Adams, seconded by Ms O'Connor members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the Development Proposal.

- 10.1.2 Development Proposal No 406 – Harmony Hill PS, Lisburn – Proposal that the admission number of Harmony Hill PS should increase from 84 to 87 and that its enrolment number should increase to 609 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

Mr Sayers outlined the proposal to increase the admission number of Harmony Hill PS from 84 to 87 increasing the enrolment number to 609 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Ms O'Connor, seconded by Mrs Culbert members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the Development Proposal.

- 10.1.3 Development Proposal No 408 – Largymore PS, Lisburn – Proposal that the admission number of Largymore PS should decrease from 33 to 28 and that its enrolment number should decrease to 196 at which point the school would become a single stream entry school with an admission of 28 and an approved enrolment of 196 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

Mr Sayers outlined the proposal to decrease the admission number of Largymore PS from 33 to 28 decreasing the enrolment number to 196 at which point the school would become a single stream entry school with an admission of 28 and an approved enrolment of 196 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Dr McMorran members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the Development Proposal.

- 10.1.4 Development Proposal No 409 – Lisburn Central PS – Proposal that the enrolment number of Lisburn Central PS should decrease to 203 at which point the school would become a single stream entry school with an admission of 29 and an approved enrolment of 203 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

Mr Sayers outlined the proposal to decrease the admission number of Lisburn Central PS to 29 decreasing the enrolment number to 203 at which point the school would become a single stream entry school with an admission of 29 and an approved enrolment of 203 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Sr Hegarty, seconded by Rev Adams members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the Development Proposal.

- 10.1.5 Development Proposal No 411 – West Winds PS, Newtownards - Proposal that the enrolment number of West Winds PS should decrease from 232 to 203. The current enrolment figure of 29 would remain. The school would become a single stream entry school with an admission of 29 and an approved enrolment of 203 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

Mr Sayers outlined the proposal to maintain the current admission number of 29 at West Winds PS but decrease the enrolment number from 232 to 203. The school would become a single stream entry school with an admission of 29 and an approved enrolment of 203 from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Ms O'Connor members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the Development Proposal.

- 10.1.6 Development Proposal No 413 – Londonderry PS, Newtownards – Proposal to increase the admission number from 53 to 58 and that the enrolment number should increase 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 from 1 September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.**

Mr Sayers outlined the proposal to increase the admission number of Londonderry PS from 53 to 58 and increase 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 from 1 September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Ms O'Connor members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the Development Proposal.

- 10.1.7 Development Proposal No 414 – Dundonald PS Nursery Unit – Proposal that the 26 full time place nursery unit at Dundonald PS should be modified 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 to modify the 26 full time places in the nursery unit to 52 part time places with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Dr McMorran, seconded by Sr Hegarty members agreed to recommend to the Board publication of the Development Proposal.

- 10.1.8 Development Proposal No 430 – Seagoe PS, Portadown – Proposal to extend the approved enrolment for Seagoe PS, Portadown from 249 pupils to 313 pupils. This would permit the school to increase its admission number from 36 pupils to 45 pupils with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

Mr Butler noted that as Seagoe PS is a Church of Ireland Maintained school the development proposal comes from the school itself. He outlined the proposal to extend the approved enrolment for Seagoe PS from 249 to 313 pupils permitting the school to increase its admission number from 36 to 45 with effect from 1 September or as soon as possible thereafter. On the proposal of Ms O'Connor, seconded by Mr Pollock members agreed to recommend to the Board progression to the pre-consultation stage of the development process in support of the request for publication of the Development Proposal.

**10.1.9 Development Proposal No 437 – St Colmcille’s PS, Ballymena – Proposal from CCMS 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.**

Mr Butler outlined the 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 Sr Hegarty, seconded by Rev Adams members agreed to recommend to the Board the request for publication of the Development Proposal.

**10.1.10 Development Proposal No 438 – St Brigid’s PS, Ballymena – Proposal from CCMS 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.**

Mr Butler outlined the 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 agreed to recommend to the Board the request for publication of the Development Proposal.

**Response to Published Development Proposals**

**10.1.11 Development Proposal 423 – Killyleagh PS – Proposal to transform to controlled integrated status with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

Mr Sayers outlined the background to this Development Proposal. Following concerns on the demographics of the area and on the proposal of Sr Hegarty, seconded by Miss Rainey members asked that further evidence be provided on the viability of this proposal.

**For Pre-Consultation**

There were no items.

**Update on Development Proposal Outcomes**

There were no items.

**11 Any Other Business**

There were no items under Any Other Business.

**12 Date of next meeting**

The fourth meeting of the Education Committee will be held on Thursday 12 November 2015 at 1.00 pm in Antrim Board Centre.

The meeting ended at 3.40 pm.

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**CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATE**