

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY HELD ON 13 JUNE 2019 AT 1.00 PM IN ANTRIM BOARD CENTRE**

**1. PRESENT** Rev R Herron (Chair)

Rev A Adams	Mr N McCausland
Mr D Cargo	Dr A McMorrان
Mr J Craig	Dr I McMorris
Mr G Doran	Mr O McMullan
Dr M Dynan	Mr K Mulvenna
Sir Gerry Loughran	Miss R Rainey
Mr G Lundy	

**2. IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms S Long, Mrs K Scott, Mrs C Duffield, Mr M Baker, Mrs P Cooney, Mr M McConkey, Mr J Unsworth, Mrs H Fraser, Ms L McCall, and for part of the meeting Mr M McDermott and Ms C McKeown.

Ms A Campbell attended in her role as Board Room Apprentice.

Two school representatives were in attendance for agenda item 8.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Ms Á Andrews, Mrs M Culbert, Mrs S Kelly and Ms S O'Connor.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY 2019**

On the proposal of Rev Adams, seconded by Dr Dynan, the Committee agreed the minutes\* (E/6/19/3) of the meeting held on 16 May 2019.

**6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**6.1 CASTLEWELLAN PRIMARY SCHOOL (6.2)**

Mr McConkey reported that meetings were being scheduled for EA officers to meet school representatives. Dates were also being scheduled for officers to meet community/political representatives in the area.

**6.2 GREATER AHOGHILL AREA (10.3)**

Mr McConkey said that Fourtowns Primary School had been built in 2007. Work was currently being undertaken by staff to carry out a feasibility study at the school.

**6.3 MOVILLA HIGH SCHOOL (10.4)**

The Committee received a report on the outcome of the post primary admissions process for Movilla High School.

**6.4 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL No 575 - ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL (10.5)**

Mr McConkey said that the matter concerning small increases in admission and enrolment numbers would be considered by DE in the Autumn as part of strand two of the Transformation Programme around barriers to area planning.

## **6.5 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL OUTCOMES (10.6)**

Mr McConkey provided detail on the requirements for additional accommodation at Belfast Boys' Model and Belfast Model School for Girls following the successful outcome of the two development proposals to increase admission and enrolment numbers at both schools.

Members raised issues in respect of DE's Handbook and the ability to accurately identify projected need to support future development in this particular area. Ms Long said that DE did not support new capital works in advance of need. A Member said that cases for change should set out the consequences, including anticipated costs, of not taking account of projected planning needs.

Mr McConkey said that the Strategic Investment Board was working with Councils on mapping assets to be incorporated into a SpatialNI portal. He said that all statutory partners within the community planning forum would have access to this portal.

On the proposal of Mr Cargo, seconded by Mr McMullan, it was agreed that when the capital tracker report was next being considered by the Committee, consideration would also be given to council development planning.

Mrs Scott said that communication with councils and the issues concerning development planning had been discussed at the last meeting of the Area Planning Steering Group. This matter would also be considered as part of EA's strategic review of area planning which would commence in the Autumn.

***Action:** Issues concerning council development planning to be discussed when consideration is being given to the next capital tracker report.*

## **7. CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

### **7.1 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 574 - CRAIGAVON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Members had previously received information on revised dates to publish Development Proposal No 574 in the press and on the EA website. Members had also received prior information on a legal challenge to the Development Proposal and the decision to withdraw publication of the proposal. Mr McConkey outlined the date of the hearing.

### **7.2 GUIDANCE AND TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADDRESSING BULLYING IN SCHOOLS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2016**

A Member referred to training provided to schools in response to the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 and said that principals and governors had raised concerns with aspects of the guidance. These concerns related to the statutory definition given to bullying and the lack of guidance and clarity in a number of other issues. She wished to ensure that consistent advice and support was being given to Boards of Governors across the region on this issue. She also drew attention to additional workloads placed on Boards of Governors.

Mrs Scott said that the School Development Service would review the training provided to governors as part of the governor training programme. Officers would also liaise with other

relevant EA Directorates, in particular CYPS, on the Anti-Bullying in Schools Policy Framework and would bring a report to a future meeting of the Committee on this matter.

A Member commented on the need to also address the level of bureaucracy in schools relating to the policy.

A Member referred to concerns around the lack of clarity on the terminology for anti-bullying and queried the process for policy, procedure and guidance documents to have legal input. Ms Long said that the Anti-Bullying Policy Framework was a DE document. In respect of the development of EA documents, Ms Long said that where necessary these were developed in collaboration with key officers including legal advice.

**Action:** *Report on the training provided to Boards of Governors in relation to the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act to be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.*

### **7.3 TEACHER INDUSTRIAL ACTION - UPDATE**

Mrs Scott said that agreement had been reached in principle between Management Side and Trade Union Side on pay and workload issues. She said that all Trade Unions were promoting acceptance and had undertaken to ballot their members on the arrangements. The next stage entailed the development of a Business Case by DE for approval by DoF.

The Committee welcomed the news.

A Member expressed regret that the agreement had taken such a significant period of time. He drew attention to the commitment of teachers to support children and young people and said it was important for the Committee to fully understand the role and responsibilities of teachers.

### **7.4 POST PRIMARY ADMISSIONS PROCESS**

A report on the post primary admissions process would be presented to the Board at its meeting on 27 June 2019.

## **8. TRANSGENDER GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND YOUTH SERVICES**

On the proposal of Mr Craig, seconded by Dr McMorris, it was agreed that discussion on the Transgender guidance with the two school representatives would be held in committee.

The two school representatives entered the meeting and were welcomed by the Chair. The two school representatives reported on their respective school experiences of supporting transgender young people in schools.

The Chair expressed appreciation to the two school representatives for their presentation to the Committee and they withdrew from the meeting.

On the proposal of Mr Lundy, seconded by Dr McMorris, the Committee agreed to resume the meeting.

Mrs Duffield presented the draft guidance\* (E/6/19/6) for schools and youth services on supporting transgender young people. The draft guidance was non-statutory and had been developed in response to EA's audit of inequalities and, in particular, from requests from schools seeking advice in this area. EA had committed to developing this guidance as part of its Equality Action Plan 2018-22. Mr McDermott said that the guidance had been developed in consultation with a Steering Group, schools, parents and young people, Section 75 representatives and other stakeholders. He said the Permanent Secretary had indicated that he

wished to be involved in the dissemination of the guidance to schools. Summary versions of the guidance would also be made available for schools and youth services.

A Member said that she would also endorse the establishment of a central hub for young people so that they could have face to face support in this area.

*Rev Adams left the meeting at 2.50 pm.*

Members raised a number of issues on specific content within the document as well as legal considerations. The role of DE in issuing the document was also discussed. A Member received clarification on the membership of the Steering Group. He considered that, in developing the guidance, engagement should also have taken place with faith based organisations. He requested information on the level of engagement undertaken.

It was agreed that the guidance would be amended following Members' comments. The guidance would highlight that it was non-statutory and that it was for Boards of Governors to decide whether they wished to follow the guidance in line with the ethos of their school. The document would give recognition to the fact that there were different perspectives relating to transgender. It would not reference or endorse external organisations, and it would be further considered from a legal perspective to seek to provide reassurance for schools which did not wish to use the guidance and, in addition, it would give clarity to those schools which wished to follow the guidance. It was also agreed that Members would have further opportunity to submit comments on the draft guidance to Mrs Duffield prior to 30 June. Mrs Duffield undertook to liaise with DE officials on the role of DE in issuing the guidance to schools.

In response to a query from the Chair, Mrs Duffield said that following the amendments being made, it was intended that the guidance would be made available for schools for the start of the 2019/20 academic year. It was also intended that the guidance would be made available to schools on request.

*Dr McMorris and Mr McMullan left the meeting temporarily at 3.41 pm.*

**Actions:** Amend draft guidance following Members' comments. Members to submit further comments on the draft guidance to officers before 30 June 2019.

## **9. EDUCATION DIRECTORATE FINANCE REPORT - UPDATE**

Mr Baker reported that there were no concerns at present with the budget. A full report would be presented to the Committee at its September meeting.

*Dr McMorris re-entered the meeting at 3.43 pm.*

A Member referred to an accounting anomaly for schools which experienced increased enrolments in September and where their budget allocations received at the start of the financial year did not align to actual pupil numbers. While he understood that the position was rectified following the census exercise in late Autumn, the accounting anomaly did not provide for an accurate reflection of a school's financial position.

*Dr Dynan left the meeting temporarily at 3.45 pm.*

The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee said that this issue would be included on the Committee's agenda in September.

**Action:** Issue raised by Member concerning changes to projected school enrolment numbers and its artificial impact on schools' financial positions to be included on the agenda for FGP Committee.

## 10. SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

### 10.1 WORK EXPERIENCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONTROLLED, MAINTAINED AND IRISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS

*Mr Lundy left the meeting temporarily at 3.48 pm and Mr McMullan re-entered at 3.48 pm.*

Mr Baker presented a paper\* (E/6/19/8.1) setting out draft arrangements for Key Stage 4 pupils and pupils aged 16 and over in controlled, maintained, and Irish medium to schools to engage in a period of work placement and to be absent from normal schooling for a designated period of time. He said that, as part of the consultation period involving schools and a wide range of stakeholders, clarification had been sought around the use of external agents. He reported that the work experience arrangements would be reviewed and presented for the Committee's consideration in the Autumn.

A Member asked for the document, when finalised, to be drawn to the attention of the voluntary grammar and grant maintained integrated sectors. This was agreed.

The Committee noted the paper.

**Action:** Work experience arrangements, when finalised, to be drawn to the attention of the VG / GMI sectors.

*Dr Dynan and Mr Lundy re-entered the meeting at 3.50 pm.*

### 10.2 DE STATISTICAL BULLETIN 4/2019 DATED 30 MAY 2019 - REPORT ON LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

The DE statistical bulletin\* (E/6/19/8.2) provided an analysis of the GCSE and A Level qualifications and destinations of pupils leaving post primary schools in 2017/18. Mrs Cooney indicated that the analysis and key findings would be used by the School Improvement Team to inform Strategy development and school and system support practices and programmes. She noted that the bulletin showed a continued upward trend in key benchmarks and she highlighted areas of particular interest within the leavers' destinations data.

A Member highlighted that the analysis was unable to show a value added element to the outcomes of pupils. A Member said that officers should produce a synopsis of key issues arising from the analysis along with an action plan. This would assist the Committee to provide direction in respect of raising standards and tackling underachievement.

Members made specific reference to the data provided in respect of qualifications of post 16 pupils in non-grammar schools. Reference was also made to the qualifications of school leavers by SEN status.

Mrs Cooney said that a paper summarising key findings from the DE analysis, along with key actions, would be presented to the Committee for consideration later in the year.

**Action:** A paper summarising the key issues and proposed actions arising from the DE report to be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

## **11. MUSIC SERVICE - STRATEGIC REVIEW : PRINCE 2 METHODOLOGY**

Following the Committee's request at the May meeting to enhance the framework of the strategic review of the Music Service by using Prince 2 methodology, Mr McConkey presented a paper\* (E/6/19/9) setting out the revised framework.

*Mr Craig left the meeting at 4.23 pm and re-entered at 4.25 pm.*

Members discussed the project governance structure. A Member sought clarity on EA's engagement strategy. Ms Long undertook to provide detail on this strategy to the Member.

The Committee agreed the revised framework to take forward the review of the Music Service subject to one amendment. This related to the establishment of an oversight group, comprising self-electing Members of the Education Committee, which would meet as and when required to support the project governance structure.

**Action:** *Members to be invited to serve on the oversight group as part of the strategic review of the Music Service. Member to receive information on EA's engagement strategy.*

## **12. AREA PLANNING**

### **12.1 STRATEGIC AREA PLAN FOR SCHOOL PROVISION 2017/20 AMENDED FINAL DRAFT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN - EXTENDED YEAR 3**

Mr McConkey presented the draft Annual Action Plan\* (E/6/19/10.1) showing DE's tracked changes. It was noted that DE had made no material changes to the context of the action plan.

*Dr Dynan left the meeting at 4.28 pm and Sir Gerry Loughran left the meeting temporarily at this time.*

Mr McConkey drew attention to two changes made by EA to the content of the action plan and the reasons for those changes.

On the proposal of Mr Lundy, seconded by Miss Rainey, the Committee approved the amended action plan (E/5/19/9.1) for 2019/21.

### **12.2 DRUMSALLEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Proposal to discontinue with effect from 31 August 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr McConkey presented the papers\* (E/6/19/10.2) which set out the rationale in respect of the request to commence pre-publication consultation on the above proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change and the summary paper.

On the proposal of Mr Lundy, seconded by Mr Doran, the Committee agreed to recommend that EA would commence pre-publication consultation on the above proposal in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

### **12.3 KILLYMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Proposal to increase the admissions number from 24 to 29 with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 165 to 203 with effect from 1 September 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr McConkey presented the papers\* (E/6/19/10.3) which set out the rationale in respect of the request to commence pre-publication consultation on the above proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change and the summary paper.

On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Mr Mulvenna, the Committee agreed to recommend that EA would commence pre-publication consultation on the above proposal in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

*Dr McMorran left the meeting at 4.32 pm and Sir Gerry Loughran entered at this time.*

#### **12.4 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 585 - GAELSCOIL AN TSEANCHAÍ**

Proposal to increase the annual admission number from 17 to 21 pupils with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 120 to 147 with effect from September 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr McConkey presented the papers\* (E/6/19/10.4) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change. This included the rationale for the proposal, current sustainability of the school, the impact of the proposal on schools in the locality, and a response received to the consultation.

On the proposal of Mr Doran, seconded by Mr McMullan, the Committee approved the response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal.

#### **12.5 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 587 - TIR-NA-NÓG PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Proposal to discontinue with effect from 31 August 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr McConkey presented the papers\* (E/6/19/10.5) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change. This included the rationale for the proposal, current sustainability of the school, the impact of the proposal on schools in the locality, and responses received to the consultation. Mr McConkey said that, in light of further information from CCMS on the school's projected enrolment number in September, it was intended that the consultation period would commence the week beginning 17 June 2019 to run to 17 October to enable early consideration to be given on a decision.

On the proposal of Mr Craig, seconded by Mr Lundy, the Committee approved the response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal.

#### **12.6 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 588 - BALLYHACKETT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Proposal to discontinue with effect from 31 August 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr McConkey presented the papers\* (E/6/19/10.6) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change. This included the rationale for the proposal, current sustainability of the school, the impact of the proposal on schools in the locality, and responses received to the consultation. Mr McConkey said that the Board of Governors of the school had undertaken a ballot in respect of its intention to transform to controlled integrated status. The results of the ballot had been positive. He advised that a proposal in respect of the transformation of the school to controlled integrated status would be presented to the Committee in due course.

On the proposal of Mr Lundy, seconded by Dr McMorris, the Committee approved the response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal.

#### **12.7 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 589 - THE ROYAL SCHOOL, DUNGANNON**

Proposal to increase the admissions number from 93 to 100, with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 650 to 700 with effect from 1 September 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr McConkey presented the papers\* (E/6/19/10.7) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change. This included the rationale for the proposal, current sustainability of the school, the impact of the proposal on schools in the locality, and responses received to the consultation. Mr McConkey said that the draft response set out the case for not supporting the proposal as it was anticipated that the proposal would have an adverse impact on controlled post primary schools in the locality.

A Member indicated that he supported the development proposal.

On the proposal of Mr Cargo, seconded by Mr Mulvenna, the Committee approved the response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal.

#### **12.8 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 590 - COLÁISTE FEIRSTE**

Proposal to increase the annual admission number from 100 to 130 pupils, with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 600 to 850 with effect from September 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr McConkey presented the papers\* (E/6/19/10.7) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change. This included the rationale for the proposal, current sustainability of the school, the impact of the proposal on schools in the locality, and a response received to the consultation.

A Member highlighted that the Case for Change did not capture the extent of a number of significant financial challenges. Members agreed that EA should not be taking on future liabilities and that reference to the financial challenges should be set out in EA's response. Subject to Members' comments on the financial challenges being incorporated into EA's response, the Committee approved the response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal on the proposal of Mr Lundy and seconded by Miss Rainey.

*Action: Amend EA's response to DE to identify the financial challenges that are not captured within the Case for Change.*

#### **12.9 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 591 - CHAPEL ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Proposal to decrease the enrolment number from 276 to 210 with effect from 1 September 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr McConkey presented the papers\* (E/6/19/10.7) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change. This included the rationale for the proposal, current sustainability of the school and the impact of the proposal on schools in the locality. No responses from local schools had been received as part of the consultation exercise. On the proposal of Mr Doran, seconded by Mr Lundy, the Committee approved the response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal.

#### **12.10 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 592 - ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, BANBRIDGE**

Proposal to increase the admissions number from 58 to 75 with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 407 to 525 with effect from 1 September 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr McConkey presented the papers\* (E/6/19/10.7) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change. This included the rationale for the proposal, current sustainability of the school, the impact of the proposal on schools in the locality, and responses received to the consultation.

On the proposal of Miss Rainey, seconded by Mr Lundy, the Committee approved the response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal.

#### **12.11 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 593 - ST COLMCILLE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CARRICKMORE**

Proposal to increase the admissions number from 39 to 55 with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 273 to 385 with effect from 1 September 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mr McConkey presented the papers\* (E/6/19/10.7) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change. This included the rationale for the proposal, current sustainability of the school, the impact of the proposal on schools in the locality, and responses received to the consultation.

On the proposal of Mr Lundy, seconded by Mr Mulvenna, the Committee approved the response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal.

## **12.12 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL OUTCOMES**

The Committee noted that the following Development Proposals had been approved:

- Development Proposal No 542 - Mill Strand Primary School - to establish 26 part-time nursery places with effect from 1 September 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter (approved with a modification to the implementation date of 1 September 2019).
- Development Proposal No 560 - Birches Primary School - to increase its admission number from 23 to 26 with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 161 to 182 with effect from 1 September 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter.

## **13. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS**

### **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 594 - CARNALBANAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Mr McConkey said the Committee had agreed at its last meeting to commence pre-publication consultation on the proposal to discontinue Carnalbanagh Primary School with effect from 31 August 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter. He said that, following consultation with the Board of Governors and parents of the school, concerns had been expressed about the proposed date of closure. Mr McConkey said that the Board of Governors of Seaview Primary School had undertaken a ballot in order to explore the option of transforming to controlled integrated status. He advised that the proposed date of closure for Seaview Primary School would therefore be 31 August 2021 to enable due consideration to be given to the process for transforming to controlled integrated status. Therefore, to align potential closure dates, Mr McConkey said that the proposal to discontinue Carnalbanagh Primary School would also be amended to take effect from 31 August 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Committee noted the report.

## **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on 19 September 2019.

The meeting ended at 4.50 pm.

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**CHAIRPERSON**

\* Paper issued with agenda

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**DATE**

\*\* Paper tabled