



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Committee for Education

### Minutes of Proceedings

7 July 2021

**Meeting Location:** Teleconference

**Present by Video or Teleconference:**

Mr Chris Lyttle MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Nicola Brogan MLA  
Mr Robbie Butler MLA  
Mrs Diane Dodds MLA  
Mr Harry Harvey MLA  
Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA  
Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Ms Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Emma Magee (Clerical Officer)

**Apologies:** Mr Robin Newton MBE MLA



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None

The meeting commenced at 9:25am in public session

### 1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

### 2. Chairperson's Business

#### 2.1 Informal meeting note: Northern Ireland Teaching Council (NITC)

The Committee noted a record of an informal meeting with representatives of NITC.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Education regarding the movement of the disclosure and debarring service from the teachers' pensions agency to the Department of Education in England.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to NITC expressing its thanks to workers in the Education Sector.

#### 2.2 Ministerial Statement on the North/South Ministerial Council, Education Sector

The Committee noted a statement from the Minister of Education on a meeting of the North/South Ministerial Council, Education Sector.

### 3. Draft Minutes

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the minutes of its meeting held on 30 June 2021.



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#### 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

#### 5. Correspondence

5.1 The Committee noted an index of correspondence.

5.2 The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Education notifying the Committee of a statement on North/South Ministerial Council, Education Sector Meeting.

5.3 The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Justice Minister of Education requesting information on how young people are being educated on child exploitation.

5.4 The Committee noted correspondence from the Public Accounts Committee regarding its “primacy” over current Northern Ireland Audit Office reports.

5.5 The Committee noted a response from AQE indicating its availability to brief the Committee following summer recess.

5.6 The Committee noted a response from PPTC indicating its availability to brief the Committee following summer recess.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to arrange a briefing with AQE & PPTC.

5.7 The Committee noted correspondence from UNISON regarding its campaign calling for universal nutritious free school meals for all children.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Education seeking a written brief on this matter with a view to taking oral evidence from UNISON and Department of Education.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to Karen Mullan MLA asking for an update on her Private Members Bill to address holiday hunger.



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5.8 The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee on the Administration of Justice to the Ministers on Rights of EU Citizens after the withdrawal agreement.

**Agreed:** The Committee to write to the Department of Education seeking a briefing on such impacts for school pupils and their families of the withdrawal agreement.

5.9 The Committee noted correspondence regarding St Mary's High School, Brollagh.

5.10 The Committee noted correspondence raising concerns regarding CCEA plans for the assessment of GCSE Science in the summer of 2022.

5.11 The Committee noted correspondence raising concerns regarding CCEA plans for the assessment of GCSE Science in the summer of 2022.

5.12 The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Immigration Advice Service to NICVA regarding International Students and the Vaccine Rollout Programme.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Committee for the Economy.

5.13 The Committee noted the Investing Activity Report for June 2021.

5.14 The Committee noted a report from SERC - A Whole College Response to Covid-19 Pandemic

5.15 The Committee noted the CCMS Annual Report and Accounts.

5.16 The Committee noted the Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta Annual Report and Accounts.

5.17 The Committee noted the CCEA Annual Report and Accounts.

5.18 The Committee noted the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education Directors' Report and Financial Statements.

5.19 The Committee noted a response from the Education Authority on transition and transport arrangements for Special Educational Needs pupil at St Mary's High School, Brollagh.



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**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the correspondent who raised this issue with it.

5.20 The Committee noted a response from the Minister of Education on the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI).

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write again to the Minister of Education asking for a full explanation of the reasons that a GTCNI Bill will not be possible within the remainder of the current Assembly mandate.

5.21 The Committee noted correspondence on the usage of Class C Taxi License Holders for school transportation.

5.22 The Committee noted correspondence from Girlguiding Ulster on the assistance needed by uniformed voluntary organisations.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the letter to the Department asking for greater support for voluntary outdoor centres reliant on residential stays to run funded activities.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the letter to the Committee for Justice and the Northern Ireland Assembly's Women's Caucus.

### 6. Integrated Education Bill

The Committee noted a draft timeline for the Committee stage of the Bill; a draft Call for Evidence; a draft public notice; a draft list of stakeholders to be contacted directly on the Bill; a record of Informal Meeting with Kellie Armstrong MLA on 22 June 2021; copies of the Bill and Explanatory & Financial Memorandum as Introduced; and a set of questions on the bill for stakeholders answering the call for evidence.

Mrs Dodds joined the meeting at 9:52am.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to issue a call for evidence on the Integrated Education Bill.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to extend the closing date for the Call for Evidence to 10 October 2021.



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**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that it was content with the list of stakeholders to be contacted directly on the Bill.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that it was content with questions on the Bill for stakeholders answering the call for evidence.

The Committee noted a summary of responses from church and sectoral bodies on Integrated Education.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to invite these stakeholders to an early evidence session on the Bill.

### **7. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered its forward work programme.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that a revised Forward Work Programme reflecting the new closing date for the Call for Evidence would be circulated in due course.

### **8. Area Planning - Department of Education / Education Authority Oral Briefing**

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Department of Education.

The following witnesses joined the meeting by video conference at 10:11am:

Mrs Janis Scallon, Director of Sustainable Schools Policy and Planning, Department of Education

Ms Lorraine Finlay, Head of Area Planning Team, Department of Education

Ms Michele Corkey, Director of Education, Education Authority

Mr Michael McConkey, Head of Community Planning & Community and Schools, Education Authority

Mr Gerry Campbell, Chief Executive, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools



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The witnesses briefed the Committee on Area Planning.

The briefing was covered by Hansard.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

Ms Brogan joined the meeting at 10:45am.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for the briefing.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to ask the Education Authority and CCMS to provide copies of their speaking notes.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Education seeking an update on finalised policy on resetting area planning and information on provision at Cedar Lodge in North Belfast.

### **9. CCEA - Pre-summer oral update briefing (Post-results service and response to Deloitte report)**

The Committee noted a briefing paper from CCEA and a briefing paper from NITC.

The witnesses joined the meeting by video conference at 11:28am:

Mr Tommy O'Reilly, Chairperson, Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment

Ms Margaret Farragher, Interim CEO, Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment

Ms Amanda Swann, Temporary Director of Examinations, Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment

Mr Michael McAuley, Business Manager for Qualifications, Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment

The witnesses briefed the Committee on the Post-results service.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

Mr Sheehan left the meeting at 12:00pm



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Mr McCrossan left the meeting at 12:04pm.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for the briefing.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Education asking about the outcome of the review; the lack of modification of the Maths curriculum; and the omission of orals and practicals in languages and sciences.

**10. Any Other Business**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to consider a return to holding hybrid meetings after summer recess.

**11. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The next formal Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 September 2021 by video conference at 9:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm

**Chris Lyttle MLA**

**Chairperson, Committee for Education  
8 September 2021**