



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Education

Minutes of Proceedings

2 February 2022

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 Daniel McCrossan MLA

Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Mr Robin Newton MBE MLA

Ms Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)

Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)

Mr Marcus Matthews (Clerical Supervisor)

Mr Craig Mealy (Clerical Officer)

Ms Caroline Perry (Bill Clerk), items 7 and 8 only

Ms Denise Morgan (Bill Clerk), items 7 and 8 only



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Apologies: Mr Harry Harvey MLA

The meeting commenced at 10:15am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies as above.

2. Chairperson's Business

2.1 The Daily Mile

The Committee noted correspondence regarding an event to mark Children's Mental Health Week 2022 with a mile long walk within the Stormont Estate on Wednesday 9th February 2022.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that members would take part in the event subject to Assembly business on that date.

2.2 School Absence rates

The Committee discussed concerns raised about high covid-19 related school absence rates.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister of Education seeking an urgent response on what action is being taken to address these and support pupils, parents and school staff.



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3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of its meetings held on 26 January 2022 and 31 January 2022.

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 regarding Covid-19 Safety in Schools and Staff Shortages.

5.3 The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Education announcing the extension of the Covid-19 Childcare Temporary Closure Fund through January to March 2022.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write again to the Minister of Education asking when funding would be paid to applicants and supporting the reintroduction of the Childcare Sustainability Fund.

5.4 The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Department for Justice to the Committee for Justice regarding the Domestic Abuse Information-Sharing with Schools Etc. Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Justice supporting the Domestic Abuse Information-Sharing with Schools Etc. Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Education seeking an update on its role in the domestic abuse Information-Sharing with Schools pilot.



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5.5 The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office providing an update on developments of the Fair Employment (School Teachers) Bill.

5.6 The Committee noted an invitation from Linking Generations Northern Ireland (LGNI) to the Global Launch Event for Global Intergenerational Week 2022.

5.7 The Committee noted correspondence from Advice NI regarding its Annual General meeting.

5.8 The Committee noted is an invitation from Policy Forum for Northern Ireland to a conference discussing the next steps in education in Northern Ireland pending the independent review of education.

5.9 The Committee noted an invitation from Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum.

5.10 The Committee noted a letter from the Committee for the Executive Office to the Department of Education seeking views on the Fair Employment (School Teachers) Bill.

5.11 The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Education to Kellie Armstrong MLA regarding the Integrated Education Bill.

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered its Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its forward work programme.



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7. Period Products (Free Provision) Bill - Formal Consideration of the Committee Report on the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Education regarding proposed amendments to the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee for Education agreed to include this in the Committee report on the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill.

The Committee considered the draft report on the Committee stage of the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill.

The Committee considered the Title Page, Table of Contents Page, Committee Membership and Powers Page, and Abbreviations Page as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Title Page, Table of Contents Page, Committee Membership and Powers Page, and Abbreviations Page.

The Committee considered the Executive summary section of the report (paragraphs 1 to 17) as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Executive Summary section of the report as drafted.

The Committee considered the Introduction section of the report (paragraphs 18 to 48) as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Introduction section of the report as drafted.

The Committee considered the recommendations of the Bill section of the report (paragraphs 49 to 51) as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the recommendations section of the report as drafted.

The Committee considered the Consideration of the Bill section of the report (paragraphs 52 to 67) as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed Consideration of the Bill section of the report as drafted.



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The Committee considered the Clause by Clause Scrutiny section of the Bill section of the report (paragraphs 68 to 74) as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Clause by Clause Scrutiny section of the report as drafted.

The Committee considered the Appendices section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Appendices be included in the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Report on the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill to be published and issued to all MLAs.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chairperson to approve the Minutes of Proceedings of this meeting for inclusion in the report. They would then be replaced by the final version of the Minutes of Proceedings once agreed by the Committee at the next meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that an electronic copy of the Bill report should be sent to all organisations and individuals who provided evidence to the Committee on the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office asking that it take lead responsibility for the Bill at its Consideration Stage.

8. Education (Curriculum) (CPR and AED) Bill – Formal Consideration of the Committee Report on the Education(Curriculum) (CPR and AED) Bill

The Committee considered the draft report on the Committee stage of the (Curriculum) (CPR and AED) Bill.

The Committee considered the Title Page, Table of Contents Page, Committee Membership and Powers Page, and Abbreviations Page as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Title Page, Table of Contents Page, Committee Membership and Powers Page, and Abbreviations Page.



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The Committee considered the Executive summary section of the report (paragraphs 1 to 32) as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Executive Summary section of the report as drafted.

The Committee considered the Introduction section of the report (paragraphs 33 to 43) as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Introduction section of the report as drafted.

The Committee considered the Appendices section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Appendices be included in the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Report on the (Curriculum) (CPR and AED) Bill to be published and issued to all MLAs.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chairperson to approve the Minutes of Proceedings of this meeting for inclusion in the report. They would then be replaced by the final version of the Minutes of Proceedings once agreed by the Committee at the next meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that an electronic copy of the Bill report should be sent to all organisations and individuals who provided evidence to the Committee on the Bill.

9. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

10. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next formal Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 February 2022 by video conference at 9:30am.



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The meeting was adjourned at 10:46am.

Chris Lyttle MLA

**Chairperson, Committee for Education
9 February 2022**