



Northern Ireland Assembly
Committee for Education
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
THURSDAY 4 April 2013
ROOM 29

Present:

Mervyn Storey MLA (Chairperson)
Danny Kinahan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Michaela Boyle MLA
Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Chris Hazzard MLA
Trevor Lunn MLA
Michelle McIlveen MLA
Sean Rogers MLA
Pat Sheehan MLA

In Attendance:

Peter McCallion (Assembly Clerk)
Sheila Mawhinney (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Sharon McGurk (Clerical Supervisor)
Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)
Ursula Savage (Bursary Student)

Apologies:

Jonathan Craig MLA

The meeting commenced in private session at 10.33 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Draft minutes of 19 and 20 March 2013

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 and 20 March 2013 were agreed by the Committee.

3. Matters Arising

The Committee noted the following papers in relation to the Education Bill:

3.1.A response from the Department setting out the role and functions of CCEA.

3.2. A response from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, indicating that it would relay its views on the Education Bill following a joint briefing from OFMDFM and the Department of Education.

3.3. A written submission from the Ulster Centre on Multilingualism at the School of Communication, University of Ulster, on the Education Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that these items of correspondence should not be included in its Report on the Education Bill as they were received after the conclusion of its formal clause by clause scrutiny.

4. Education Bill – Consideration of Committee report

The Committee considered a draft report on its scrutiny of the Education Bill.

Executive Summary

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Report should be amended to indicate that the recommendations relating to Inspections were supported by a majority of Members and not all Members.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Executive Summary as amended.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the issue of electronic interference impacting on Hansard transcripts should be raised at the next meeting of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group.

Section 1: Introduction

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the exact number of organisations which had responded to its request for written evidence should be specified in the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with Section 1: Introduction, as amended.

Section 2: Consideration of the Bill

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the wording of its consideration of Clause 13 should be amended to remove a reference to Assembly Legal Services.

Agreed: The Committee that, at Clause 41, the reference to the "Catholic Teaching Certificate" should be replaced by the "Certificate in Religious Education".

Agreed: As above, the Committee agreed that the Report should be amended to indicate that the recommendations relating to Inspections were supported by a majority of Members and not all Members.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that to amend the wording relating to the proposed designation of Special schools as Integrated schools.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Report should reflect that some Members supported in principle a flexible starting age for compulsory school education.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed that it had noted a submission relating to arrangements for voluntary grammar schools and that the Report should be amended accordingly.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a number of minor typographical amendments should be made.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with Section 2: Consideration of the Bill, as amended.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for a specific date for the publication of the report of the Shared Education Advisory Group.

Section 3: Decisions on Clause by Clause Scrutiny of the Bill

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a small number of minor typographical amendments should be made.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with Section 3: Decisions on Clause by Clause Scrutiny of the Bill, as amended.

Appendices 1-6

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with Appendices 1-6 as indicated in the draft Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Report as amended be the Second Report of the Education Committee to the Assembly for the current mandate.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to order that the amended report be printed on 8 April 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for an extract from the minutes of the meeting to be included unapproved in the appendix to the report.

5. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 April 2013 at 3.00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.09 am.

Mervyn Storey
Chairperson, Committee for Education
10 April 2013