



Northern Ireland
Assembly
Committee for Education
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2013
ROOM B305, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER, COLERAINE

Present:

Mervyn Storey MLA (Chairperson)
Chris Hazzard MLA
Trevor Lunn MLA
Stephen Moutray MLA
Seán Rogers MLA

In Attendance:

Peter McCallion (Assembly Clerk)
Karen Jardine (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Sharon McGurk (Clerical Supervisor)
Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Danny Kinahan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Michaela Boyle MLA
Jonathan Craig MLA
Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Robin Newton MLA
Pat Sheehan MLA

The meeting commenced in public session at 10.40am.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as indicated above.

In the absence of a decision-making quorum, proceedings commenced in line with Standing order 49(5).

The Committee deferred its consideration of Chairperson's Business; the draft Minutes of the previous meeting; and Matters Arising and considered Agenda item 5: October Monitoring Round

2. Briefing from the Department on the October Monitoring Round

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10.43am:

Trevor Connolly, Director of Finance; and Philip Irwin, Director of Investment and Infrastructure.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Chris Hazzard MLA joined the meeting at 10.47am at which time the Committee gained its decision-making quorum.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 11.56am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request the following:

- an update on the maintenance backlog within the Southern Education and Library Board area as reported for March 2013, including an explanation for the significant increase, compared to other ELBs, in the previous year;
- an update on the Department's revisions to the data informing the Strategic Investment Board monthly capital projects report;
- clarification as to whether planned savings (in the Savings Delivery Plan) from the budget for Professional Support for Schools including reductions in spending on the Curriculum Advisory and Support Services (CASS) are to be made in this financial year;
- a complete written update on Savings Delivery Plan progress for 2011-12 and 2012-13;
- the list of capital assets which have been sold to realise capital receipts of £2.8m in-year;
- a breakdown of the current school maintenance backlog identifying health and safety and other priorities; and
- clarification in respect of the additional funding for the Aggregated Schools Budget.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed to write to the Department to request a paper setting out how different school premises ownership arrangements will be resolved in respect of the disposal of existing school property and the acquisition of new school property on the Lisanelly shared education campus.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed to write to the Department of Finance and Personnel to request information on the guidance to Departments on maintaining contingency funds and central control and monitoring of associated budget transfers.

The Committee deferred consideration of Agenda item 6 and considered Agenda item 7: Initial Teacher Education and CPD.

3. Briefing from the University of Ulster on Initial Teacher Education and Continuing Professional Development for teachers

The following witnesses joined the meeting at 11.58am:

Professor Richard Barnett, Vice Chancellor, University of Ulster; Professor Linda Clarke, Head of the School of Education; and Dr Sam McGuinness, Head of the School of Education, Designate.

The Chairperson thanked the School of Education and other University of Ulster staff for facilitating the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Stephen Moutray left the meeting at 12.16pm.

In the absence of the decision-making quorum, the proceedings continued in line with Standing order 49(5).

Witnesses left the meeting at 12.41pm.

The Committee deferred consideration of other Agenda items and considered Agenda item 10: AOB

4. Any Other Business

Members discussed the timing of the consultation on the Common Funding Scheme including the possibility of seeking an extension from the Department.

5. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 30 September 2013 at approximately 1:00pm in the Senate Chamber.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.48pm.

Mervyn Storey
Chairperson, Committee for Education
30 September 2013