



Northern Ireland
Assembly
Committee for Education
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 5 March 2014
SENATE CHAMBER

Present:

Danny Kinahan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Chris Hazzard MLA
Trevor Lunn MLA
Stephen Moutray MLA
Robin Newton 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:

Mervyn Storey MLA (Chairperson)
Jonathan Craig MLA
Maeve McLaughlin MLA
Pat Sheehan MLA

The meeting commenced in public session at 10.06am

1. Apologies

Apologies were recorded as above.

10.07am Jo-Anne Dobson joined the meeting.

2. Chairperson's Business

2.1 Revised Agenda

Agreed: The Committee agreed to adopt a revised agenda for the meeting.

2.2 GL Assessment

The Deputy Chairperson advised the Committee that the Chairperson met with representatives from the GL Education Group on Tuesday 4 March 2014, along with the Chairperson of the Committee for Employment and Learning.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Education, CCEA and the Education and Training Inspectorate seeking an update on Computer Based Assessment and to ask what engagement they have had with GL Assessment in respect of the use of PiE (Progress in English) and PiM (Progress in Maths).

Agreed: The Committee also agreed that, in order to inform its understanding, it would write to the GL Education Group to request: case study information for schools in Northern Ireland which have used the suite of GL products; and background on the use of Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS), Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs), PiE and PiM.

2.3 Visit to Antrim Grammar School

The Deputy Chairperson expressed his thanks to Stephen Black, Principal of Antrim Grammar School and his colleagues for facilitating the Committee's visit on Tuesday 4 March 2014 and providing information about the role of self-evaluation within the school improvement process.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the written information provided during the visit would be treated as confidential.

3. Draft Minutes of 26 February 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Inquiry into Education and Training Inspectorate and the School Improvement Process

The Committee noted further correspondence from the Education and Training Inspectorate relating to the Committee's Inquiry.

5. Non-Departmental Briefing: Inquiry into Education and Training Inspectorate and the School Improvement Process

The following witness joined the meeting at 10.13am.

Professor John Gardner, Deputy Principal (Education and Students), University of Stirling.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session and was recorded by Hansard.

10.48am Stephen Moutray joined the meeting.

11.01am Robin Newton left the meeting.

The witness left the meeting at 11.12am.

The Committee moved to closed session at 11.13am.

6. Inquiry into Education and Training Inspectorate and the School Improvement Process – Consideration of draft recommendations

The Committee considered a paper outlining draft the recommendations of its Inquiry into the Education and Training Inspectorate and the School Improvement Process.

11.29am Jo-Anne Dobson left the meeting.

The Committee moved to open session at 11.46am.

7. Assembly Research Briefing - Inquiry into Education and Training Inspectorate and the School Improvement Process – Recap of Inquiry Papers

Agreed: The Committee noted a revised Assembly Research paper regarding Inspectorate Funding and Staffing Levels and agreed to again defer the relevant oral briefing from Assembly Research.

8. Inquiry into the Education and Training Inspectorate and the School Improvement Process - General Teaching Council NI (GTCNI) Online survey: Perceptions of ETI and school inspection

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer the briefing from GTCNI until Tuesday 11 March 2014.

9. Correspondence

9.1 The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Education regarding the January 2014 Outturn and Forecast Outturn.

9.2 The Committee noted the monthly Department of Education Investment Strategy Northern Ireland (ISNI) Capital Report for February 2014.

9.3 The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding legal cover for changes to Year 8 admissions at Orangefield High School.

9.4 The Committee noted correspondence from the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) regarding its support for the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP).

9.5 The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding the selection criteria for Nurture Units included in the Delivering Social Change, Signature Projects

9.6 Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning (CEL) including a related letter to the Department of Education regarding a joint Department of Education and Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) briefing in respect of the response to the recommendations arising from the CEL Inquiry into Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance. The Committee also noted that the correspondence referred to the proposed terms of reference for the DE/DEL Review of the Careers Strategy – Preparing for Success.

9.7 The Committee noted correspondence from Drumragh Integrated College including a request to meet the Committee so as to discuss its exclusion from the proposed shared education campus at Lisanelly.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider this matter again following a review, at the next meeting, of the Outline Business Case for Lisanelly and receipt of clarity in respect of related legal proceedings.

9.8 The Committee noted an invitation from St Gerard's School regarding the official handover of the former Balmoral High School.

9.9 The Committee noted correspondence from the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) regarding the use of Curriculum Complaints Tribunals.

9.10 The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding a Memorandum of Agreement in respect of Education and Library Boards (ELBs) undertaking Minor Works in Non-Controlled Schools.

9.11 The Committee noted correspondence from the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB) in respect of Flexible Working in the Public Sector.

10. Forward Work Programme

Members noted that the Forward Work Programme had been populated to the end of the session and that further consideration of STEM issues would shortly commence.

Agreed: In order to inform its understanding of STEM in the curriculum the Committee agreed to commission Assembly Research to produce a paper on the Revised Curriculum and the promotion of STEM subjects.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

11. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek information on the Investors in People accreditation for the Education and Training Inspectorate, including detail on the following areas: strategic planning, effective management, culture and communication, developing people and managing performance.

The Deputy Chairperson advised Members that an informal briefing with parents, governors and pupils from Crumlin Integrated School had been arranged for 1pm in Room 277 on 12 March 2014.

12. Date, Time, Place of Next Meeting

The Committee will meet on Tuesday 11 March at 12.30pm in Room 21 to receive evidence from GTCNI on its online survey of teachers' perceptions of the Education and Training Inspectorate.

The Committee will meet again on Wednesday 12 March 2014 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.51am.

Mervyn Storey
Chairperson, Committee for Education
12 March 2014