



Northern Ireland
Assembly
Committee for Education
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 14 May 2014
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Mervyn Storey MLA (Chairperson)
Danny Kinahan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Chris Hazzard MLA
Maeve McLaughlin MLA
Stephen Moutray MLA
Seán Rogers MLA
Pat Sheehan MLA
Trevor Lunn MLA

In Attendance:

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

Apologies:

Robin Newton MLA
Jonathan Craig MLA

The meeting commenced in private session at 10.03am.

1. Inquiry into the Education and Training Inspectorate and School Improvement Process – Agreement of Inquiry Report

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note confidential tabled correspondence relating to ETI.

Members considered the draft report of the Committee's Inquiry into the Education and Training Inspectorate and School Improvement Process.

Agreed: Members agreed the Executive Summary and Summary of Recommendations, with minor amendments.

Agreed: Members agreed paragraphs 1 to 53 of the Introduction section, with minor amendments.

Agreed: Members agreed paragraphs 54 to 151 of the Consideration of Evidence section, with minor amendments.

Agreed: Members agreed paragraphs 152 to 323 of the Findings and Recommendations section, subject to agreement by correspondence of text relating to Recommendation 16.

The meeting opened in public session at 10.38am.

2. Apologies

Apologies were as recorded above.

3. Chairperson's Business

3.1 Drumragh Integrated College

The Deputy Chairperson advised that Members of the Committee had met with representatives from Drumragh Integrated College to discuss the reported exclusion of the College from the Lisanelly shared education educational campus in Omagh.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Education to seek an update on the Lisanelly campus at the next PfG briefing and to ask the Department to facilitate the inclusion of Drumragh Integrated College in the shared educational campus if this is possible.

The Committee also noted reports that a judgement on a judicial review relating to a Development Proposal is expected shortly.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Education to seek clarity on this matter at the Departmental briefing on 4 June 2014 on revisions to Development Proposal guidance.

3.2 Congratulations

The Committee offered its congratulations to Chris Hazzard on his impending marriage.

4. Draft Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Underachievement - Non-Departmental Briefing: Centre for Young Men's Studies – "Taking Boys Seriously" report

The following witnesses joined the meeting at 10.46am:

Dr Ken Harland, Co-Director, Centre of Young Men's Studies, University of Ulster; and Mr Sam McCready, Co-Director, Centre for Young Men's Studies, University of Ulster.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

11.09am Stephen Moutray left the meeting.

11.28am Mervyn Storey joined the meeting and assumed the Chair.

The witnesses left the meeting at 11.51am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek comment on:

- the development of gender specific education policies including e.g. the provision of gender specific training for trainee teachers and the inclusion of gender specific elements within the Extended Schools Programme;
- the variation in the numbers of male teachers in primary and post-primary schools; and
- the implementation of the recommendations within the "Taking Boys Seriously – A Longitudinal Study of Adolescent School Life Experiences in Northern Ireland" Report.

11.53am Pat Sheehan left the meeting.

7. Sickness Absence in the Public Sector – Departmental Briefing: NIAO Report on Employee Absence in Schools

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:53am.

La'Verne Montgomery, Director of Education Workforce Development; Barry Jordan, Director of Human Resources; Kieron Moore, Head of Workforce Planning Team; and Barbara Swales, Head of Departmental Resources Team.

12.13pm Danny Kinahan left the meeting.

12.26pm Sean Rogers left the meeting.

12.32pm Jo-Anne Dobson left the meeting. The Committee lost its decision-making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum, proceedings commenced in line with Standing Order 49(5).

The officials left the meeting at 12.46pm.

The Committee deferred its consideration of Correspondence, Forward Work Programme, Any Other Business, and the Terms of Reference for its inquiry into Shared and Integrated Education.

8. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The Committee will meet again on Wednesday 28 May 2014 at 10.00am at Greenmount Agricultural College, Antrim.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.49pm.

Mervyn Storey
Chairperson, Committee for Education
28 May 2014