



Northern Ireland
Assembly
Committee for Education
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2014
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Danny Kinahan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Jonathan Craig MLA
Chris Hazzard MLA
Trevor Lunn MLA
Nelson McCausland MLA
Maeve McLaughlin MLA
Robin Newton MLA
Sandra Overend MLA
Seán Rogers MLA

In Attendance:

Peter McCallion (Assembly Clerk)
Paula Best (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Kevin Marks (Clerical Supervisor)
Alicia Muldoon (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Pat Sheehan MLA

The meeting commenced in public session at 2.06pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as indicated above.

2. Chairperson's Business

2.1 Committee Membership

The Chairperson welcomed back Seán Rogers MLA to the Education Committee.

**3. Northern Ireland Teachers' Pension Scheme (NITPS) – draft statutory rule –
Departmental Briefing**

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.06pm.

La'Verne Montgomery, Director of Education Workforce Development; and Seamus Gallagher, Pay Remit and Pensions Policy Team briefed the Committee on the proposed rule: The Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

2.32pm Trevor Lunn left the meeting.

2.33pm Danny Kinahan joined the meeting.

2.39pm Sandra Overend left the meeting.

Officials left the meeting at 2.39pm

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department indicating that it was content for the rule to be made on the understanding that the Department will be flexible in respect of the timelines etc. for key pension decisions by NITPS members and that it will review the need for flexibility in this regard on an on-going basis.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed to write to the Department indicating that it expects a substantial improvement in the near future to the collection and maintenance of equality data for the teaching workforce in order to ensure that the equality impact of this and other policies can be accurately assessed.

4. January Monitoring Round – Departmental Briefing

The Departmental briefing on the January Monitoring Round was deferred.

5. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking clarification in respect of reported delays to planned Minor Works related to Health and Safety issues in a school as a consequence of the absence of an agreed local Area Plan.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking clarification on the inspection of youth provision; Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) and other alternative education providers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to commission Assembly Research to provide background information on EOTAS and other alternative education providers.

The meeting entered private session at 2.45pm.

2.45pm Danny Kinahan left the meeting.

6. Inquiry into the Education and Training Inspectorate and the School Improvement Process – Reply to Departmental response

The Committee considered its reply to the response from the Department of Education to the inquiry into the Education and Training Inspectorate and the School Improvement Process

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department:

- again highlighting concerns in respect of the Formal Intervention Process and inadequate resourcing of school improvement;
- seeking an update on “paired observation”, changes to moderation practices, the introduction of a “running record” report, the replacement of 1-word descriptors in inspection reports and the development of the school dashboard;
- highlighting concerns in respect of the ETI Complaints Procedure and the effectiveness of post-school questionnaires;
- seeking clarity in respect of the inspection of Irish Medium provision; and
- recording its disappointment that the Department is not to: bring into effect a parental consultation platform or commission ETI to undertake longitudinal studies of the effectiveness of the education system.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish on its webpage its reply to the Departmental response to the inquiry.

7. Date, Time, Place of Next Meeting

The Committee will meet again on Wednesday 10 December 2014 at 10.00am in Methodist College, Belfast.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.46pm.

Michelle McIlveen
Chairperson, Committee for Education
14 January 2015