



Northern Ireland
Assembly
Committee for Education
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2014
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Jonathan Craig MLA
Chris Hazzard MLA
Trevor Lunn MLA
Stephen Moutray MLA
Robin Newton MLA
Sandra Overend MLA
Seán Rogers MLA
Pat Sheehan MLA

In Attendance:

Peter McCallion (Assembly Clerk)
Paula Best (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Jonathan Watson (Clerical Supervisor)
Alicia Muldoon (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Danny Kinahan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Maeve McLaughlin MLA

The meeting commenced in public session at 12.46pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as indicated above.

2. Chairperson's Business

2.1 DEL International Review Panel of Initial Teacher Education Infrastructure

Members noted that the Deputy Chairperson had attended an informal meeting with members of the International Review Panel on the Structure of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the ITE Colleges seeking figures on the employment levels of recent graduates and the number of recent graduates actually employed in teaching.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of its meeting of 24 September 2014.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Shared and Integrated Education Inquiry

The Chairperson advised Members that additional submissions to the inquiry had been added to the SkyDrivePro link.

The Committee noted that as previously agreed, submissions to the inquiry were to be published on the Committee's webpage.

12.49pm Sandra Overend joined the meeting.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Members noted correspondence from Barnardo's regarding a study into sexual exploitation of boys and young men in the UK.

5.2 The Committee noted correspondence from Carrickfergus College requesting a meeting with the Chairperson to highlight the recent examination achievements of its students.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chairperson to meet with high-achieving pupils from Carrickfergus College.

5.3 Members noted correspondence relating to a complaint from concerned parents in respect of the North Eastern Education Library Board (NEELB) and its provision of autism support for a child.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department in respect of the complaints procedure for parents relating to educational provision including Special Educational Needs.

5.4 The Committee noted an invitation from CollegesNI for Members to attend the CollegesNI Showcase Event on 14 October 2014 in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings.

12.52pm Sandra Overend left the meeting.

5.5 The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Education enclosing the revised Development Proposal guidance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department asking that reference to the revised guidance be included in the Area Planning briefing on 8 October 2014.

12.53pm Sandra Overend re-joined the meeting.

5.6 The Committee noted a response from CCEA replying to Committee queries regarding the CCEA 2013-14 Annual Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for comment on the concerns raised by CCEA particularly regarding the risks associated with CCEA's ICT support for Computer-Based Assessment and A2C and the previously delayed full approval of the CCEA budget for 2014-15.

5.7 The Committee noted an invitation from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to attend a Celebration of China National Day on Wednesday 1 October 2014.

6. Draft Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the press release for the Sentinus STEM event on 1 October 2014.

The Committee considered its draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme

12.57pm Jonathan Craig left the meeting.

The Chairperson suspended the meeting at 12.57pm.

The meeting resumed at 1.00pm with the following Members present:

Michelle McIlveen, Chris Hazzard, Trevor Lunn, Stephen Moutray, Sandra Overend, Seán Rogers and Pat Sheehan.

7. Ministerial briefing- Education Bill - Accelerated Passage

The Minister and his officials joined the meeting at 1.01pm.

John O'Dowd MLA, Minister for Education, in line with Standing Order 42(3), briefed the Committee on his reasons for seeking accelerated passage for the Education Bill; the consequences of accelerated passage not being granted and the steps he is to take to minimise future use of accelerated passage procedure.

The following officials accompanied the Minister: Fiona Hepper, Deputy Secretary; Paul Price, Director ESA Delivery; and Mark Mawhinney, ESA Delivery Unit.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

1.12pm Robin Newton joined the meeting.

1.18pm Jonathan Craig re-joined the meeting

1.25pm Stephen Moutray left the meeting.

1.28pm Jonathan Craig left the meeting.

1.32pm Pat Sheehan left the meeting.

The Minister and his officials left the meeting at 1.51pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking further information on:

- the numbers of staff expected to transfer to the Education Authority and the associated projected costs and timings;
- the structure of the Education Authority; and
- the key aspects of the Education Authority's Change Management strategy.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed to write to the Department again seeking further information on the implications of the Drumragh judgement for the Needs Model and for Area Planning projections.

8. October Monitoring Round- Departmental Briefing

Departmental witnesses joined the meeting at 1.54pm.

Trevor Connolly, Director of Finance; Philip Irwin, Director of Investment and Infrastructure; and Gavin Patrick, Deputy Finance Director briefed the Committee on the October Monitoring Round.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

1.56pm Chris Hazzard left the meeting.

2.07pm Sean Rogers left the meeting. The Committee consequently lost its decision-making quorum but, under Standing Order 49(5) continued to hear evidence.

2.37pm Stephen Moutray re-joined the meeting.

2.37pm Sandra Overend left the meeting.

Departmental Officials left the meeting at 2.40pm.

Members noted the following issues:

- the technical transfer in the draft submission of up to £1.0m to DCAL in respect of the City of Culture Legacy;
- the level of over-commitment in respect of teacher redundancies and the impact on the Welfare Reform penalty set aside fund;

- the number of vacant buildings or partially used campuses in the schools estate; and
- questions in respect of the disposal of buildings on the Orangefield High School site.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Date, Time, Place of Next Meeting

The Committee will meet again on Wednesday 8 October 2014 at 10.00am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.42 pm.

Michelle McIlveen
Chairperson, Committee for Education
8 October 2014