



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Education

Minutes of Proceedings

23 February 2022

Meeting Location: Teleconference

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Mr Chris Lyttle MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Nicola Brogan MLA
Mr Robbie Butler MLA
Mr Harry Harvey MLA
Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Ms Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Marcus Matthews (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealy (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Mrs Diane Dodds MLA
Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA
Mr Robin Newton MBE MLA



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The meeting commenced at 9:08am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies as above.

2. Chairperson's Business

2.1 Business Committee Decisions

The Committee noted correspondence from the Speaker to Committee Chairs on Business Committee decisions.

2.2 Increasing the Diversity of Witnesses before Assembly Committees

The Committee noted correspondence from the Chairpersons' Liaison Group on increasing the diversity of witnesses appearing before Assembly Committees.

2.3 Draft Chairpersons' Liaison Group report - Strengthening Committee Scrutiny Report

The Committee noted correspondence from the Chairpersons' Liaison Group on the Strengthening Committee Scrutiny Report.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of its meetings held on 16 February.



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4. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

5. Correspondence

5.1 The Committee noted an index of correspondence.

5.2 The Committee noted a response from the Department of Education regarding its budget.

5.3 The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Education forwarding a response from the Minister to An Gréasán/Gael Linn regarding Irish language uptake in English medium post-primary schools.

Mr Butler joined the meeting at 9:12am.

5.4 The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Education regarding the Department of Education's Spring Supplementary Estimates for 2021-2022.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Education seeking more granular detail on the estimates.

5.5 The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Education regarding a temporary modification of education duties (no.39) notice made under the Coronavirus Act 2020.

5.6 The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance to the Minister of Education regarding the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Bills sponsor seeking an update on its progress and forwarding the correspondence.

5.7 The Committee noted correspondence from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs regarding the use of glyphosate based products.



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Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Pink Ladies charity that raised this issue with it.

5.8 The Committee noted correspondence from BelcooTrafficCalming to the Department of Education, the Department for Infrastructure, and the Committee for Infrastructure calling for traffic calming measures around St Columban's Primary School, Belcoo.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Education and the Department of infrastructure seeking a written briefing on school traffic calming and road safety arrangements.

5.9 The Committee noted correspondence on the roll out of vaccination to 5–11 year olds.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister of Health seeking details of the implementation of the vaccine rollout for 5-11 year olds

5.10 The Committee noted an invitation from the Policy Forum for Northern Ireland to a keynote seminar on the next steps for the education system in Northern Ireland, and the priorities for the Independent Review of Education.

5.11 The Committee noted an invitation from Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum to a policy conference on the next steps for science and technology in UK agriculture.

5.12 The Committee noted an invitation from Westminster Energy, Environment and Transport Forum to an online policy conference on the next steps for the Capacity Market and low-carbon electricity generation.

5.13 - 5.25 The Committee noted correspondence regarding concerns on the Integrated Education Bill. The Committee stage of the Bill finished on 24 November 2021 and its Further Consideration Stage has been scheduled for tomorrow.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the correspondents indicating that the Committee Stage of the Bill finished on 24 November 2021 and referring them to the Committee Report on the Bill.



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6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered its Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme as amended.

7. Future Delivering a Better Education Estate for Future Generations - Oral briefing from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

The Committee noted a presentation from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The following witnesses joined the meeting by video conference at 9:26am:

Mr Emmet McDonough-Brown, RICS Senior Public Affairs Officer, Northern Ireland, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Mr Paul Bagust, Head of Land & Property Standards, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

The witnesses briefed the Committee on the International Building Operation Standard (IBOS) and its application for the school estate.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for the briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Education highlighting the issues raised in the briefing, asking how it is measuring and monitoring air quality in schools and asking whether it applies the IBOS pillars to construction and repair of schools.



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8. SR 2022/45 The Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022

The Committee considered a Statutory Rule, SR 2022/45 The Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022.

‘Question put and agreed:

‘That the Committee for Education as considered SR 2022/45 The Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules being content with the technical aspects of the rule, has no objection to the rule’.

9. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Education seeking publication of the report on the Review of Restraint and Seclusion before the end of the current mandate.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Education Authority regarding funding arrangements for Irish Medium Youth Services.

10. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next formal Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 March 2022 by video conference at 9:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22am.



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Chris Lyttle MLA

Chairperson, Committee for Education

2 March 2022