



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Education

Minutes of Proceedings

16 March 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 Daniel McCrossan MLA

Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Mr Robin Newton MBE MLA

Ms Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)

Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)

Mr Marcus Matthews (Clerical Supervisor)

Mr Craig Mealy (Clerical Officer)

Mr Christopher Rothwell (Research Officer) (Item 9 only)

Apologies:

Mrs Diane Dodds MLA



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Mr Harry Harvey MLA

The meeting commenced at 9:26am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies as above.

2. Chairperson's Business

2.1 report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules

The Committee noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules was content with the technical aspects of S.R. 2022/45: The Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022 which was approved by the Committee at its meeting on 23 February 2022.

2.2 Freedom of Information request

The Committee noted a Freedom of Information request.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of its meetings held on 8 March 2022, 9 March 2022 and 10 March 2022.



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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 correspondence from the Department of Education regarding a Temporary Modification of Education Duties (no.40) notice made under the Coronavirus Act 2020.

5.3 The Committee noted correspondence from Invest NI regarding an Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland.

5.4 / 5.5 The Committee noted correspondence from Substitute Teacher Manifesto providing speaking notes from their presentation to the Committee last week and additional information for Committee members.

5.6 The Committee noted correspondence from Outdoor Recreation NI providing information on its Virtual Conference 2022.

5.7 The Committee noted correspondence regarding concerns regarding the Integrated Education Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the correspondent referring them to the Committee report on its consideration of the Bill.

5.8 The Committee noted correspondence from the Association of Educational Psychologists seeking a meeting with the Committee Chairperson.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to respond suggesting that the Association of Educational Psychologists may wish to write to the new Education Committee following the election.



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6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered its Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

Mr Butler joined the meeting at 9:33am.

Mr McNulty joined the meeting at 9:33am.

7. Steam NI - Oral Briefing

The Committee noted a presentation from Steam NI.

The following witnesses joined the meeting by video conference at 9:33am:

Ms Sinead McGleenon, Client & Schools Engagement Executive, STEAM (NI)

Dr Alice D'Arcy, Director of STEAM Education Ltd

Professor Colette Murphy, Professor of Education at Trinity College Dublin.

Mr Louth McMahon, Technical Development Manager, Re-Gen Waste

Mr Tiarnan O'Hare, Executive Assistant, Re-Gen Waste.

The witnesses provided the Committee with an update on the work of Steam NI.

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 Minister of Education and the Minister for the Economy commending this initiative and asking how the Department interacts with the programme and engages with similar private CSR partnerships for education and career development.



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8. SL1 - Teachers Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2022

The Committee noted:

- An SL1 for the Teachers Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2022;
- The Teachers Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2022 Final Draft; and
- The Teachers Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2022 Explanatory Memorandum.

The following witnesses joined the meeting by video conference at 10:57am:

Mr Mark Bailey, Director of Education Workforce Development, Department of Education

Mr Brian Quinn, Head of Teachers Pay and Pensions Team, Department of Education.

The officials briefed the Committee on the proposed statutory rule.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for the briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is content that the Department of Education proceeds with the Teachers Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2022.

9. Budget Update - Oral Briefing from Research and Information Services

The Committee noted a Research and Information Service Briefing Paper - Public expenditure on Education (NIAR 36-22).

The Committee was briefed on the research paper by Mr Christopher Rothwell from Research and Information Service.

This was followed by a question and answer session.



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Mr Sheehan left the meeting at 11:33am.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Rothwell for the briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister asking for answers to the research questions posed, suggesting that Special Educational Needs should be a separate budget line and seeking information on holiday food payments and the timetable for Fair Start funding.

10. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

11. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next formal Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 23 March 2022 in room 30 Parliament Buildings and by video conference at 9:30am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03pm.

Chris Lyttle MLA

**Chairperson, Committee for Education
23 March 2022**