



Northern Ireland  
Assembly  
Committee for Education  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2014  
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

**Present:**

Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)  
Danny Kinahan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Jonathan Craig MLA  
Colum Eastwood MLA  
Trevor Lunn MLA  
Nelson McCausland MLA  
Maeve McLaughlin MLA  
Robin Newton MLA  
Sandra Overend MLA  
Pat Sheehan MLA

**In Attendance:**

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

**Apologies:**

Chris Hazzard MLA

*The meeting commenced in public session at 10.05am.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were as indicated above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

**2.1 DE Draft Budget 2015-16**

The Committee noted that the Department of Education's draft Budget 2015-16 had been published for consultation.

The Chairperson expressed concerns in respect of a proposed reduction in the Aggregated Schools Budget for 2015-16.

**2.2 Marshall Report**

The Chairperson advised that a link to the Education and Training Inspectorate's review which formed part of the Marshall Report had been circulated to Members for their information.

### **2.3 Brookeborough Shared Education Partnership**

The Chairperson advised Members of the work of the Brookeborough primary school Shared Education Partnership.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that as part of its inquiry into Shared and Integrated Education it would invite the Brookeborough Shared Education Partnership to give evidence.

### **2.4 Seagoe Primary School**

The Chairperson advised Members that she had met with representatives from Seagoe Primary School.

**Agreed:** the Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking an update on its decision in respect of the treatment of Temporary Variations for Other Maintained schools and suggesting that a review should be undertaken of the assumed catchments of sectoral schools.

### **2.5 Christmas Cards**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to send hard copy Christmas cards to its witnesses during 2014.

### **2.6 Royal Society of Chemistry**

The Chairperson advised Members that she had received correspondence from the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) in respect of primary science teacher training.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the RSC correspondence to the Department, suggesting further dialogue in respect of the issues raised.

### **2.7 Strandtown Primary School**

The Committee discussed recent press coverage regarding reported over-subscription at Strandtown Primary School.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB) seeking clarity regarding current and projected admissions to Strandtown Primary School and the related policy issues.

## **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the minutes of its meeting on 19 November 2014.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **4.1 Shared and Integrated Education Inquiry**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Employment and Learning Committee regarding its Inquiry into Shared and Integrated Education.

### **4.2 Assembly Research paper**

The Committee noted an Assembly Research paper on science teaching hours for Initial Teacher Education providers.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the paper to the Department and the Royal Society of Chemistry for information.

## **5. Inquiry into Shared and Integrated Education – Dissolving Boundaries Programme, University of Ulster**

*Witnesses joined the meeting at 10.16am.*

Professor Roger Austin, University of Ulster; Antoin Moran, Principal, Ballyhacket Primary School and Alison McConnell, teacher, Carr's Glen Primary School briefed the Committee as part of the inquiry into Shared and Integrated Education.

*10.34am Danny Kinahan joined the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*10.58am Robin Newton left the meeting.*

*The witnesses left the meeting at 11.18am*

*11.18am Pat Sheehan left the meeting.*

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking clarification on the discontinuation of funding for the Dissolving Boundaries programme and confirmation in respect of contacts with the University of Ulster in the development of Shared Education policy.

## **6. Inquiry into Shared and Integrated Education – Centre for Shared Education, Queen's University Belfast**

*Witnesses joined the meeting at 11.20am.*

Professor Joanne Hughes, Director of the Centre for Shared Education, School of Education, QUB; Professor Tony Gallagher, Pro Vice Chancellor, QUB and member of the Centre for Shared Education; Dr Gavin Duffy, Research Associate, Centre for Shared Education, QUB and Professor Miles Hewstone, Director,

University of Oxford Centre for the Study of Intergroup Conflict briefed the Committee as part of the inquiry into Shared and Integrated Education.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*11.51am Nelson McCausland joined the meeting.*

*11.51am Colum Eastwood joined the meeting.*

*11.59am Maeve McLaughlin left the meeting.*

*The witnesses left the meeting at 12.29pm.*

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking confirmation in respect of contacts with the QUB Centre for Shared Education in the development of Shared Education policy.

## **7. Correspondence**

**7.1** The Committee noted an index of incoming correspondence.

**7.2** The Committee considered correspondence from the Chairperson of the PTFA of a local primary school seeking clarity on education policy in regards to the provision of additional funding for disabled pupils to participate in a swimming programme.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking clarification in respect of the relevant education policy.

**7.3** The Committee noted correspondence from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister providing information on the Together: Building a United Community summer schools/camps programme which started on a pilot basis in 2014.

**7.4** The Committee noted an invitation from Colleges Northern Ireland to Members to attend the Future Student of Business Awards on Monday 8 December 2014 Titanic Belfast from 12 noon to 2.15pm.

**7.5** The Committee noted responses from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) to Committee queries regarding the Needs Model and the planning of Integrated Education provision.

**7.6** The Committee noted a response from BELB regarding complaints procedures for parents.

**7.7** The Committee noted correspondence from the Assembly EU Affairs Manager enclosing a copy of the EU Matters Newsletter for November 2014.

**7.8** The Committee noted a response from the Department for Regional Development to queries regarding travel costs associated with school to school transport related to the Entitlement Framework. A response from Translink is awaited.

**7.9** The Committee noted an invitation from SELB to the 10th Anniversary of the Joint Consultative Forum on Monday 1 December 2014 at Ashfield Girl's High School at 10.00am.

**7.10** The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister for Education regarding the Education Bill and the establishment of the Education Authority. The Minister indicated that the new authority would be established on 1 April 2015 subject to Royal Assent.

**7.11** The Committee noted a response from the Association of Education and Library Boards Chief Executives confirming a scheduled briefing on responses to the consultation on Elective Home Education on 15 April 2015.

**7.12** The Committee noted a response from the Public Health Agency to a request for sight of the list of stakeholders that would attend the PHA workshop on Thursday 15 January 2015.

**7.13** The Committee noted correspondence from the Centre for Effective Services providing a copy of its report on early intervention in children's services.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask if and how this report has been used to inform policy making in respect of Early Years.

*12.30pm Colum Eastwood left the meeting.*

**7.14** The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Education on employability skills and connectedness between schools and businesses.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment for information.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to invite Momentum to brief the Committee on 28 January 2015 on its recent review.

**7.15** The Committee noted a response from the Minister of Education to the Chairperson regarding the recent serious traffic collision in the Cloughmills area involving children on the way to Clough Primary School.

**7.16** The Committee noted a response from the Department of Education regarding changes to the 2014-15 DE Business Plan in respect of Irish Medium Education and Shared Education.

**7.17** The Committee noted an invitation from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) Northern Ireland to the Chairperson to attend the official launch of 'Step Change, a new approach for schools in Northern Ireland' on Tuesday 16 December at the Hilton Hotel Belfast from 7.30am- 9.30am.

## **8. Draft Forward Work Programme**

***Agreed:*** The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **10. Date, Time, Place of Next Meeting**

The Committee will meet again on Wednesday 3 December 2014 at 9.30am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting was adjourned at 12.33pm.*

**Michelle McIlveen**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Education**  
**3 December 2014**