



Northern Ireland  
Assembly  
Committee for Education  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2015  
ROOM 29, 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  
Pat Sheehan MLA

**In Attendance:**

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

**Apologies:**

None

*The meeting commenced in public session at 3.43pm*

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

**2.1 STEM in Schools Motion**

The Chairperson thanked Members for their participation in the plenary debate on the Committee's motion relating to STEM in schools on Monday 2nd March 2015.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the Clerk should produce a position paper summarising the evidence gathered by the Committee to-date on the teaching of STEM in schools.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **3.1 Area Planning Event**

The Committee noted a summary note of the issues raised at the Committee's Area Planning event on 4 February 2015. The Committee also noted a revised paper by Professor Tony Gallagher, the Committee's Special Advisor on Area Planning.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the Clerk should produce a position paper summarising the evidence gathered by the Committee to-date on Area Planning.

#### **3.2 EU Commission's Work Programme in 2014-15**

The Committee considered its response to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (COFMDFM) providing feedback on the Education Committee's scrutiny of the EU Commission's Work Programme in 2014-15 and its plans in that regard for 2015-16.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the response to COFMDFM for its consideration.

#### **3.3 Education Authority Approved Final Business Case**

The Committee noted a copy of the approved Final Business Case for the Education Authority.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking: clarity as to whether the Department undertook consultation with stakeholders during the development of the Education Authority Business Case and details of the benchmarking arrangements for the final Business Case.

#### **3.4 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Bill**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to publish a newspaper advertisement and send letters to stakeholders seeking submissions to the Committee Stage of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Bill.

### **4. Secondary Legislation: SL1 - The Teachers' Pensions (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*A Departmental official joined the meeting at 3.48pm.*

Seamus Gallagher, Head of Pensions Policy Team, Department of Education briefed the Committee on the proposed statutory rule - *The Teachers' Pensions (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015*.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

3.53pm Seán Rogers joined the meeting.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that it was content for The Teachers' Pensions (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to be laid.

## **5. Secondary Legislation SR: The Teachers' Superannuation (Amendment) Regulations 2015**

Seamus Gallagher, Head of Pensions Policy Team, Department of Education briefed the Committee on the statutory rule – SR 69/2015 *The Teachers' Superannuation (Amendment) Regulations 2015*.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the following motion:

*"That the Committee for Education has considered: SR 69/2015: The Teachers Superannuation (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and has no objections to the rule."*

## **6. Secondary legislation SR: The Teachers' Pension Scheme (Consequential Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

Seamus Gallagher, Head of Pensions Policy Team, Department of Education briefed the Committee on the draft statutory rule - *The Teachers' Pension Scheme (Consequential Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015*.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the following motion:

*"That the Committee for Education has considered the draft rule: SR: The Teachers' Pension Scheme (Consequential Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly."*

*The official left the meeting at 4.00pm.*

## **7. Inquiry into Shared and Integrated Education - NASUWT and UTU**

*The witnesses joined the meeting at 4.01pm.*

Teresa Graham, Northern Ireland President, National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT); Justin McCamphill, National Official, NASUWT; Gillian Dunlop, Past President, Ulster Teachers' Union (UTU); and Diane Nugent, Past President, UTU briefed the Committee as part of the inquiry into Shared and Integrated Education.

*4.13pm Nelson McCausland left the meeting.*

*4.14pm Chris Hazzard left the meeting.*

*4.14pm Pat Sheehan left the meeting.*

*4.21pm Trevor Lunn left the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*4.34pm Seán Rogers left the meeting.*

*4.36pm Sandra Overend joined the meeting.*

*The witnesses left the meeting at 5.25pm.*

## **8. Correspondence**

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

**8.2** The Committee noted an invitation from Queen's University Belfast to attend the Children's Rights Education Event on Tuesday 10 March in the School of Education, QUB at 12.00- 1.30pm.

**8.3** The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Education providing monitoring information on its Programme for Government commitments.

**8.4** The Committee noted correspondence from the Education and Library Boards providing consultation documents on proposed changes to the publication of school admission information.

**8.5** The Committee noted a response from the Department of Education to Committee queries regarding Minor Works at St Louis' Grammar School, Kilkeel.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the response from the Department to St Louis' for information.

**8.6** The Committee noted correspondence from Pearson Education regarding 'Bug Club' - a phonics reading programme product.

**8.7** The Committee noted correspondence from Sentinus to the Chairperson in respect of the DE Draft Budget 2015-16 and proposed cuts to Sentinus funding.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward this correspondence to the Minister for his information.

**8.8** The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Education regarding the designation of a new or amalgamated school and the impact on transport assistance to pupils.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward this correspondence to Dolores Kelly MLA for information.

**8.9** The Committee noted correspondence from Sentinus enclosing supporting information relating to the Committee's plenary motion on STEM in schools.

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

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

The Committee will meet again on Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 9.30am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting was adjourned at 5.27pm.*

**Michelle McIlveen**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Education**  
**11 March 2015**