

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY,
17 APRIL 2003 AT 2.30 PM IN THE BOARD ROOM**

1. PRESENT Mrs M Alexander (Chairman)

Mr P H Aiken	Councillor P P McAleer
Councillor J F Bell	Mrs D A McBride
Councillor P Brannigan	Mrs C M McCaul
Mr M P Campbell	Rev C D McClure
Councillor J Feehan	Very Rev L M McVeigh
Councillor J Hanna	Very Rev S Rice
Alderman G A Hatch	Mr A G Sleator
Mr W Mayne	Rev Canon F D Swann

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs H M McClenaghan, Messrs W Burke, T M Heron, A McGee, W B Weir and Mrs C Lavery.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs S R Brownlee, Rev J Byrne, Alderman F E Crowe, Mrs S M B Fitzpatrick, Mrs E Gill, Councillor I E B Hanna, Mr C Mackin, Councillor W J Martin, Mr P C McAleavey, Councillor P McGinn, Councillor B Monteith, Mr J W Saunders and Rev Canon W R Twaddell.

4. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

The report** (B/4/03/2) prepared by the Human Resources Officer was adopted.

(Mr P H Aiken entered the meeting at 2.32 pm.)

5. MINUTES

The minutes* (B/3/03/3) of the meeting held on 20 March were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

(Rev C D McClure entered the meeting at 2.32 pm.)

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 CONCESSIONARY TRANSPORT (18.2)

The Chairman referred to a paper* (B/4/03/4) and explained that it set out the factual position. She said that any reports which members might have read giving conflicting information were untrue. Mrs McClenaghan said that she had been dismayed to read that Cookstown District Council had adopted a Notice of Motion

expressing its disagreement with a decision made by the Board on concessionary transport. As the Board had not made a decision the Motion was inappropriate as well as unhelpful.

It was agreed that a letter setting out the substance of the paper should be sent to each member of Cookstown District Council, the clerks and chairmen or mayors of other District and Borough Councils, the principals and governors of affected schools in the Cookstown District and the Department of Education.

Mr Heron said that the results of the consultation on concessionary transport would be reported to the Board but that because the consultation was both thorough and widespread it would not be complete in time for the Board to make a decision for implementation before the start of the school year 2004/05.

In reply to a question from Alderman Hatch about the previously agreed timetable for consultation, Mrs McClenaghan said that Counsel's opinion had been sought at each stage and that she had been advised to write to each of the 2,342 parents individually and to allow them eight weeks to respond. For the officers to analyse the responses in detail and prepare an appropriate report would also be time consuming. In reply to a question from Mr Mayne about a report that the cost of the consultation would outweigh the potential savings, Mr Heron said that the report was untrue.

Councillor McAleer said that he believed that the Notice of Motion had referred to a Board decision "which may ultimately lead to the withdrawal of concessionary transport". Mr Heron said that the Clerk of Cookstown District Council had forwarded a copy of the Notice of Motion and the minute and that the relevant words were "which will ultimately lead to the withdrawal of concessionary transport". Councillor McAleer said that he had clearly understood that the Board had not made a decision and that it was the intention of the Notice of Motion to refer to a situation which might ultimately arise.

When Mr Aiken asked if the delay in reaching a decision which could save a considerable sum of money would affect the current year's budget Mr Heron said that the budget had been prepared without taking account of any such savings.

6.2 PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION (7.3)

Mr Sleator said that he supported the proposal to establish a sub-committee but that he believed that the composition of the Pre-School Education Advisory Group itself should be reviewed. Mrs McClenaghan said that the Education Committee would have an opportunity to do so.

7. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

7.1 DEPUTATION

The Chairman referred to the deputation which had met the Minister on 25 March and read from a letter received from Miss Jane Kennedy. She had congratulated the

Chairman on the constructive presentation on the issues. She had assured the Board that due note would be taken of the representations made in relation to formula funding and the general budgetary position for 2004/05. The letter also confirmed that the Department would work with the Board in addressing the needs of the capital building programme. Mrs McClenaghan said that a useful meeting about the capital programme had been held subsequent to the meeting with the Minister.

7.2 BUSINESS PLANS

Mrs McClenaghan referred to a letter** (B/4/03/5) from the Department of Education dated 11 April 2003. She said that the plan, while welcome, was several months too late to assist the Board in the preparation of its own Business Plan, which was done in the autumn of each year. Mr Sleator asked that the minutes should record this fact and that the Board should request the Department to issue copies of its business plan by the beginning of October in future years.

Mrs McClenaghan said that the Department's business plan would be of interest to members and recommended that they should read it on the Department's website. Alternatively, she could arrange for copies to be printed if members wished.

7.3 UTV CHOIR OF THE YEAR

The Chairman said that the Chief Executive and she had attended the final of the Grammar School Section which had been won by Sacred Heart Grammar School. She said that she would arrange for Sacred Heart Grammar School choir to sing at a future Board meeting.

The Board agreed to send congratulations to Sacred Heart Grammar School, St Mary's High School, Lurgan which had been placed joint second in the Secondary Section and Dromore Central Primary School which had been highly commended.

7.4 BENBURB PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Chairman said that the Chief Executive and she had attended a presentation of "The Emperor's New Clothes" in which all 36 pupils at this school had been involved.

7.5 SET THE SCENE

The Board agreed to send congratulations to Banbridge Academy which was the Southern Board finalist in this competition for musical productions and to Kilkeel High School and St Joseph's Grammar School which had won awards.

7.6 YOUNG ENTERPRISE MINI COMPANY AWARD SCHEME AND MATHEMATIQUES SANS FRONTIERES

The Board agreed to send congratulations to Banbridge Academy which was the Southern Board finalist in these competitions.

7.7 YOUTH EDUCATION SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP

Mrs McClenaghan said that the details of grants totalling £7m had been announced at a recent function. She reminded members that the Southern Education and Library Board was the Intermediary Funding Body in co-operation with its sectoral partner, Youthnet.

8. SCHEME OF MANAGEMENT FOR CONTROLLED SCHOOLS

It was agreed to carry out consultation on this Scheme* (B/4/03/6) subject to the amendment of the heading Part III Section 4 (a) which should read Nursery and Special Schools.

Mr Sleator asked if the final version of the Scheme could be written in plain English and in a form which could be understood when read without amplification. As an example he drew attention to the third line of Section 20 (2) (h) (i) which referred to Article 54 of the 1989 Order. The Scheme would be easier to understand if the text of the relevant part of the article was included.

Mr Aiken asked if there were many differences between the current and proposed schemes. Mrs McClenaghan said that it had changed significantly and that she would summarise the changes and circulate them to members. Mr Campbell referred to an Education Bill on which the Board had been invited to submit comments and asked about its current status. Mr Burke understood that it had been superseded by an Order in Council which was now law.

9. PREMATURE RETIREMENT ON GROUNDS OF VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY

It was agreed to discuss this item in committee and when the Board resumed the Chief Executive reported that in the light of a re-structuring which would result in the post of Deputy Warden being suppressed it was recommended that premature retirement be granted to the officer named in the table with added costs as shown. Her report was adopted.

<i>Officer</i>	<i>Post</i>	<i>Added Service</i>	<i>Total Cost to Board</i>
T Mitten	Warden, Killowen OEC	4 years	£85, 577

10. AUDIT COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Sleator drew attention to minutes 7 and 11 and pointed out that if the Board adopted the minutes it would be adopting the risk policy.

The minutes* (A/3/03/8) of the meeting held on 20 March were adopted.

11. TEACHING APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes (TAC/3/03/9.1 and 9.2) of the meetings held on 18 and 31 March were noted.

12. TEACHERS' STAFFING COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes** (TSC/4/03/10) of the meeting held on 9 April were noted.

13. SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mrs McCaul drew attention to the fourth and sixth paragraphs of minute 7. She thanked the members of the Committee for their attendance at meetings, particularly those which had taken place at special schools.

The minutes* (SE/3/03/11) of the meeting held on 20 March were adopted.

14. CONSULTANTS' SELECTION PANEL : MINUTES

The minutes* (CSP/4/03/12) of the meeting held on 9 April were adopted.

15. ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARDS - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL : MINUTES

15.1 CCEA NORTHERN IRELAND COUNCIL (2730)

Mrs McClenaghan informed the Board that she was now a member of the Council.

15.2 NORTH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION CONFERENCE (2731)

Mrs McClenaghan referred to the reference in this minute to an appendix** (B/4/03/13) which had not been attached and said that it was now to hand.

15.3 ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2003 (2732)

It was noted that this Conference, when Mrs McBride would be installed as President of the Association, would be held in Armagh on 2 October 2003.

The minutes* (B/4/03/13) of a meeting held on 5 February were noted.

The meeting ended at 3.19 pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE

* Paper circulated

** Paper tabled

18 April 2003
WBW/LMcC