

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

1. PRESENT

Mrs M Alexander (Chairman)

Mr P H Aiken
Councillor J F Bell
Councillor P Brannigan
Mrs S R Brownlee
Mr M P Campbell
Dr P Cunningham
Mrs M E Donnell
Mrs S M B Fitzpatrick
Mrs E Gill
Alderman G A Hatch
Councillor A B Lewis

Mr W Mayne
Mr P C McAleavey
Councillor P P McAleer
Mrs C M McCaul
Rev C D McClure
Councillor W J McIlwrath
Very Rev L M McVeigh
Mr J W Saunders
Mr A G Sleator
Rev Canon F D Swann
Rev Canon W R Twaddell

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs H M McClenaghan, Messrs W Burke, T M Heron, W B Weir and for part of the meeting Mr J F Curran, Mr P J A McGee, Mrs E Benson and Mrs C M Lavery.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Rev J Byrne, Alderman F E Crowe, Councillor J Feehan, Councillor I E B Hanna, Mrs D A McBride, Councillor P McGinn, Councillor S McRoberts, Councillor B Monteith and Very Rev S Rice.

4. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

The report** (B/9/03/2) prepared by the Head of Human Resources Manager was adopted.

5. MINUTES

The minutes* (B/9/03/3) of the meeting held on 31 July were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

(Very Rev L M McVeigh entered the meeting at 2.38 pm.)

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 NORTH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION CONFERENCE : ATTENDANCE (9.1)

Mrs McClenaghan read a list of the members for whom places had been booked and asked that other members who wished to attend should let her know as soon as possible.

(Dr P Cunningham entered the meeting at 2.40 pm.)

6.2 PROPOSAL AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION NO 180 (THE DRELINCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL) : REPORT (9.2)

Mrs McClenaghan reported that a parent had made an application for a judicial review. However, at the pre-hearing the judge had refused the application.

6.3 PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION EXPANSION PROGRAMME : POLICY REVIEW (10.3)

Mrs McClenaghan presented a letter** (B/9/03/5) from the Department of Education written in response to the Board's letter. Alderman Hatch said that the reply was encouraging in that it confirmed that the question of full-time and part-time attendance, which for many people was the principal concern, would be addressed during the Review.

6.4 BOARD MEMBERS : ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCES (15)

The Board noted the Department of Education's letter** (B/9/03/4.4) setting out the revised honorarium for chairmen with effect from 1 April 2002 and the revised rate of Attendance Allowance with effect from 1 April 2003.

The Board noted a letter* from the Department of Education dated 3 September 2003 in response to the letter sent by the Secretary of the ANIELB in October 2002 (B/9/02/3 m15).

6.5 BEST VALUE COMMITTEE : MINUTES: PRESENTATION ON "STEPS TO EXCELLENCE" (22)

Mrs McClenaghan drew the attention of members to the times of these presentations which were shown in a letter she had sent to each member.

6.6 ANIELB ANNUAL CONFERENCE (28)

Mrs McClenaghan read a list of the members for whom places had been booked and asked other members to inform her if they had booked places directly or wished her to do so on their behalf.

(Mrs S R Brownlee entered the meeting at 2.44 pm.)

7. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

7.1 ECO SCHOOL GREEN FLAG STATUS.

Mrs McClenaghan reported on the recent achievement of Edenderry Primary School (Banbridge), St. Colman's Primary School (Bann) and Banbridge High School which had been awarded Green Flag Status in this programme. It was agreed that she should invite each of the schools to be represented at the start of the October meeting.

7.2 SOUTH ULSTER YOUTH BAND AND SOUTH ULSTER ORCHESTRA

Mrs McClenaghan read a letter from the Mayor of Craigavon informing the Board that two Councillors had been in La Grange, the sister city of Craigavon, and had been very impressed by the performances and general demeanour of members of the band and orchestra. Mrs E Benson, Assistant Advisory Officer for Music, said that she was very gratified to hear the Mayor's report and thanked members of the Board for the financial support allocated to the tour. She said that the members of the band and orchestra had involved themselves in a considerable level of fund raising and that they had proved to be exceptionally good ambassadors for the Board and for Northern Ireland.

7.3 ARTS COUNCIL : MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman said that she was delighted to be able to report that Mrs E Benson had been appointed to membership of the Arts Council. She offered Mrs Benson the congratulations of the Board.

8. SCHEMES FOR COMMITTEES

8.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board adopted the revised Scheme* (B/9/03/6.1).

8.2 SPECIAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Board adopted the revised Scheme* (B/9/03/6.2).

8.3 SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Board adopted the revised Scheme* (B/9/03/6.3).

8.4 POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr Sleator asked if the Scheme for this Committee required revision in view of recent developments. Mrs McClenaghan said that it would be appropriate for the Chairman of the Audit Committee to become an additional member of the Policy Committee. She also read the Functions listed in the existing

Scheme and undertook to review them and to present a revised Scheme to the Board at its October meeting.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was proposed by Alderman Hatch and agreed that the Board should consider appointing only those members who had previously indicated a willingness to serve. The Board then made the following appointments:-

Special Business Committee: Alderman F E Crowe was appointed.

Special Education Committee: Mr P H Aiken and Councillor S McRoberts were appointed.

Audit Committee: Mrs M Alexander, Alderman F E Crowe, Dr P Cunningham, Mrs M E Donnell, Councillor I E B Hanna and Mrs C M McCaul were appointed. When Mrs McClenaghan pointed out that there was provision for a further member as Mrs Fitzpatrick had resigned from the Committee it was agreed that Alderman G A Hatch should be appointed.

(Mrs E Gill entered the meeting at 2.59 pm.)

10. EDUCATION COMMITTEE : MINUTES OF 2 SEPTEMBER 2003

10.1 CORRECTIONS

Mr Burke apologised for the fact that a paper** (B/9/03/8) in relation to Mrs Mullan's presentation to the Education Committee and a paper** (B/9/03/8) relating to school funding had been omitted from the papers circulated with the agenda. He also referred to minute 8.2 in which the reference to "PEAG Advisory Sub-Committee" should read "PEAG".

Mr Burke said that in paragraph 3 of minute 12 the words "remaining 43 Primary Schools" should be replaced by "43 Primary Schools with three or more children in a Reception class".

Mr Aiken suggested that in minute 8.3 the words "the appointment" should be expanded to "the appointment to the Youth Service Advisory Committee".

10.2 RECEPTION PROVISION : FUNDING (12)

Alderman Hatch drew attention to the eighth paragraph of the minute which recorded his request for information about the cumulative figures for numbers of pupils. It was agreed that officers would send a further copy of the 2002/3 PEAG Plan to him.

10.3 SCHEME FOR THE LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOLS : BOARD INITIATIVES 2003/2004 (13)

Mr McAleavey referred to the substantial sum of money which had been made available by the Department of Education to schools during August and September. He said that this had been unreasonably late and that in some schools it might have prevented the redundancy of a teacher if it had been distributed earlier.

(Councillor A B Lewis entered the meeting at 3.08 pm.)

10.4 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE : REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SUBSTITUTION COVER FOR TEACHERS (10)

Mr McAleavey stressed the importance of this report and encouraged members to read it.

Mr Campbell said that he believed that the report was not entirely accurate. He also made the point that some schools in England used the services of unqualified teachers and of supply teachers, both of which were less expensive than the substitute teachers used in Northern Ireland, making any comparison between the two regions unfair. He also pointed out that the majority of schools in Northern Ireland had teaching Principals.

Mr Sleator referred to Mr Burke's statement in the eighth paragraph about the difficulty in obtaining accurate data and questioned the effectiveness of the Welfare Officer's role if she did not have complete information. Mrs McClenaghan assured the Board that the Human Resources Manager had stressed this point to the Department of Education.

(During the discussion of this item Rev C D McClure entered the meeting at 3.12 pm.)

10.5 PROPOSALS AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION : No. 187 (GRANT-MAINTAINED INTEGRATED SCHOOL, COOKSTOWN) AND No. 188 (GRANT-MAINTAINED INTEGRATED POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL, ARMAGH) (15 and 16)

Mrs McClenaghan pointed out that if it adopted the minutes the Board would be agreeing to publish these Proposals. She explained that in the context of Integrated Schools it was required to do so but it could also comment on the merit of either or both Proposals. She also pointed out that it was Government policy to support an expansion of the Integrated sector.

The Board had a duty to write to each school which had submitted comments. She had received letters of concern from Moneymore Primary School and Orritor Primary School, both of which were controlled schools which were therefore non denominational and both catered for pupils in the catchment area of the Proposed New Primary School in Cookstown. Concern had been expressed that this school would open with 12 pupils whereas Toberlane Primary School had closed when its enrolment had

dropped to 14. She said that it was her duty to point out that the budget for new Integrated Schools did not consist of additional funding but was allocated from the overall budget and therefore had an effect on the funding available for Controlled and Maintained Schools.

In the case of the Proposed Integrated Post-Primary School in Armagh letters had been received from St. Colman's College, Newry, Tandragee Junior High School and Markethill High School. All were concerned at the prospect of yet another school being opened to cater for a share of a finite number of pupils.

Alderman Hatch shared these concerns and asked the Board to support the views of the schools which had responded. Mr Mayne said that while he was not opposed to parental choice the schools in Cookstown had declining enrolments and that the Board should record its concern at the opening of a small school which would be funded from the budget which would otherwise be available to controlled schools.

Mrs McCaul said that Controlled and Maintained Secondary Schools in the Armagh area had declining enrolment figures. Both sectors had opposed the expansion of Dungannon Integrated College to include a sixth form. She was aware that those who had expressed concern had been treated with a degree of hostility at the meeting with the then Minister for Education but she believed that the Board should nevertheless express its concern at this time.

Mrs McClenaghan said that the Board had never formulated a view on the principle of Integrated Education but had simply commented on Proposals as they arose. She asked if members wished to consider the formation of a Sub-Committee of the Education Committee with a view to recommending how the Board should take the initiative in dealing with the matter rather than react to each Proposal. Mrs Fitzpatrick said that this idea should be supported.

Rev Canon Swann said that there were a finite number of pupils in the Armagh and Dungannon area and that Dungannon Integrated College now appeared to realise that this was the case. Rev Canon Twaddell said that in general parents sent their children to well managed schools and if a particular school was not well managed, regardless of its management category, parents would send pupils elsewhere.

The Board agreed to ask the Education Committee to form a Sub-Committee which would deal with the general question of formulating a Board Policy on Integrated Education. In the particular cases the Board agreed to publish the Proposals Nos 187 and 188 and to submit detailed comments reflecting the present discussion.

(During the discussion of this item Councillor P Brannigan left the meeting at 3.20 pm.)

Subject to the amendments to minutes 8.2, 8.3 and 12 the minutes* (B/9/03/8) of the meeting held on 2 September were adopted.

11. SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mrs McCaul drew the attention of members to minute 4.1 which described an issue of major significance for the Board. The minutes* (B/9/03/9) of the meeting held on 31 July were adopted.

(Councillor A B Lewis and Councillor P P McAleer left the meeting at 3.40 pm.)

12. COMMITTEE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF PERIPATETIC TEACHERS : MINUTES

The minutes* (B/9/03/10) of the meeting held on 18 June were noted.

13. CONSULTANTS' SELECTION PANEL : MINUTES

The minutes* (B/9/03/11) of the meeting held on 9 September were adopted.

14. PROPOSALS AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

14.1 No 159 (MONEYMORE PS) : REPORT

Mrs McClenaghan said that this Proposal had been approved by the Department of Education.

14.2 No 181 (SAINTS AND SCHOLARS INTEGRATED PS) : REPORT

Mrs McClenaghan said that this Proposal had been approved by the Department of Education.

14.3 No 184 (ARMAGH CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' PS) : REPORT

Mrs McClenaghan said that this Proposal had been approved by the Department of Education.

14.4 No 185 (MOUNT ST CATHERINE'S PS) : REPORT

Mrs McClenaghan said that this Proposal had been approved by the Department of Education.

14.5 No 186 (ST PATRICK'S PS, CROSSMAGLEN) : REPORT

Mrs McClenaghan said that this Proposal had been approved by the Department of Education.

(Mr P C McAleavey left the meeting at 3.58 pm and Councillor J F Bell left the meeting at 3.59 pm.)

15. REVIEW OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

Mrs McClenaghan explained that she had placed this item on the agenda for the purpose of bringing members up to date with the current position. She had arranged a meeting between the Senior Management Team and a Senior Civil Servant involved in the Review of over 140 bodies identified by the former Northern Ireland Executive.

She understood that the Review's recommendations would issue in the autumn.

The Chairman reminded the Board that Mrs McClenaghan was simply reporting on the current position for the Board's information. The Board would make a response at the appropriate time.

(During the discussion of this item Dr P Cunningham left the meeting at 4.07 pm, Mr M P Campbell and Mrs S M B Fitzpatrick left at 4.08 pm and Mr J W Saunders left at 4.23 pm.)

16. CREATIVE YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Mrs McClenaghan explained that the paper* (B/9/03/14) was the most recent in a series of drafts. Boards had been identified by the Arts Council for Northern Ireland to deliver the programme and she had arranged for the Southern Board to have a central role to deal with the administration for the five Boards. Mrs V Haugh, Adviser for Creative and Expressive Studies, was currently assembling information to make a submission on behalf of the five Boards.

In reply to a question from Mr Aiken about the involvement of the Library Department Mrs McClenaghan said that while there was no formal role for specific departments the expertise available throughout the Board's administration would be used as necessary. The experience gained in the New Opportunities Fund's PE and Sports initiative would assist the officers in the successful management of the new Initiative.

17. EAST TYRONE RURAL LTD

Mrs McClenaghan explained that this Company was concerned with rural development and gave some details of the commitment needed for membership. It was proposed by Alderman Hatch and agreed that the Board's representative should be Councillor W J McIlwrath.

18. ANIELB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes* (B/9/03/16) of a meeting held on 3 February were noted. Mr Aiken pointed out that Mrs D A McBride would be installed as President of the Association prior to the next meeting of the Board. It was agreed to send her the good wishes of members.

The meeting ended at 4.33 pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE

* Paper circulated

** Paper tabled

WBW/AE
22nd September 2003