

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 2.30 PM IN THE BOARD ROOM

1. PRESENT Mrs M E Donnell (Chairperson)

Mr P H Aiken	Councillor P P McAleer
Councillor P Brannigan	Mrs C M McCaul
Mrs S R Brownlee	Councillor J McCrum
Mr M P Campbell	Rev Canon J McKegney
Dr P Cunningham	Councillor S McRoberts
Councillor B Curran	Very Rev L M McVeigh
Councillor F Dawson	Councillor R Mulligan
Councillor J Hanna	Professor P Murphy
Councillor R A Harkness	Mr A G Sleator
Dr M Hollinger	Rev D Somerville
Mr C Mackin	Mr J K Twyble
Mr W Mayne	

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Dr C Mangan, Mrs K Ryan, Messrs R Bullick, J Curran, T M Heron, P Mackey, A P Murphy and Mrs L McCall.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Rev J Byrne, Mr B Doran, Mr P Gildea, Mrs M M Magennis, Mr A McCreesh, Councillor K McKeivitt, Councillor B Monteith, Councillor Dr P A Weir and Mrs E Wright.

(Councillor Hanna entered the meeting at 2.32 pm.)

4. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Mr Heron drew attention to funding arrangements for posts contained within the report. It was proposed by Very Rev Fr McVeigh, seconded by Mr Mackin, and agreed that the report** (B/9/06/2) prepared by the Head of Human Resources be adopted.

5. BOARD MEETING : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 JULY 2006

On the proposal of Councillor Harkness, seconded by Mrs Brownlee, the minutes* (B/7/06/3) of the meeting held on 27 July 2006 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairperson and the Acting Chief Executive.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 INDEPENDENT STRATEGIC REVIEW OF EDUCATION : DRAFT RESPONSE TO PROFESSOR BAIN (8.1)

Mr Campbell advised that the Chairperson, the Chief Executive and he had met Professor Bain along with representatives from the NEELB, WELB and SEELB. He advised that eight common issues had been presented to Professor Bain by the Board representatives as follows:

- The poor quality of the estate in Northern Ireland in places;
- The quadripartite system of funding of schools;
- The demography and surplus places;
- The Building Handbook;
- The processes and procedures for rationalisation;
- Integrating education;
- The management of the estate, governance and school improvement; and
- Accommodating new developments in education.

Mr Campbell confirmed that he had found the meeting to be very useful and stated that Professor Bain had been very appreciative of the contributions from the Boards.

6.2 RESIGNATION OF MR A B LEWIS (8.3)

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Curran from Newry and Mourne District Council who had been appointed by the Minister as a result of the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr A B Lewis. Councillor Curran indicated that he wished to serve on the Joint Education Committee, the Joint Youth Committee and the Membership Committee.

It was proposed by Professor Murphy, seconded by Very Rev Fr McVeigh, and agreed that Councillor Curran would serve on the above Committees.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

7.1 JOINT COMMITTEES

The Chairperson reported that following the decisions taken by the Board at its meeting on 20 April 2006 the Chairpersons of the SELB and WELB Committees, which would form the new joint Committees, had met to consider administrative issues. She advised that the following had been agreed:

- Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons would serve term 1 - September 2006 to June 2007 or term 2 - July 2007 to March 2008.
- At the end of term 1 the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson would rotate.
- Both Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson would attend the briefing sessions with officers and each would present the joint minutes to their relevant Board.
- The Children & Young People's Services Committee Chairperson for term 1 would be Mrs K McCaul with the WELB nominating the Vice-Chairperson who would take over as Chairperson for term 2.
- The Youth Committee Chairperson for term 1 would be Councillor T O'Reilly with Mr P Aiken as Chairperson for term 2.
- The Education Committee Chairperson for term 1 would be Miss M Cunningham with Mr P Campbell as Chairperson for term 2.

(Mr Aiken entered the meeting at 2.47 pm.)

Mr Heron drew attention to the logistics of the SELB holding the joint meetings of the Children & Young People's Services Committee and the Education Committee in terms of accommodation, car parking and catering. He outlined the options available to the Board and advised that officers would continue to examine alternatives. Councillor Hanna sought clarification on the cost implications. Mrs McCaul expressed concern in relation to facilitating meetings outside Board Headquarters.

It was proposed by Very Rev Fr McVeigh, seconded by Dr Cunningham, and agreed that officers would facilitate the above meetings using the best available option.

7.2 POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE DESIGNATE OF THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS AUTHORITY

The Chairperson reported that the post of Chief Executive Designate had been advertised.

7.3 ENGLISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Chairperson drew attention to the news release** (B/9/06/5) announcing the Minister's decision to close English Primary School at the end of August 2007.

8. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION NO 215 : CLOGHER VALLEY INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Chairperson reported that the school was currently in operation in Fivemiletown with assistance from the Fund for Integrated Education. She reminded the Board that on 22 September 2005 the Board had published Development Proposal No 204 for the establishment of an integrated primary school in the Clogher Valley. On 6 March 2006 the Minister had confirmed that she would not approve the proposal on the basis of the number of surplus places in existing primary schools in the area, taken with the uncertainty over where the school would be sited in the Clogher Valley area and the potential impact it would have.

The Chairperson advised that under legislation the Board was required to publish the Development Proposal and to make comments on it.

The Board agreed to publish the Development Proposal* (B/9/06/6) in the press in the week commencing 18 September 2006 and also agreed that it would be placed on the agenda for the meeting of the Schools and Services Committee on 21 September 2006 and on the agenda for the Board meeting on 8 November 2006.

9. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO LMS COMMON FUNDING

The Board noted the letter* (B/9/06/7) dated 5 September 2006 from the Department of Education giving notice of the consultation on the proposed changes to certain factors in the Common Funding Scheme for all grant-aided schools. The letter had also sought the Board's comments on the proposals.

It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Mrs Brownlee, and agreed to refer the matter to the Finance Committee for detailed consideration. Mr Heron stated that school

responses to the consultation were required to be submitted to the Board by 3 November 2006 and a summary of these would be tabled at the Board meeting on 8 November 2006. The Board agreed that all relevant consultation documentation would only be issued to the Finance Committee for its meeting on 22 September 2006 and that these papers would subsequently be presented to the Board. In the interim period Members could visit DE's website at www.deni.gov.uk to access the documentation.

10. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION : STRATEGIC PLAN 2006–2008

The Board noted the Strategic Plan*. Mr Heron drew attention in particular to the Aims, Outcomes, Objectives and Actions shown in the Education Sector Plan on page 22. He confirmed that the aims identified in the Plan corresponded with those in Boards' Resource Allocation Plans.

11. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION : LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY ON THE EDUCATION BUDGET 2005-06 – END YEAR POSITION

The Board noted the letter* (B/9/06/9) to all grant-aided schools from the Permanent Secretary explaining the reasons for the underspend at end year and confirming that the money was still available for education spend. In response to a query, Mr Heron confirmed that this meant that £30m recurrent monies would be carried forward to the 2006/07 financial year and that £39m was earmarked for capital projects.

12. LIBRARY COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Aiken drew attention to the Saturday opening of the Irish and Local Studies Library, the launch of the new strategy document 'Delivering Tomorrow's Libraries' and the improvement in absence statistics. He expressed appreciation for the attendance of all Library staff especially those with full attendance. Mr Aiken also outlined the proposals which the Working Group was currently considering in relation to the Cookstown and Lurgan Libraries.

Councillor Hanna congratulated the Library Committee on the survey's report. He drew attention to the importance of providing computer facilities in all libraries and requested the Committee to ensure parity of treatment in rural areas when it was reviewing library provision.

Mr Aiken stated that the Committee would take on board Councillor Hanna's sentiments. He advised that the strategy document 'Delivering Tomorrow's Libraries' had set standards for provision and required that provision to be balanced with regards to resources.

In response to a query from Dr Cunningham regarding the closure of Newry Library in August, Mrs Ryan outlined the circumstances which had occurred to result in the staff shortage at this time. She apologised for the unfortunate incident.

Very Rev Fr McVeigh stated that his apology for inability to attend the meeting had not been recorded. Subject to this amendment, it was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Mr Mayne, and agreed that the minutes* (L/8/06/10) of the meeting held on 29 August 2006 be adopted.

13. TEACHING APPOINTMENTS' COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes* (TAC/7/06/11) of the meeting held on 7 July was noted.

14. CONSULTANTS' SELECTION PANEL : MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor McRoberts, seconded by Councillor Brannigan, and agreed that the minutes* (CSP/8/06/12) of the meeting held on 31 August 2006 be adopted.

Mr Sleator queried whether Boards of Governors were kept apprised of works to be carried out at their schools. He outlined a particular instance where a Board of Governors had seen an advertisement for building contracts for two schools. Mr Murphy advised that schools were currently informed of announcements for major works. He confirmed that he would ensure that schools were kept informed of planned works in future.

15. PREMATURE RETIREMENT ON THE GROUNDS OF VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY

It was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Councillor Dawson, and agreed that discussion in relation to premature retirements on the grounds of voluntary redundancy would be held in committee.

It was proposed by Mr Mayne, seconded by Councillor Harkness, and agreed to resume the meeting.

Mr Heron reported that it had been proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Councillor Hanna, and agreed that Mrs S Young, Information Librarian, would be offered premature retirement on the grounds of voluntary redundancy with effect from 30 September 2006. Mr Heron also reported that it had been proposed by Dr Cunningham, seconded by Councillor McCrum, and agreed that Mr H Crooks, Assistant Advisory Officer, Special Education, would be offered premature retirement on the grounds of voluntary redundancy with effect from 30 September 2006.

16. ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARDS : MINUTES

16.1 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2006

The minutes of a meeting held on 7 June 2006 were noted.

16.2 NOMINATION OF SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

The Chairperson advised that the Southern Board was required to nominate the second vice-president of the ANIELB for the year 2006-07. It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Councillor McRoberts, and agreed that the Board would nominate Councillor Brannigan.

The meeting ended at 3.30 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE

* Paper circulated ** Paper tabled
14 September 2006 LMcC