

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2006 AT 2.30 PM IN THE BOARD ROOM

1. PRESENT Mrs M E Donnell (Chairperson)

Mr P H Aiken	Mrs C M McCaul
Councillor P Brannigan	Mr A McCreesh
Mrs S R Brownlee	Councillor J McCrum
Rev J Byrne	Rev Canon J McKegey
Mr M P Campbell	Councillor S McRoberts
Councillor F Dawson	Very Rev L M McVeigh
Mr P Gildea	Professor P Murphy
Councillor J Hanna	Mr A G Sleator
Councillor R A Harkness	Rev D Somerville
Dr M Hollinger	Mr J K Twyble
Councillor A B Lewis	Councillor Dr P A Weir
Mrs M M Magennis	Mrs E Wright
Mr W Mayne	

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs H M McClenaghan, Dr C Mangan, Mrs K Ryan, Messrs W Burke, G Doran, T M Heron, P Mackey, A P Murphy, B O'Hara and Mrs L McCall.

3. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Mr P Mackey who had been appointed Head of Teaching, Learning, Curriculum and Youth Services for both the Southern and Western Education and Library Boards as part of the collaborative arrangements.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr P Cunningham, Mr B Doran, Councillor I E B Hanna, Councillor K McKeivitt, Councillor B Monteith and Councillor R Mulligan.

5. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

It was proposed by Mrs Brownlee, seconded by Councillor Dr Weir, and agreed that the report** (B/3/06/2) prepared by the Human Resources Manager be adopted.

6. BOARD MEETING : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2006

On the proposal of Mrs Wright, seconded by Councillor McCrum, the minutes* (B/2/06/3) of the meeting held on 16 February 2006 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

7.1 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS (5)

In response to a query from Mr Aiken, Mrs McClenaghan confirmed that a letter had been issued to schools detailing the reorganisation of Officer responsibilities as a result of the collaborative arrangements between the SELB and the WELB. She undertook to forward the letter to Members for their information and to ensure that the Youth Service Advisory Sub-Committee was apprised of staffing matters arising in the future.

Mrs McClenaghan stated that the Joint SELB / WELB Consultative Group would be meeting on 23 March 2006 to take forward proposals concerning the staffing structure within the Children & Young People's Services Department. She advised that any proposed impact on services within the SELB arising from recommendations from the Consultative Group would be presented to the relevant Committee of the Board.

7.2 SCHEME : SUB-COMMITTEE ON CHILD PROTECTION (12.4)

The Chief Executive advised that the Scheme* (B/3/06/4.1) had been revised to provide for advice to all Committees.

It was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Mr Campbell, and agreed to adopt the Scheme and to authorise the Chairperson and Chief Executive to sign and seal copies.

8. SPECIAL BOARD MEETING : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2006

Councillor Lewis stated he had voted against the proposal that the Board should reduce the available budget by the opening centre deficit (projected to be £776k) and that he had also indicated that his Party would not be voting for the cuts. He also stated that Councillor Monteith had voted against this proposal.

The proposal by Mrs Wright, seconded by Mr Sleator, that the Board should reduce the available budget by the opening centre deficit, projected to be £776k would therefore read as follows:

For	22	Against	2	Abstentions	1
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On the proposal of Councillor Harkness, seconded by Mr Sleator, the minutes* (B/2/06/5) of the special meeting held on 28 February 2006 were approved as an accurate record, subject to the above amendments, and were signed by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

9. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

9.1 RETIREMENT OF MR W BURKE

The Chairperson expressed her appreciation to Mr Burke for his dedicated service to the Board since joining in 1987 and drew attention to the esteem in which he was

held across the education sector. She wished him health and happiness in his retirement.

Tributes to Mr Burke were also expressed by Mrs McCaul on behalf of the Special Education Committee, by Mr Campbell on behalf of the Education Committee and by Councillor Harkness as a past principal.

9.2 RPA : STAKEHOLDERS' GROUP AND COMMUNICATION STEERING GROUP

Mrs McClenaghan stated that the Permanent Secretary believed that the establishment of a Stakeholders' Group and a Communication Steering Group were paramount to good quality communication among participating organisations.

It was proposed by Professor Murphy, seconded by Rev Canon McKegney and agreed that the Chief Executive would serve on the Stakeholders' Group and that she would be authorised to nominate a second-tier officer to attend in her place should this prove necessary.

It was proposed by Very Rev Fr McVeigh, seconded by Mr McCreesh and agreed that the Information Officer would serve on the Communication Steering Group and that, in his absence, the Chief Executive would be authorised to nominate an appropriate officer.

9.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 204 : THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRANT-MAINTAINED INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THE CLOGHER VALLEY AREA

The Chairperson stated that a letter dated 6 March 2006 had been received from the Department of Education advising that the Development Proposal had not been approved.

9.4 VISITS BY CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairperson referred to the schools in the Dromore and Banbridge area that she and the Chief Executive had visited on 9 March.

9.5 DUNGANNON PRIMARY SCHOOL : OPENING OF ICT ACCOMMODATION

The Chairperson advised that Mr Campbell, as Chairperson of the Education Committee, had opened the ICT accommodation at Dungannon Primary School on 8 March 2006. Mr Campbell expressed his admiration towards the work undertaken by the children at Dungannon Primary School and drew attention to the commitment of the staff.

9.6 AUDIT COMMITTEE

With the approval of the Chairperson, Mr Sleator advised that the Audit Committee, at its meeting at 9.45 am on 23 March 2006, would focus mainly on training for Members. He urged a full attendance.

10. YOUTH SERVICE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2006/07

The SELB Youth Service baseline budget for 2006/07 had been set by the Department of Education at £3,765k, representing an increase of £131k (approximately 3.6%) on the current year's core budget. The allocation of £3,765k included funding for maintenance within the Youth Service. It was noted that neither the capital allocation for 2006/07 had been received nor an allocation for the YSCRSS (Youth Service Community Relations Support Scheme).

Mr Doran outlined the contents of the paper* (B/3/06/8) and drew attention to the additional funding of £280k which could be effected through the collaborative arrangements with the WELB, efficiency measures and a reduction in the maintenance budget. He identified the budget proposals for 2006/07.

In response to a query from Councillor Lewis, Mr Doran stated that while the baseline budget would increase by approximately 3.6% the Youth Service would still be required to achieve efficiency cuts in order to deliver services to its current standards.

In response to a query from Mr Aiken regarding future arrangements in relation to ARNE, Mr Doran advised that the Department of Education was proposing to review the percentage for the Targeting Social Need element. He drew attention to the advantages to the SELB of rurality and population being currently used as determining factors.

It was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Mr Twyble, and agreed that the paper setting out the budget proposals for the Youth Service for 2006/07 be approved.

11. SPECIAL AND POST-PRIMARY TEACHERS' CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE : APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

It was noted that the Scheme for the Special and Post-Primary Teachers' Consultative Committee had been revised by the Board at its meeting held on 16 February 2006 to enable the appointment of any Member to chair the Committee.

It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Mr Campbell, and agreed that Mr J K Twyble be appointed to serve on the Special and Post-Primary Teachers' Consultative Committee.

12. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2006

The minutes* (M/2/06/10) of the meeting held on 16 February 2006 were noted.

13. SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2006

13.1 VISITS BY MEMBERS TO SPECIAL SCHOOLS (4.2)

Mrs McCaul advised that a schedule of visits to Special Schools had been prepared by Officers.

13.2 REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES 2006-07 (6)

Mrs McCaul drew attention to the review which would attempt to identify further efficiencies in Special Education and related areas.

13.3 PSYCHOLOGY TIME ALLOCATION (7)

Mrs McCaul stated that Dr Hollinger's remarks that the indicator for social deprivation did not include children with SEN-related needs had been omitted from the minutes. Waiting lists should identify children requiring either Special Education Needs or Psychology services to enable appropriate support and priority to be given.

Mrs McCaul also referred to the Committee's concerns in relation to the length of time children spent on waiting lists. She explained that the service was demand-led and resulted in an inability to prioritise severity of difficulty. She advised that a pilot scheme on the extension of the time allocation model had been introduced to 10 schools in the Board's area with the intention of rolling out the scheme to schools by September 2006. She added that responses to date to the pilot scheme had been favourable.

Subject to the above amendment at 13.3, it was proposed by Mrs McCaul, seconded by Dr Hollinger, and agreed that the minutes* (SE/2/06/11) of the meeting held on 16 February 2006 be adopted.

(Councillor Lewis and Mrs Magennis left the meeting at 3.36 pm.)

14. EDUCATION COMMITTEE : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2006

14.1 DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION NO 209 : TAMNAMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL (7)

Mr Campbell referred to the request from the delegation from Tamnamore Primary School that consideration should be given to an amalgamation with Moy Regional Primary School. He stated that Officers had undertaken to explore options and include financial information for submission to the Education Committee at its meeting on 4 April 2006.

Mrs McClenaghan stated that in accordance with Members' instructions she had arranged to meet with the Boards of Governors and parents of the four affected schools in the area. However, following discussion at one such meeting she wished to stress that the Board was not initiating a major closure programme and that these meetings were not a reflection of such a strategic decision.

(Councillor Hanna left the meeting temporarily at 3.40 pm. Rev Canon McKegey also left the meeting temporarily at 3.40 pm and re-entered at 3.41 pm.)

In response to a query from Mr Mayne regarding the sustainability of a network of rural schools, Mrs McClenaghan confirmed that a letter could now be issued to the Department of Education on this matter following the adoption of the Education Committee minutes by the Board.

14.2 DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION NO 210 : TULLYMACARETTE PRIMARY SCHOOL (8)

Mr Campbell stated that difficulties in securing a site for Dromore Central Primary School had impacted on the progress of this Proposal and advised that the new school was not expected to be open by 1 September 2007. He referred to the Committee's recommendation that the closure of Tullymacarette Primary School would be linked to the opening of the new school. He advised that Tullymacarette Primary School's current deficit was £74k and was expected to increase to £165k by 2008.

(Councillor Hanna re-entered the meeting at 3.44 pm.)

Mrs McClenaghan stated that the Board of Governors of Tullymacarette Primary School had met recently to consider its position with regard to curriculum delivery and had advised that a further meeting was being held in two weeks. Since class sizes were an issue with only 7 children expected to enrol in Key Stage 1 and 10 children in Key Stage 2 in September 2006, she advised that a report on this matter would be presented to the Board for further consideration at its September meeting.

14.3 DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION NO 210 : COLLONE PRIMARY SCHOOL (9)

Mr Campbell referred to the ballot currently being undertaken by the Board of Governors on the transformation of the school to controlled integrated status.

Mrs McClenaghan confirmed that the ballot was due to conclude on 24 March 2006 and its results would be presented to the Education Committee on 4 April. Attention was drawn to the school's small enrolment figure which still left the school in a funding situation.

14.4 NEW POST-PRIMARY ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSAL FOR A DRAFT EDUCATION (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER (13)

Mr Campbell advised that the Board's Response had been submitted by the closing date of 7 March 2006.

Councillor Hanna believed that the announcement from Lord Rooker regarding a moratorium on new build in rural areas would significantly affect enrolment numbers in rural schools. He considered that the Board should write to Lord Rooker highlighting this concern.

(Rev Canon McKegney left the meeting at 3.51 pm.)

Councillor Dr Weir wished the comments attributed to him to be amended to read "Councillor Dr Weir was critical of Article 28. He stated that ..."

14.5 TEACHERS' SICKNESS ABSENCE : APRIL 2004 – MARCH 2005 (14)

Mr Campbell referred to Mrs Ferguson's presentation on teacher absence and stated that this issue continued to be a cause for concern.

The Rev Mr Somerville commented that the teacher absence figure of 3.65% did not seem significant. Mrs McClenaghan undertook to present a paper on teacher absence to the Education Committee at a future meeting detailing variations and absences by sector.

14.6 CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2006 (12)

In response to a query from Mr Sleator regarding vetting of Boards of Governors, Mrs McClenaghan advised that the Minister was expected to clarify this issue in a Statement in the near future.

Subject to the amendment concerning Councillor Dr Weir's comments at 14.4, it was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Mr Twyble, and agreed that the minutes* (E/2/06/12) of the meeting held on 21 February 2006 be adopted.

15. FINANCE COMMITTEE : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2006

Mr Sleator stated that the Special Meeting of the Board on 28 February 2006 had addressed many issues identified in the minutes. He drew attention in particular to the necessity to investigate teacher absences in light of escalating costs and to the analysis of the year end position with its associated risks.

(Dr Hollinger left the meeting at 4.00 pm.)

It was proposed by Mr Sleator, seconded by Mrs Wright, and agreed that the minutes* (F/2/06/13) of the meeting held on 28 February 2006 be adopted.

16. LIBRARY COMMITTEE : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2006

16.1 LIBRARY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP – UPDATE (5.1)

Mr Aiken stated that he was encouraged by the responses to date to the questionnaire "Your Library Service". However he advised that his comments made at the meeting concerning correspondence he had received in relation to the Library Service had not been included in the minutes. He indicated that he would raise this matter at the next meeting of the Committee on 25 April 2006.

16.2 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES (5.3)

Mr Aiken drew attention to the allocation of £143k from DCAL towards the cost of voluntary redundancies.

16.3 LIBRARY SERVICE BUDGET 2006-07 (7)

Mr Aiken referred to the additional funding which would facilitate an increased stock fund.

16.4 LIBRARY COMMITTEE : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the June meeting of the Committee would be held on 6 June 2006 instead of the scheduled date of 27 June.

Subject to the amendment concerning Mr Aiken's comments at 16.1, it was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Mr Mayne, and agreed that the minutes* (L/2/06/14) of the meeting held on 28 February 2006 be adopted.

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE

* Paper circulated

** Paper tabled

20 March 2006

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