

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, 2 MAY 2006 AT 11.15 AM IN THE BOARD ROOM

1. PRESENT Mrs M E Donnell (Chairperson)

Councillor P Brannigan	Mrs C M McCaul
Mr M P Campbell	Councillor J McCrum
Dr P Cunningham	Councillor S McRoberts
Councillor F Dawson	Very Rev L M McVeigh
Mr P Gildea	Councillor B Monteith
Councillor R A Harkness	Councillor R Mulligan
Dr M Hollinger	Professor P Murphy
Councillor A B Lewis	Mr A G Sleator
Mrs M M Magennis	Mr J K Twyble
Mr W Mayne	Councillor Dr P A Weir
Councillor P P McAleer	Mrs E Wright

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs H M McClenaghan, Dr C Mangan, Messrs J Curran, T M Heron, P Mackey, A P Murphy, B O'Hara and Mrs L McCall.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr P H Aiken, Mrs S R Brownlee, Rev J Byrne, Mr B Doran, Mr C Mackin, Mr A McCreesh, Councillor P McGinn, Rev Canon J McKegney and Rev D Somerville.

4. BOARD MEETING : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2006

On the proposal of Mrs Wright, seconded by Councillor McRoberts, the minutes* (B/4/06/2) of the meeting held on 20 April 2006 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

5. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

TRAINING FOR BOARD MEMBERS (7.4)

Mrs McClenaghan referred to the training session on corporate governance arranged for 18 May 2006. She had been advised by DE that its representative could attend the seminar only at 7.00 pm that evening and that, if Members were agreeable, it would be satisfied if the necessary information was circulated to Members.

It was agreed that Mrs McClenaghan would circulate the information prepared by CIPFA to Members and thus negate the need for a further training session.

(Dr Hollinger entered the meeting at 11.27 pm.)

**6. COLLABORATION WITH WESTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD :
REVIEW OF COMMITTEE STRUCTURES**

Mrs McClenaghan referred to the revised composite paper* (B/5/06/3.1) and advised that the Western Education and Library Board, at its workshop the previous week, had given consideration to the same paper and had supported the proposals for the three Joint Committees. However, it had disagreed with the methodology for voting. Mrs McClenaghan explained that the WELB wished to include the Joint Working Group's original wording on voting arrangements which had stated "... except that a majority shall be a majority of the members of each Board".

Various Members expressed concern that this inclusion could negate the purpose of collaborative working and stated that recommendations from the Joint Committees would require the approval of each Board in any case. Mrs McClenaghan stated that she would highlight Members' views on this matter to the WELB.

(Mr Mayne entered the meeting at 11.40 am.)

It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Dr Cunningham, that the Board would support the establishment of joint Education, Special Education and Youth Committees with the Western Education and Library Board.

The Chairperson called for a vote which resulted as follows:

For 23 Against 0 Abstentions 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mrs McClenaghan advised that the draft Schemes* (B/5/06/3.2) for the Joint Education Committee, the Joint Special Education Committee, the Joint Youth Committee and the Services Committee had been amended in light of the proposed collaborative working arrangements and to take account of the following:

- *Scheme – Joint Education Committee (draft)*
The Joint Education Committee would be unable to receive or take action upon Development Proposals emanating from the SELB's Advisory Sub-Committee for Controlled Schools.
- *Scheme – Services Committee (draft)*
Mrs McClenaghan referred to the reorganisation of staffing within the Support and Property Services Department which would facilitate management of the Development Proposals and their being brought to the Services Committee. She pointed out the removal of references to the making of university and further education awards; references in the current Scheme which no longer reflected reality.
- *Scheme – Joint Special Education Committee (draft)*
References to specific legislation influencing the remit of the Committee had been expressed in general terms.

Mrs McClenaghan stated that Mr Aiken had requested that the wording under 1.4 in the draft Scheme for the Joint Education Committee “*the provision of facilities for recreational, social, physical and cultural activities*” should also be incorporated into the draft Scheme for the Joint Youth Committee. He had also requested that the issue of community planning should be mentioned in this Scheme. In response to Mrs McCaul, Mrs McClenaghan confirmed that the replication of this function within the Joint Youth Committee Scheme would not cause any ambiguity and would reflect opportunities in areas of recreational activity. Mr Mayne and Councillor McRoberts concurred with the suggestion to include reference to community planning within the Scheme. Councillor McRoberts considered that possibilities might exist for the Youth Service to participate in issues in the community where funding might be made available prior to March 2008. Mrs McClenaghan suggested that the following could be incorporated into the Joint Youth Committee Scheme “*The Committee shall make recommendations and receive reports on joint planning with Councils in the Boards’ area.*”

Mrs McCaul referred to the proposed reporting mechanism for PEAG, the Advisory Sub-Committee for Pre-School Education and the Child Protection Committee. Mrs McClenaghan advised that PEAG was a statutory function and therefore also existed within the WELB; both Groups would report to the Joint Education Committee. She further advised that the WELB was interested in the establishment of a Child Protection Committee. Dr Hollinger considered the time appropriate to re-examine the role and responsibilities of the Committee. Mrs McClenaghan referred to the rationale for the establishment of the Advisory Sub-Committee for Pre-School Education. Mr Campbell and Councillor McRoberts commented that the Advisory Sub-Committee had served an invaluable function initially but queried the relevance of its role now.

Consideration was given to the list of Sub-Committees currently reporting to the Committees of the two Boards. Mrs McClenaghan referred to the possibility of the SELB establishing a Youth Forum which could express views, not recommendations, to the Joint Youth Committee. She considered that the list of Sub-Committees could receive further consideration when the Schemes for the Joint Committees were further advanced.

It was proposed by Mr Twyble, seconded by Councillor McRoberts, that the revised Schemes, including the two additional comments to be incorporated into the Scheme for the Joint Youth Committee, be accepted in principle and commended to the WELB for common adoption.

The Chairperson called for a vote which resulted as follows:

For 23 Against 0 Abstentions 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mrs McClenaghan undertook to update the Board at its meeting on 18 May 2006 in relation to the WELB’s deliberations on the issue of Schemes.

Councillor Dr Weir stated that he had received information from the Department of Finance and Personnel in relation to pupil numbers in the two Board areas. He wished to draw attention to the fact that the SELB had responsibility for the educational provision

of 55% of the total number of children within the two Board areas and he expressed his regret that this fact had not previously been taken into consideration when the proposals for membership of Joint Committees were being drawn up.

Councillor McRoberts considered that Councillor Dr Weir's suggestion relating to population numbers might be considered too divisive. Mr Twyble reminded Members that all recommendations arising from the Joint Committees would require to be ratified by each Board.

It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Councillor Harkness, that membership of each of the new Joint Committees should be 30 with 15 members being drawn equally from each Board.

The Chairman called for a vote which resulted as follows:

For 21 Against 0 Abstentions 2

The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

(Very Rev Fr McVeigh left the meeting temporarily at 12.28 pm and re-entered at 12.29 pm.)

Mrs McClenaghan drew attention to the paper* (B/5/06/3.4) outlining possible options for determining membership to the Joint Committees and to the papers* providing suggested dates for Board and Committee meetings for 2006/07. Various Members outlined difficulties with the change of the Board meeting from the third Thursday in the month. Mr Sleator stated that the schedule of meeting dates was critical in order to enable Members to determine their availability for the Joint Committees prior to any declaration of interest. Councillor Lewis urged caution in determining membership of the Joint Committees; he wished that the interests of each Committee would be safeguarded.

(Councillor Monteith left the meeting temporarily at 12.42 pm and re-entered at 12.43 pm. Councillor Lewis left the meeting at 12.43 pm.)

It was proposed by Councillor Monteith, seconded by Professor Murphy, that following receipt of a final schedule of meetings the Board would elect Members to the Joint Committees by open declaration of interests.

In response to a query from the Vice-Chairperson regarding chairmanship of the Joint Committees, Mrs McClenaghan advised that the proposal within the composite paper had provided for the transfer of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Education and Special Education Committees and the Youth Service Advisory Committee to the three Joint Committees. Thereafter, the remaining 13 Members would be filled by open declaration of interests. She explained that the Working Group had believed that this proposal would retain the skills of the current Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons.

Councillor Monteith considered that an open declaration of interests by Members was in keeping with the Board's normal practice when electing Members to Committees. He expressed concern with the proposal in the paper that current office bearers would

automatically assume positions on the new Joint Committees, particularly the Joint Youth Committee, which he considered would have greater responsibility than the Youth Service Advisory Committee.

As an amendment, it was proposed by Mr Twyble, seconded by Councillor McRoberts, that following receipt of the schedule of meetings the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of each of the Committees would automatically transfer to the Joint Committees and that the Board would elect the remaining 13 Members to each Joint Committee by open declaration of interests.

Mrs McClenaghan indicated that information showing Members' preferences for the Joint Committees on which they would wish to serve could be provided in advance of the meeting when Members would be appointed.

Councillor Monteith did not accept that Mr Twyble's proposal was an amendment to his proposal. He sought a ruling from the Chairperson as to whether she was accepting Mr Twyble's proposal as an amendment or as a substantive motion. The Chairperson confirmed that Mr Twyble's proposal was an amendment.

The Chairperson called for a vote on the amendment which resulted as follows:

For 11 Against 7 Abstentions 4

The Chairperson declared the amendment carried and confirmed that it had become the substantive motion. She called for a vote on the motion which resulted as follows:

For 13 Against 7 Abstentions 2

The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The meeting ended at 1.20 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE

- * Paper circulated
- ** Paper tabled

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