

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY,  
19 JANUARY 2006 AT 2.30 PM IN THE BOARD ROOM**

**1. PRESENT** Mrs M E Donnell, Chairperson

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

**2. IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs H M McClenaghan, Mr W Burke, Mr T M Heron (for part of the meeting), Mr A P Murphy, Mrs K Ryan, Mr B O'Hara, Mr G P Butler and for part of the meeting Mr W Neville.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor P Brannigan, Fr J Byrne, Mr B Doran, Councillor J Hanna, Councillor A B Lewis, Mrs M M Magennis and Councillor K McKevitt.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

On the proposal of Councillor Harkness seconded by Councillor Dawson the report\*\* (B/01/06/2) prepared by the Human Resources Manager was adopted. Mrs McClenaghan outlined for members the sources of funding for each of the posts.

**5. MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2005**

On the question of accuracy Mr Gildea noted that he had been omitted from the list of members present. Mrs McClenaghan apologised for an error in the spelling of Mr Somerville's name. On the proposal of Mrs McCaul, seconded by Mr Gildea the minutes\* (B/12/05/3) of the meeting held on 15 December 2005, subject to the amendments in relation to Mr Gildea and Mr Somerville, were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

## 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### 6.1. SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL REVIEW (17.1)

Mr Murphy provided members with an overview of the position regarding the changing circumstances that had led to the review. He explained the assessment procedures that had been undertaken and the likely savings of £300,000 that would result from the review. Mr Murphy confirmed that the provision of crossing patrols was not a statutory requirement and had, therefore, been identified by the Board as an area for savings. He informed members that a letter had been issued to Principals emphasising the potential for review where there were exceptional circumstances.

Mrs McClenaghan stressed that the changes would not be implemented in an insensitive manner and that the review mechanism provided a framework through which concerns of Principals, Board members and the parents could be addressed.

Mr Sleator asked if there was the facility within the process to review the need for a crossing patrol if the profile of an area changed dramatically. Mr Murphy confirmed that this could be accommodated within the review mechanism. He stressed, however, that this was a non-statutory area of provision which was being reviewed at this time by the Board because of financial pressures.

Councillor Monteith highlighted the difference between a pelican and a light crossing and expressed his lack of confidence in the use of the LARSOA guidelines. Mr Murphy explained that this was a nationally accepted scheme.

Mr Twyble highlighted the need for consistency between the definitions of areas as hazardous by the Department of Regional Development and the decisions by the Board to withdraw crossings.

Mr Campbell also stressed the need for consistency of approach and asked that the reviews be carried out on site at a time when crossings were in use. Mr Murphy confirmed that this was the case in all assessments.

In response to a question from Professor Murphy about the intention of having some crossings replaced by pelican crossings, Mr Murphy responded that discussions were ongoing with the Road Service. Mr Murphy also stressed that Northern Ireland was unique in that education has the non-statutory responsibility for school crossing patrols.

Mr Mackin said that Northern Ireland should be congratulated on this as it took account of the welfare of the child. He emphasised the importance of teachers not getting involved in substituting for the removed crossing patrol as this would be illegal.

In response to a question from Mr Twyble as to whether the age profile of pupils had been taken account of, Mr Murphy confirmed that this had been built into the assessment.

*(Mr Aiken left the meeting at 2.57 pm during discussion of this item)*

6.2. COLLABORATION ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN SELB AND WELB  
(6.3)

Mrs McClenaghan informed members that arrangements were being made for the shortlisting and interview of applicants for the posts of Senior Education Officer Southern Education and Library Board and Senior Education Officer Western Education and Library Board.

Mrs McClenaghan also informed members that the collaborative arrangements would give rise to two voluntary redundancies and that although these posts would have to be filled as part of the structure, savings would be achieved through not filling posts lower down the structure.

On the proposal of Mr Campbell, seconded by Mrs Brownlee, it was agreed to discuss this item in Committee.

On the proposal of Mrs Wright, seconded by Mr Twyble, it was agreed to come out of Committee.

On the proposal of Canon McKegney, seconded by Mr Mackin it was agreed to accept the redundancies put forward.

*(Mr Burke left the meeting for discussion of this item)*

**7. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

7.1. MEETING BETWEEN THE FIVE BOARD LIBRARY COMMITTEE  
CHAIRPERSONS AND MR HANSON, MP ON 17 JANUARY 2006

The Chairperson spoke about the meeting with Mr Hanson, MP, attended by Mr Aiken, and informed members that Mr Hanson has listened very intently to what Board members had to say.

7.2. MEETING OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON WITH  
MRS SMITH, MP ON 24 JANUARY 2006

The Chairperson informed members that both she and the Vice-Chairperson would be meeting the Minister for Education Mrs Smyth, MP for one hour on 24 January. She reported that the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons from the other four Education and Library Boards would also be at the meeting.

7.3. PRESENTATION BY CHAIRPERSON TO TEACHERS COMPLETING  
THEIR EARLY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON 12 JANUARY 2006

The Chairperson congratulated all those teachers who had recently completed their early professional development at a function which she had attended on 12 January 2006.

#### 7.4. CORPORATE PLAN 2006/07 AND 2007/08

Mrs McClenaghan explained to members the position regarding the Corporate Plan for 2008/09 not being produced. This was due to the fact that it would cover a period when the Board would no longer exist. She advised members that the Department of Education would not be producing a plan for this period.

It was agreed that a new Corporate Plan would not be produced but that targets would be reviewed in light of the Resource Allocation Plan which the Board will agree in March.

### 8. STANDING ORDERS

The Chairperson spoke about the rationale behind producing the revised Standing Orders in terms of the need to remove gender references and to make some changes to the financial figures for tenders. She informed members that the new five Board Standing Orders are largely the same as this board's current Standing Orders.

Mr Sleator asked that further consideration be given to the wording of section 26.1 and 26.2 on page 20 of the new Standing Orders to provide clarification about issues dealt with under suspension of Standing Orders and whether there should be any period of time specified before they could come back to the Board.

Mrs McClenaghan in her response noted the need to maintain a balance between a situation where the Standing Orders became useless and having a democratic process for securing changes to Board decisions. Mrs McClenaghan also indicated that a form of words had not yet been found that could achieve this balance but she assured members that these issues would be revisited.

Mr Campbell referred to the omission in the new Standing Orders of section 21 of the old Standing Orders in relation to the 'Interpretation of Standing Orders'. Mrs McClenaghan agreed that this was a significant omission and undertook to speak to colleagues about its inclusion in the new document.

*(Dr Cunningham, Councillor McAleer, Councillor McRoberts, Councillor Monteith and Councillor Dr Weir left the meeting at 3.33 pm after discussion of this item)*

### 9. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMITTEE: ORAL REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2006

The Chairperson informed members about the meeting that had taken place between the Chairpersons' Committee, officers of the Board and the new Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education Mr Haire.

Mrs McClenaghan provided members with an oral report on the meeting and undertook to provide a copy of the draft minutes to the members of the Chairperson's Committee.

Mrs McClenaghan highlighted a number of the points made by Mr Haire in response to questions from members of the Chairperson's Committee. These included:

## **Review of Public Administration**

Confirmation by Mr Haire:

- that the Board retained its authority until superseded by a new authority;
- of the need to maintain high quality services and high morale during the transition period;
- that he envisaged that a 2/3 year period of settling in for services would be required after the amalgamations;
- that no additional funding was being provided to prepare for the implementation of the Review of Public Administration;
- of the need to establish and maintain good lines of communication during the interim period;
- of the range of Human Resource issues that would have to be addressed;
- that he planned to establish new structures within the Department of Education to implement the outcomes of the Review of Public Administration;
- of the potential for Board officers to be involved in assisting with the design and development of the arrangements.

## **Entitled to Succeed**

Confirmation by Mr Haire of:

- the commitment from the Department of Education for the full implementation of the programme;
- the statutory role of the Education and Library Board in securing the Entitlement Framework;
- the recognition by the Department of Education of the work that was currently being undertaken at local level to implement the Entitlement Framework;
- the recognition by the Department of Education of the work that needed to be carried out to support teachers in implementing the revised curriculum.

## **Finance**

Mr Haire confirmed:

- that the Department of Education was addressing the question of which services have now to be aligned and which can be postponed until the Education Authority is established;
- the imminent release of a single financial memorandum;
- the need to continue to use reduced pupil numbers to free up resources.

## **Youth Service**

Mr Haire confirmed:

- the need to maintain strong links between the Youth Service and the Formal Education Service;
- his appreciation of the contribution the Youth Service could make to the wider education and skills agenda.

Members of the Chairpersons Committee welcomed the candidness of Mr Haire in answering the questions at such an early period in his post and indicated that in their view he was a man who could inspire confidence in the Education Service.

*(Dr Cunningham and Mr Mackin left the meeting at 4.05 pm after discussion of this item)*

**10. SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2005**

In presenting the minutes Mrs McCaul highlighted the success of the 2004/05 audit of services in enabling the pattern of provision to be more closely matched to needs. She informed members that a similar exercise would be carried out this year and the recommendations arising from it would be considered at a later meeting.

On the proposal of Mrs McCaul, seconded by Mr Campbell, the minutes\* (SE/12/05/08) of the meeting held on 15 December 2005 were adopted. Mrs McCaul informed members that there were no issues arising from the minutes which required discussion.

**11. LIBRARY COMMITTEE: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2006**

In presenting the minutes Mr Campbell highlighted the following items:

**11.1. QUESTIONNAIRE: (5.1)**

Mr Campbell spoke about the well focussed draft questionnaire which had been designed for consultation on the future direction of the Library Service.

**11.2. PUBLIC MEETINGS: (6.4)**

Mr Campbell highlighted the view of members of the Library Committee that it was inadequate for the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure to hold just two public meetings about the 'Framework for Change' document.

**11.3. DRAFT RESPONSE TO FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE**

Mr Campbell drew the attention of members to the detailed response to the 'Framework for Change' document.

Mr Twyble in highlighting the quality of the response drew attention to the need for other bodies such as District Councils to submit responses on the document. He asked if the Board response could be made available to Councils.

Mrs Ryan responded that it would be and also informed members that responses could be made online using the internet facility at any public library.

On the proposal of Mr Campbell, seconded by Councillor Harkness the minutes\* (L/1/06/09) of the meeting held on 12 January 2006 were adopted.

**12. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2005**

The minutes\* (M/12/05/10) of the meeting held on 15 December 2005 were noted.

**13. TEACHING APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2005**

The minutes\* (TAC/12/05/11) of the meeting held on 14 December 2005 were noted.

The meeting ended at 4.07 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRPERSON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

\* Paper circulated

\*\* Paper tabled

GPB  
1 Februaray 2006