

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 1.30 PM IN THE BOARD ROOM

1. PRESENT Mrs M E Donnell (Chairperson)

Councillor P Brannigan
Mrs S R Brownlee
Rev J Byrne
Mr M P Campbell
Councillor F Dawson
Councillor J Feehan
Mr P Gildea
Councillor I E B Hanna
Councillor J Hanna
Councillor R A Harkness

Councillor J McCrum
Rev Canon J McKegey
Councillor S McRoberts
Very Rev L M McVeigh
Councillor R Mulligan
Professor P Murphy
Rev D Somerville
Mr J K Twyble
Mrs E Wright

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs H M McClenaghan, Ms J Blair, Dr C Mangan, Messrs G Butler, T Heron, P Keating, P Mackey, R McGreevy and Mrs L McCall.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr P H Aiken, Dr P Cunningham, Councillor B Curran, Mr B Doran, Dr M Hollinger, Mr W Mayne, Councillor P P McAleer, Mrs C M McCaul, Mr A G Sleator and Councillor Dr P Weir.

4. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Mrs McClenaghan drew attention to funding arrangements for posts contained within the report. It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Mrs Wright, and agreed that the report** (B/9/07/2) prepared by the Head of Human Resources be adopted.

5. BOARD MEETING : MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor McCrum, seconded by Mrs Brownlee, the minutes* (B/7/07/3) of the meeting held on 25 July 2007 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 LENGTH OF TERM OF OFFICE OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON : REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON MEETING OF CHAIRPERSONS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES WITH THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2007 (3)

Mrs McClenaghan explained that she had attended the meeting with Mr Poots on 5 September 2007 along with the Chairpersons and Chief Executives of the other Boards and a commissioner from the South Eastern Education and Library Board. At that meeting Mr Poots had outlined the parliamentary process involved in progressing the legislation for the new Library Authority which he stated could

impact on the implementation date of 1 April 2008. He had made reference to the size of the membership of the Board of the new Authority and was aware of the valuable contributions provided by publicly elected representatives. Mrs McClenaghan drew attention to secondment opportunities for officers to the new Authority and advised that two senior posts had recently been advertised. She stated that Mr Poots had welcomed meeting with the Chairpersons and Chief Executives and would do so again at their request or, if necessary, to discuss matters which his Department might raise.

(Very Rev Fr McVeigh entered the meeting at 1.45 pm.)

6.2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON : REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON DISCUSSION ON SCHOOLS' LIBRARY SERVICE (5)

Mrs McClenaghan stated that no distinct reference had been made by Mr Poots to the Schools' Library Service at the meeting on 5 September 2007 as this matter had then become ancillary to the issue of the date of implementation of the new Authority.

Mrs McClenaghan stated that Board Member concerns had been raised with Mr Poots and with Messrs G Boyd and W Haire in relation to the Vacancy Control Procedure. Assurance had been given that while the Vacancy Control process should be managed in a realistic way it was not intended to create difficulties for the continued delivery of services.

6.3 INVITATION TO MINISTER FOR CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE (9.1)

Mrs McClenaghan stated that the Minister's Private Office had confirmed that Mr Poots would be visiting the Board on 1 November 2007.

6.4 TEACHING APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE : MINUTES – MARKING SCHEME (9.2)

Mr Keating stated that he had consulted the Staff Commission on the concerns raised by Members relating to the marking scheme. The advice from the Staff Commission was that the scheme had been agreed by the Equality Commission and the Fair Employment Commission and was used by the Boards and CCMS.

Some Members considered that the benefit of greater flexibility within the marking scheme warranted further exploration. Mr Keating undertook to raise the matter at a meeting of the Inter-Board Human Resources Managers the following day.

6.5 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR P MCGINN FROM THE BOARD (11)

Mrs McClenaghan stated that Councillor M Murphy's application was currently being considered by the Minister and that she hoped to be able to invite him to the October meeting of the Board.

6.6 JOINT CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE : MINUTES – CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING (14)

The Chairperson requested Members to complete the pro forma requesting information on child protection training they had undertaken in recent years. It was noted that a date for providing Members with training in child protection issues would be confirmed in due course.

**6.7 JOINT CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE :
MINUTES – MEETING WITH HEALTH TRUST (14)**

Following Mrs Brownlee's suggestion at the July Board meeting for Health and Education officials to meet informally to discuss the statutory assessment process, the Chairperson advised that the meeting had been arranged for 27 September 2007.

**6.8 SCHOOLS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE : MINUTES – REVIEW OF
REFERENCE FORMS (15)**

Mr Keating confirmed that the reference forms had been modified to enable comments to be made regarding the attendance of applicants. He advised that he would consult on the amended form with colleagues in the other Boards.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

CHAIRPERSON'S MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR EDUCATION IN JULY

The Board noted the Chairperson's statement* (B/9/07/5.1) following her meeting with the Minister in July which had been posted on the Board's website.

Mr Campbell queried whether a representative of the Transferors' Representative Council (TRC) had been invited to attend meetings of the RPA Education meetings. The Chairperson confirmed that while one TRC member had been present representing another body, she understood that no representative of the TRC had been invited.

**MEETING OF ANIELB REPRESENTATIVES WITH EDUCATION
SPOKESPERSONS FROM THE FIVE POLITICAL PARTIES**

Mrs Donnell advised that ANIELB representatives had attended a meeting at Stormont on 10 September 2007 at which two of the five Education Spokespersons had attended to discuss concerns raised by the ANIELB. The two Spokespersons had given an undertaking that the questions posed by the ANIELB would be presented to the Minister for Education and the Education Committee of the Assembly.

ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS 2003/04, 2004/05 AND 2005/06

Mrs Donnell advised that copies of the Annual Reports and Accounts for the years 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 were available for Members. She informed the Board that the Reports had been laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly on 31 August 2007.

**LIBRARY SERVICE : UK COMPETITION "HIDDEN TREASURES BROUGHT TO
LIFE"**

Ms Blair explained that the Library Service had submitted an entry to a UK national competition organised by the British Library in conjunction with Microsoft. The entry was "An Hibernian Atlas", published 1798, which was a visual representation of pre-famine Ireland with maps of all the counties of Ireland. She stated that out of 82 entries across the UK, 24 had been shortlisted, 5 of which were from NI with the prize being the digitisation of the applicant's

work. The NI winner had been BELB with SELB being the only NI highly commended shortlisted applicant. She displayed the plaque presented to the Board and advised that the Board was entitled to have parts of the Hibernian Atlas digitised at a reduced cost. Leaflets of the work were made available for any interested Member.

The Chairperson and Members congratulated the Library Service on this achievement and expressed appreciation at the wealth of material housed in the Local & Irish Studies Library.

8. THE COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER : NEW SCHEME OF MEMBERSHIP

The Board noted the letter* (B/9/07/6) from the University of Ulster advising that it intended to review the appropriateness of the representation of external bodies on its Court. Its new Scheme of Membership would facilitate entitlement for membership for up to 50 organisations and the University was requesting the Board's consideration for such membership.

It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Councillor J Hanna, and agreed that the Board should seek to be considered for membership to the Court and that the name of Professor Murphy should be forwarded.

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

9.1 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 196 : MINTERBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Chairperson reported that a letter dated 3 August 2007 had been received from DE advising that the Minister had approved the closure of Minterburn Primary School from 31 August 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter.

9.2 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 219 : THE DRELINCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Chairperson reported that a DE press release dated 20 August 2007 had been received advising that the Minister had turned down the proposal to extend the Drelincourt Primary School to include year 4 pupils. The Minister had indicated that she had taken into consideration the probable impact on the nearby Armstrong Primary School to which the majority of children transferred at the end of year 3 to complete their primary education.

11. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes* (MC/7/07/8) of the meeting held on 25 July 2007 were noted.

12. TEACHERS' STAFFING COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes* (TSC/7/07/9) of the meeting held on 25 July 2007 were noted.

13. BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS : AMENDED SCHEDULE FOR 2007/08

Mrs McClenaghan presented the revised schedule* (B/9/07/10) of Board and Committee meetings for 2007/08 which took account of meetings from April to July 2008. It was noted that the Chairperson of the Library Committee had requested the date of the November meeting of the Library Committee to be changed to Wednesday, 21 November 2007 (starting at 11.00 am). The Board agreed to adopt the revised schedule with the amended date of the November Library Committee.

The meeting ended at 2.30 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE

* Paper circulated

13 September 2007
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