

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2007 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
Rev J Byrne	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 B Doran	Councillor B Monteith
Councillor J Feehan	Councillor R Mulligan
Mr P Gildea	Professor P Murphy
Councillor I E B Hanna	Mr A G Sleator
Councillor J Hanna	Rev D Somerville
Councillor R A Harkness	Mr J K Twyble
Dr M Hollinger	Mrs E Wright
Mr W Mayne	

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs H M McClenaghan, Dr C Mangan, Mrs K Ryan, Messrs R Bullick, G P Butler, G Doran, T Heron, P Mackey, T Murphy, Mrs L McCall and for part of the meeting Mrs M Maguire.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs S R Brownlee, Mr C Mackin, Mr A McCreesh and Councillor Dr P A Weir.

4. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Mrs McClenaghan drew attention to funding arrangements for posts contained within the report. It was proposed by Councillor I E B Hanna, seconded by Mr Twyble, and agreed that the report** (B/3/07/2) prepared by the Head of Human Resources be adopted.

5. BOARD MEETING : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2007

The minutes* (B/2/07/3) of the meeting held on 14 February 2007 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

(Mr Gildea entered the meeting at 2.32 pm.)

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 PRESS RELEASE : EAGLE ANNOUNCES RECORD SCHOOL FUNDING LEVELS (6.2)

Mrs McClenaghan referred to Dr Cunningham's query in relation to a case being made for an additional special school in the Southern Board's area. She advised that a survey of provision within special schools was currently being undertaken

which could result in some restructuring. However this was unlikely to result in the creation of another special school. She stated that the findings of the survey would be taken forward in consultation with the principals of special schools.

6.2 YOUNG PERSON WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (6.4)

(Mr Doran entered the meeting at 2.40 pm.)

Councillor Monteith drew attention to the issue highlighted in the Dungannon press in relation to the Buddy Bear Trust. Dr Mangan outlined support provided by the Board to independent schools and placement information since 2002.

It was proposed by Councillor Monteith, seconded by Councillor McAleer, that the Board should issue a statement acknowledging the valuable contribution made by the Buddy Bear Trust to provision for children with cerebral palsy and the community support it attracted. The Chairperson called for a vote which resulted as follows:

For	2	Against	0	Abstentions	25
-----	---	---------	---	-------------	----

The Chairperson declared the motion carried. Mrs McClenaghan undertook to issue a press release.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

7.1 WELCOME

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Feehan to the meeting.

7.2 REPORT ON MEETING OF THE SELB / WELB MONITORING GROUP

Mrs McClenaghan advised that the SELB / WELB Monitoring Group, at its meeting on 5 March 2007, had noted that collaboration was working well at policy making and operational levels and was bringing benefit to the recipients of the joint services. While the retention of joint committees remaining quorate was an issue the Monitoring Group was recommending that the quorum should consist of one quarter of the total number of members without distinction as to the Board from which members were drawn. The Board agreed to adopt the Working Group's recommendation. Mrs McClenaghan stated that the Schemes for the Joint Committees would consequently be revised and presented to the Board at its April meeting.

Mrs McClenaghan advised that the minutes of the Child Protection Committee were currently presented to the Education Committee for consideration. It was agreed that future minutes would be presented to the Children & Young People's Services Committee and that the Scheme would also be revised to reflect this change in procedure. Dr Hollinger stressed that Child Protection issues were pertinent within all areas of the Board's remit.

7.3 REPORT ON MEETING WITH THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DESIGNATE OF THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS AUTHORITY

The Chairperson stated that she had met Mr Will Haire and Mr Gavin Boyd on 6 March 2007 along with the Chairpersons of the other four Boards. She outlined

discussion which had taken place such as issues of rurality, schools with deficit budgets transferring into the Education and Skills Authority, the schools' estate and current difficulties being experienced with the recruitment of some posts within CASS. She advised Members whose term of office was due to terminate in June 2007 to contact Mrs McClenaghan in order to determine whether their term could continue until March 2008.

8. SCHOOLS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The Chairperson advised that minutes 8, 9 and 10 dealing with Development Proposals Nos 196, 213 and 217 had been deferred by the Board at its February meeting and were now presented for consideration.

The Board noted background papers* and letters* submitted in response to the above Development Proposal and a letter** from King's Park Primary School.

8.1 DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION NO 217 : WARINGSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Rev Mr Somerville declared an interest in Waringstown Primary School as his son was a temporary teacher at the school and withdrew from the meeting.)

The Chairperson welcomed Mr G G Kennedy and Mr C McCambley, representatives from Waringstown Primary School, to the meeting.

Mr Kennedy outlined the reasons in support of providing a double nursery unit at Waringstown Primary School from 1 September 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter. He reminded the Board that no nursery provision existed in the school's catchment area and that the school had an enrolment of 394 pupils with 90% living within a ¾ mile radius from the school.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for its input and the two representatives withdrew from the meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed Mrs L D Pillow and Mrs M Sergeant, representatives from Dickson Primary School, to the meeting.

Mrs Pillow expressed concerns regarding the Development Proposal particularly in relation to its potential repercussions on the future viability of Dickson Primary School. She highlighted the high regard for the school's work held by parents of children.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for its input and the two representatives withdrew from the meeting.

(Councillor J Hanna entered the meeting at 3.28 pm.)

The Chairperson welcomed Mrs J Hunter and Mrs S Hill, representatives from Harrison Primary School, to the meeting.

Mrs Hunter outlined the negative effect of a double unit nursery unit at Waringstown Primary School on the enrolment numbers at Harrison Nursery School and drew attention to the surplus of pre-school provision in the Craigavon area in the form of nursery schools, units and play groups. She pointed out that a

draft Development Proposal for a single nursery unit at Moira Primary School was also under consideration. Mrs Hunter requested a written report from the Board identifying those children who would enrol at the nursery unit at Waringstown Primary School without having any impact on Harrison Nursery School. She pointed out that Harrison Nursery School attracted pupils across the community and requested that she would also be furnished with a copy of the responses to the consultation from CCMS and the affected maintained schools in the area. She further highlighted the need to have regard for area based planning as raised by Sir George Bain and queried the timing of a decision on the Development Proposal in light of the recent Assembly election. Mrs Hill further outlined the reputation of the school in the community, the school's facilities and the importance of strategic planning.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for its input and the two representatives withdrew from the meeting.

Mr Butler confirmed that every school within a five mile radius had been given the opportunity to respond to the draft Development Proposal. He advised that PEAG places in the voluntary sector already existed at Moira, hence the proposal for only a single nursery unit at Moira Primary School. He further provided information in relation to births within the Craigavon Borough area. Mrs Maguire provided statistical information in relation to applications received, appropriate age pupils and under age pupils for Dickson Primary School, Harrison Nursery School and King's Park Primary School. Discussion ensued in relation to figures relating to Carrick and Donacloney Primary Schools, provision at Laurencetown and the lack of voluntary provision of pre-school places in Waringstown. Mr Butler drew attention to the necessity to purchase land at this time adjacent to the school as development work within the village could landlock the school site.

Professor Murphy urged caution in that a new Minister for Education could request a change in policy and the Education and Skills Authority could use a different geographical base for area planning. He also believed that the Board should consider the possibility of a single nursery unit at Waringstown Primary School.

Mrs McClenaghan explained the process and timescale involved in the publication of a Development Proposal which would enable a new Minister to consider and have input into the current Proposal.

It was proposed by Councillor McRoberts, seconded by Mrs Wright, that the Board publish Development Proposal No 217 for a double nursery unit at Waringstown Primary School.

As an amendment, it was proposed by Councillor Monteith, seconded by Professor Murphy, that the Board would seek to secure land adjacent to Waringstown Primary School, approve a single nursery unit at the School and review the need for a double unit after a period of 12 months which would enable officers to ascertain the level of its impact on surrounding schools.

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

For 8 Against 13 Abstentions 6

The Chairperson declared the amendment fallen. She called for a vote on the substantive motion which resulted as follows:

For 15 Against 7 Abstentions 5

The Chairperson declared the motion carried and advised that Development Proposal No 217 would be published.

Mr Mayne drew attention to the information requested by Mrs Hunter.

(Dr Cunningham, Councillor McAleer and Councillor Monteith left the meeting at 4.30 pm. Rev Mr Somerville re-entered the meeting.)

8.2 DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION NO 213 : AUGHER, CARNTALL AND CLOGHER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Chairperson welcomed the representatives from Augher, Carntall and Clogher Primary Schools to the meeting.

The representatives from Carntall Primary School voiced their opposition to the Proposal. They drew attention to the school's strong financial position, its stable enrolment trends, its necessity to refuse admissions due to the capping of its pupil numbers, its support within the community, the quality of the educational experience and its strong leadership and management as evidenced in the most recent Inspection Report.

A request was made that the Board should defer a decision on this Proposal to enable consideration to be given to the implications of the strategic review of education within the SELB / WELB areas, to implications arising from a devolved administration and also to ascertain the level of impact of the new integrated school in the area.

Mr Twyble paid tribute to the representatives for persistently and enthusiastically presenting their case to Members in support of their school. He drew attention to a point made earlier in the meeting that the Minister for Education would still be able to comment on the Proposal during the process should the Board agree to proceed with publishing it. He queried whether Carntall Primary School's capped figure of 84 pupils needed to remain in light of the criteria published for sustainable schools in rural areas. Mrs McClenaghan advised that the Department of Education took into account the size of a school's accommodation when deciding on the total enrolment and intake numbers.

The representatives from Clogher Primary School outlined their support for the proposal which would provide a new school in a green field site for the benefit of all children in the area. They urged the Board to agree a decision as early as possible.

(Councillor Dawson left the meeting at 5.10 pm.)

The representatives from Augher Primary School outlined their support for a new school highlighting factors raised within the consultation document "A Policy for Sustainable Schools" and pointed out the wider educational experience which would be available to the pupils of a new fit for purpose school.

It was proposed by Rev Canon McKegney, seconded by Councillor J Hanna, that the Board publish Development Proposal No 213, ie that Augher, Carntall and Clogher Primary Schools be amalgamated into a new school on a new site.

The Chairperson called for a vote which resulted as follows:

For 19 Against 1 Abstentions 4

The Chairperson declared the motion carried and advised that Development Proposal No 213 would be published.

The Chairperson thanked the delegations for their contributions and they withdrew from the meeting.

(Councillor McCrum left the meeting at 5.30 pm.)

8.3 DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION NO 196 : MINTERBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr Butler briefly outlined the enrolment position at Minterburn Primary School.

(Rev Fr Byrne, Professor Murphy, Mr Sleator and Rev Mr Somerville left the meeting at 5.32 pm.)

It was proposed by Councillor McRoberts, seconded by Mr Twyble, and agreed unanimously that the Board proceed to publish Development Proposal No 196 detailing the proposal that Minterburn Primary School would close with effect from 31 August 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter.

9. LIBRARY COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Aiken acknowledged the hospitality of the Mayor of Craigavon Borough Council for enabling the meeting to be held at the Council offices. He referred to the RPA meeting he had attended with DCAL officials and stated that the recruitment process for the Chief Executive Designate of the Single Library Authority would be confined to the RPA affected groups. He queried whether the Board could make representation on this matter. Mr Aiken further pointed out that the date of the next meeting of the Library Committee had been changed to Monday, 23 April 2007 at 2.00 pm.

(Mr Gildea and Councillor Mulligan left the meeting at 5.34 pm.)

At its February meeting the Board had deferred consideration of the first proposal within the Library Service Review and Budget in relation to the opening hours at Cookstown and Lurgan Libraries. Mr Aiken pointed out a slight change to the opening hours which had originally been proposed as detailed in the paper attached to the minutes.

The Chairperson welcomed Ms H Grimes and Mr D Harte, representatives of the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA), to the meeting. The Chairperson invited the NIPSA representatives to address the Board.

Mr Harte thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He stated that NIPSA was requesting the Board to reject the proposal to extend the opening hours in Lurgan and Cookstown Libraries to include two additional late nights and closure on Monday mornings for the following reasons:

- NIPSA believed that the Library Service had not met its obligations under Section 75 in relation to the screening of its policies and the impact on staff.
- NIPSA believed no evidence existed from the results of the survey to show that the public was demanding extended opening hours.
- NIPSA believed that no additional resources from the closure of Waringstown and Moneymore Libraries would transfer to Lurgan and Cookstown Libraries to assist with extended opening on account of revised circumstances. Mr Harte drew attention to results of a stress survey conducted across the Library Service.

Mr Harte suggested that a viable option for the Board would be to pilot three late night openings in Lurgan and Cookstown Libraries to obtain objective information over a six month period. He stated that this option would enable the Board to meet its duty of care under Health & Safety and Equality legislation and would maintain staff morale and staff support across the service.

It was proposed by Councillor Brannigan that the Board should conduct a pilot programme at Lurgan and Cookstown Libraries involving three late night openings over a six month period.

As the proposal put forward by Councillor Brannigan received no seconder, the Chairperson declared that the proposal was lost.

Mr Twyble sought clarification in relation to NIPSA's comment on policy screening. Mrs Ryan advised that an Equality Screening had been conducted in October 2006 which had identified no adverse impact on any of the listed groups and a positive impact on some groups identified under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1988. She stated that the proposed changes to the opening hours did not change the terms of employment of staff nor the Board's employment policies. She added that staff rotas were not part of Board policy and that job descriptions of staff in Branch Libraries always provided for the changing needs of the Library Service. She confirmed that staff had been consulted with on an individual basis.

Mr Aiken stated that the Library Committee could take on board NIPSA's comments.

It was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Mr Mayne, that the minutes* (L/2/07/12) of the meeting held on 27 February 2007, incorporating the proposal to improve the opening hours at Cookstown and Lurgan Libraries, be adopted. The Chairperson called for a vote which resulted as follows:

For	16	Against	1	Abstentions	0
-----	----	---------	---	-------------	---

The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Grimes and Mr Harte for their attendance and they withdrew from the meeting.

(Councillor J Hanna and Councillor Harkness left the meeting at 5.52 pm.)

It was proposed by Mr Mayne, seconded by Rev Canon McKegey, and agreed that the Chairperson would write to the Minister for Education expressing the Board's concern in relation to the curtailment of potential expertise for the post of Chief Executive designate for the Single Library Authority.

(Mr Mayne left the meeting at 5.56 pm.)

10. JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Campbell drew attention to the Literacy statistics identified for WELB and SELB at Level 4 (Key Stage 2), the financial reports and the up to date position on the Extended Schools' Programme. He referred to the launch of the Survey of Teachers' Report 2006, which had been commissioned by the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland. He outlined its terms of reference and advised that officers had been furnished with a copy of the Report should Members wish to read the findings.

Mrs McClenaghan referred to the proposal contained within the minute relating to the update on Extended Schools. She advised that WELB, at its March Board meeting, had resolved to invite the Permanent Secretary or his representative to a meeting of the Committee at a date to be agreed to listen to views of Members and examine the way forward. Subject to this amendment being incorporated into the minutes, it was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Councillor Brannigan, and agreed that the minutes* (E/2/07/7) of the meeting held on 22 February 2007 be adopted.

11. JOINT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mrs McCaul drew attention to a bid, prepared by Mencap, Autism NI and the five Boards, to access lottery monies to extend and develop summer schemes. She also outlined the issues raised during discussion of the Service Review Framework for 2007/08.

It was proposed by Mrs McCaul, seconded by Mr Doran, and agreed that the minutes* (CYPS/2/07/8) of the meeting held on 22 February 2007 be adopted.

12. JOINT YOUTH COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Aiken referred to the difficulties in recruiting posts within the Youth Service as a result of the Vacancy Control Policy and also referred to the lack of funding available to adequately develop the Youth Information web site. He wished to congratulate officers who had been involved with planning the Stakeholder Forum in Omagh on 13 March 2007 at which many young people had attended.

Mrs McClenaghan referred to the proposal contained within the minutes that a letter should be sent to the Minister and the Public Service Commission on the impact the Vacancy Control Policy was having on the delivery of youth services. She recommended that this matter should be progressed through an alternative process. Subject to this amendment, it was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Mr Twyble, and agreed that the minutes* (Y/2/07/9) of the meeting held on 21 February 2007 be adopted.

13. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes* (M/2/07/10) of the meeting held on 14 February 2007 were noted.

14. FINANCE COMMITTEE : MINUTES

It was proposed by Mrs Wright, seconded by Mr Campbell, and agreed that the minutes* (F/2/07/11) of the meeting held on 23 February 2007 be adopted.

15. TEACHING APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes* (TAC/2/07/13) of the meeting held on 15 February 2007 were noted.

16. COMMITTEE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF PERIPATETIC TEACHERS : MINUTES

The minutes* (CPT/2/07/14.1 and CPT/3/07/14.2) of the meetings held on 9 February and 2 March 2007 were noted.

17. TEACHERS' STAFFING COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes* (TSC/2/07/15.1) of the meeting held on 21 February and the minutes** (TSC/3/07/15.2) of the meeting held on 9 March 2007 were noted. Mrs McClenaghan pointed out that Mr Sleator had not been present at the meeting held on 9 March although he was recorded in the body of the minute as declaring an interest.

The meeting ended at 6.06 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE

* Paper circulated

** Paper tabled

16 March 2007

LMcC