

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4 APRIL 2007 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 McKegney
Mr M P Campbell	Councillor S McRoberts
Dr P Cunningham	Very Rev L M McVeigh
Councillor F Dawson	Councillor R Mulligan
Mr P Gildea	Professor P Murphy
Councillor R A Harkness	Mr A G Sleator
Dr M Hollinger	Rev D Somerville
Mr C Mackin	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 R Bullick, G P Butler, J Curran, G Doran, T Heron, P Mackey, T Murphy and Mrs L McCall.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr B Doran, Councillor J Feehan and Councillor P McGinn.

4. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Mrs McClenaghan drew attention to funding arrangements for posts contained within the report. It was agreed that the report** (B/4/07/2) prepared by the Head of Human Resources be adopted.

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

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

6. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE : MINUTES (10)

Mrs McClenaghan advised that arrangements were being facilitated by the WELB for Mr Haire or his representative to attend a meeting of the Joint Education Committee to discuss the Extended Schools Programme.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

7.1 MULLAGLASS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Chairperson reported on the opening of the extension at Mullaglass Primary School on 28 March 2007.

7.2 RICHMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs McClenaghan reported on the opening of two classrooms to replace temporary accommodation at Richmount Primary School as part of the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative. She stated that the Governors and staff at the school had extended their gratitude to the Board for the work carried out.

7.3 INVITATION TO MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Mrs McClenaghan advised that the practice of the Board was to issue an early invitation to newly appointed Ministers to meet with the Chairpersons' Committee. She sought the Board's advice in relation to issuing such an invitation to the Ministers of DE, DCAL and DEL in addition to the Chairpersons of the respective Assembly Committees.

It was proposed by Councillor Dawson, seconded Rev Canon McKegney, and agreed that invitations should be extended to the Ministers of each of the three Departments along with their respective Chairpersons to meet with all Board Members.

(During discussion of this item Rev Mr Somerville entered the meeting at 2.40 pm and Very Rev Fr McVeigh and Councillor Dr Weir entered at 2.41 pm.)

7.4 NORTHERN BANK LTD

The Chairperson sought approval for specified officers to be given authorisation for the incoming financial year to honour cheques and other promissory notes on behalf of the Board. It was proposed by Mr Sleator, seconded by Mrs Wright, and agreed that such authorisation be granted to the specified officers.

8. A CONSULTATION ON SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE : A POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

8.1 A SPEECH BY MR PETER HAIN

Mrs McClenaghan stated that the Speech* (B/4/07/6.1) entitled "A Shared Future for Education and Skills" had been a useful document for the Working Group detailing Mr Hain's views and aspirations.

8.2 DRAFT RESPONSE FROM THE WORKING PARTY

Mrs McClenaghan stated that the Working Party had met on three occasions to consider a response to the consultation document and that Rev Canon McKegney had been appointed Chairperson of the Working Party.

(Mr Gildea entered the meeting at 2.48 pm.)

Rev Canon McKegney stated that the Working Party comprised representatives from Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, the Governing Bodies Association, the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education and Board Members representing the Trustees of Catholic Maintained Schools, the Transferors of Controlled Schools and other Board Members serving on the Sub-Committee for Controlled Schools. He expressed appreciation to the representatives for their contributions to the Response which he considered to be a comprehensive

document. He commented that the Working Party had achieved remarkable unanimity during consideration of the document and he proceeded to outline the salient points contained in the Response.

Mr Campbell drew attention to concerns relating to the continual diminution of the role of Transferors and Trustees within Boards of Governors and in particular that Transferors were being denied the right to be represented in schools which had been established as secondary intermediate schools. He queried whether DE's position in response to representations and its current legal position were yet known. Mrs McClenaghan stated that she understood that DE had not yet released its legal advice. She advised that the issue extended beyond the role of Churches in that a considerable number of schools were funded by individuals.

It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Mr Sleator, and agreed that the Board would write to the Permanent Secretary outlining its concerns in the strongest possible terms in relation to the position of Transferors and requesting DE to secure additional legal advice.

Mr Mackin congratulated the Working Party on its response. He stated that the document embraced change and highlighted the need to ensure that ethos in rural areas was not diluted. He considered that all Governors should be issued with the policy document.

Members requested that consideration be given to the following amendments:

- References to faith schools should be replaced by "faith-based schools" ;
- Individual cases could be made to retain schools smaller than a four teacher school only where the school was financially viable within its own budget;
- An additional insert into the last line of the first paragraph on page 7 to read "... the sustainability of all the schools, including special schools, could be increased"; and
- The reference to the 10% growth in statements of special educational need should instead relate to the significant growth in the number of children requiring special educational needs.

It was proposed by Rev Canon McKegney, seconded by Mr Campbell, and agreed that the Response, incorporating the additional amendments, be submitted to DE by the deadline of 16 April 2007. Mrs McClenaghan advised that she would write to the partner bodies on the Working Party to express the Board's gratitude for their contributions.

9. SCHOOLS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE : MINUTES

9.1 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION NO 219 : THE DRELINCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Rev Canon McKegney declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter and withdrew from the meeting at 3.10 pm.)

The Chairperson welcomed Miss C Conlin and Mrs F Cleland, representatives from The Drelincourt Primary School, to the meeting.

Miss Conlin and Mrs Cleland outlined reasons in support of the proposal for the provision of education at the school to the end of Key Stage 1. They drew attention in particular to the school's educational experience and ethos, its commitment to cross community partnerships and its three year budget plan from 2006/07 to 2008/09.

Mr Sleator considered that the Board should be consistent in its approach to all schools in relation to their financial sustainability. He queried the position of the Trustees with regard to their financial commitment. Miss Conlin stated that she understood that further financial commitment from the Trustees would be unnecessary but confirmed the Trustees' support to the school.

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

In addition to the issues raised by the Schools and Services Committee at its meeting on 15 March 2007, Councillor McRoberts requested that the following factors be conveyed to DE as part of the Board's comments to the Development Proposal:

- The commitment of the Trustees of The Drelincourt Primary School and their financial input;
- The steps already taken by The Drelincourt Primary School to ensure delivery of the Revised Curriculum; and
- Parental choice and community support for the School and this Development Proposal.

Mr Butler advised that the Board's comments to DE on the Development Proposal would also include current financial projections.

It was proposed by Professor Murphy, seconded by Councillor McRoberts, that the Development Proposal for The Drelincourt Primary School be supported.

The Chairperson called for a vote which resulted as follows:

For 18 Against 6 Abstentions 2

The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

(Dr Cunningham, Councillor Dawson, Councillor McAleer, Mr Sleator and Mrs Wright withdrew from the meeting at 3.45 pm.)

9.2 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AS TO PRIMARY (INCLUDING NURSERY) AND SECONDARY EDUCATION NO 220 : STEWARTSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Chairperson welcomed Mrs S Stewart and Messrs W Armstrong and W Marlin, representatives from Stewartstown Primary School, to the meeting.

Mrs Stewart outlined issues relating to falling enrolments and the difficult decisions taken by the Board of Governors to curb the school's financial deficit. She stated that the teaching staff would welcome the opportunity to deliver the new curriculum and they and the Governors had been encouraged by the recommendation of the Schools and Services Committee at its March meeting in relation to possible collaboration with the maintained school in Stewartstown.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Mulligan, seconded by Mr Mayne, and unanimously agreed to adopt the recommendation contained within the minutes of the Schools and Services Committee of 15 March 2007.

Mr Butler advised that officers had discussed with CCMS the possibility of collaborative arrangements between the two schools.

9.3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2007

Councillor McRoberts drew attention to other items of business contained in the minutes relating to the Best Value Review of Building Cleaning across the five Boards, the recommendations relating to the DE Schools' Other Capital Allocations for 2007/08, the Minor Improvements Programme for 2007/08 and the Board's draft response to the RPA consultation document entitled "Guiding Principles for the Location of Public Sector Jobs in Northern Ireland".

Mr Butler advised that the Minor Improvements Programme for 2007/08 had been amended to take account of minor improvement works at Bush and Donaghey Primary Schools as raised at the Schools and Services Committee meeting.

Mr Mayne drew attention to an error in the tender figure submitted by a firm for work at Orritor Primary School. Subject to this amendment, it was proposed by Councillor McRoberts, seconded by Councillor Brannigan, and agreed that the minutes* (SS/3/07/7) of the meeting held on 15 March 2007 be adopted. The Board noted that in adopting the minutes it was also adopting the recommendation from the Committee relating to Development Proposal No 218 for Collone Primary School.

Mrs McClenaghan reported that she had attended a conference in Armagh City Hotel earlier in the day organised by the RPA Estates Working Group on the "Guiding Principles for the Location of Public Sector Jobs in Northern Ireland". She advised that she had taken the opportunity to point out omissions within the consultation document which the Board had detailed in its response.

(Mr Mayne left the meeting at 4.20 pm.)

10. GOVERNING BODIES OF COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS : PROPOSED REVISED COMPOSITION

Mrs McClenaghan advised that DEL had issued a consultation document on amendments to the composition of governing bodies of further education colleges which were being merged to form six regional colleges in August 2007. She outlined the proposals to which responses were being invited. It was noted that the proposals would impact on the Board's nomination of representatives to the further education sector.

11. REVISED SCHEMES

Mrs McClenaghan advised that the Schemes for the Joint Committees had been amended to take account of the change in the size of quorum for each Committee as agreed by the Board at its March meeting. She stated that the Scheme for the Joint Children and Young

People's Services Committee had also been amended to enable it to receive the minutes of the Sub-Committee for Child Protection.

It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Councillor Harkness, and agreed that the Chairperson and Chief Executive be authorised to sign and seal copies of the Schemes for the Joint Education Committee* (B/4/07/9), the Joint Children and Young People's Services Committee* (B/4/07/9.2) and the Joint Youth Committee* (B/4/07/9.3).

(Mrs McCaul left the meeting at 4.24 pm.)

12. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mrs McClenaghan reported that Councillor Feehan had indicated his preference to serve on the Membership, Joint Youth and Joint Children & Young People's Services Committees. It was proposed by Very Rev Fr McVeigh, seconded by Mr Aiken, and agreed that Councillor Feehan be appointed to these Committees.

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

13.1 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 209 : KILLYMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNGANNON AND TAMNAMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNGANNON

The Board noted the letter* dated 23 March 2007 advising that the Minister had approved the Development Proposal, ie to amalgamate Killyman Primary School and Tamnamore Primary School with effect from 31 August 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter.

13.2 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 210 : TULLYMACARETTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Board noted the letter* dated 23 March 2007 advising that the Minister had approved the Development Proposal, ie that Tullymacarette Primary School should close with effect from 31 August 2007 or as soon as possible thereafter.

13.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 214 : ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWRY

The Board noted the letter* dated 23 March 2007 advising that the Minister had approved the Development Proposal, ie to establish a Key Stage 2 Learning Support Centre in St Joseph's Primary School with effect from 1 September 2007 or as soon as possible thereafter.

14. JOINT YOUTH COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Aiken referred to the success of the inaugural meeting of the WELB Stakeholder Forum, the development of opportunities for young people to gain GCSEs while participating in Youth Service activities, the financial reports and the capital projects being undertaken particularly the new Youth Resource Centre in Cookstown and replacement of vehicles. He highlighted the recommendation to amend the SELB Scheme of Assistance to voluntary groups in line with WELB's Scheme and outlined further

discussion relating to the collaboration programme, the business programme and the public relations and communications strategy.

It was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Mr Twyble, and agreed that the minutes* (Y/3/07/12) of the meeting held on 21 March 2007 be adopted.

(Councillor Dr Weir left the meeting at 4.27 pm.)

15. JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Campbell commented on the excellent achievement of St Cecilia's College in obtaining first place in the Jaguar Sports Car category in the United Kingdom. He referred to the suggestions arising from the WELB / SELB Monitoring Group on 5 March, the proposed visit of a representative from DE to meet with the Committee in relation to the Extended Schools' Programme and to the minutes of the Extended Schools' Project Management Board. He drew attention to discussion relating to the involvement of the SELB Library Service with the Extended Schools' Programme and to issues involving rurality and transport. He also drew attention to the consultation document on the "Policy on Supporting Ethnic Minority Children and Young People who have English as an Additional Language" and advised that the officer had indicated that the policy document had not provided guidance on translation and interpreting services or clear roles for stakeholders. He pointed out that a Sub-Committee was being established to assist in preparing a SELB / WELB response to the consultation document.

Mr Campbell stated that the minute relating to the SELB finance report should state that any underspent funding would remain within SELB. Subject to this amendment, it was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Councillor Harkness, and agreed that the minutes* (E/3/07/13) of the meeting held on 22 March 2007 be adopted.

Mrs McClenaghan drew attention to the issue raised by Mr Aiken under Any Other Business and stated that she had expressed her concerns to the Chief Executive Designate in relation to the cancellation of meetings of the HR Forum. She advised however that the correct arena to raise issues relating to Board staff was through the Schools and Services Committee.

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

Mr McCreesh drew attention to work progressing in relation to two applications to access lottery monies, the excellent training provided to the Committee on matters relating to special educational needs and the report detailing the Departmental and individual Service targets across SELB and WELB. He highlighted concerns raised at the meeting in relation to the deficits incurred by two Education and Library Boards which could impact on service delivery in Special Education beyond RPA. He also drew attention to the recommendation that a joint letter be issued from SELB and WELB outlining the Committee's concerns in relation to the absence of an RPA Policy Paper on special educational needs and related support services.

It was proposed by Mr McCreesh, seconded by Dr Hollinger, and agreed that the minutes* (CYPS/3/07/14) of the meeting held on 22 March 2007 be adopted.

17. FINANCE COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Campbell drew attention to the Board's preparations for the submission of its 2006/07 Annual Accounts, the notification from DE identifying that the Board's revised Centre allocation had been increased by £175k, the issuing of guidance and pro forma to schools to complete their three year budget plan, the spend to date contained within the capital and recurrent reports and the submission of the Initial Resource Allocation Plan for 2007/08 for DE Schools and Youth.

It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Councillor McRoberts, and agreed that the minutes* (F/3/07/15) of the meeting held on 23 March 2007 be adopted.

18. PROPOSED DATES OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2007/08

Mrs McClenaghan presented the schedule* (B/4/07/16) detailing Board and Committee dates until March 2008.

Mr Aiken queried whether the Library Committee could be moved from the fourth Tuesday in the month to a day in the third week. Mrs McClenaghan stated that this item would be deferred to the May meeting of the Board to enable Members to give consideration to this proposal.

19. ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARDS : ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Councillor Brannigan gave notice that the Annual Conference of the ANIELB would be held on 11-12 October 2007 in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle. He advised that the Conference would be funded through external sponsorship.

The meeting ended at 4.55 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE

* Paper circulated

** Paper tabled

6 April 2007

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