

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9 MAY 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	Councillor J McCrum
Mrs S R Brownlee	Councillor S McRoberts
Mr M P Campbell	Very Rev L M McVeigh
Dr P Cunningham	Councillor R Mulligan
Councillor J Feehan	Professor P Murphy
Councillor J Hanna	Mr A G Sleator
Councillor R A Harkness	Mr J K Twyble
Mr C Mackin	Councillor Dr P A Weir
Mr W Mayne	Mrs E Wright
Councillor P P McAleer	

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs H M McClenaghan, Dr C Mangan, Mrs K Ryan, Messrs R Bullick, G P Butler, J Curran, G Doran, P Mackey and Mrs L McCall.

3. PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION FOR HEADSHIP (PQH) IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Chairperson welcomed teachers who had obtained the PQH and the Professional Qualification for Serving Headship (PQSH) and extended the Board's congratulations to them on their achievement. Mrs P McAlister, Principal of Bush Primary School, and Mr A Brown, Brownlow Integrated College, drew attention to the considerable benefits to be obtained from the experience.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Rev J Byrne, Councillor F Dawson, Mr B Doran, Mr P Gildea, Councillor I E B Hanna, Dr M Hollinger, Rev Canon J McKegey and Rev D Somerville.

Mrs McClenaghan advised that Councillor Dawson had been bereaved through the death of his brother, Councillor George Dawson MLA. It was agreed that Mrs McClenaghan would write to Councillor Dawson to extend the Board's sympathy.

(Councillor Hanna entered the meeting at 2.49 pm.)

5. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Mrs McClenaghan drew attention to funding arrangements for posts contained within the report. It was agreed that the report** (B/5/07/2) prepared by the Head of Human Resources be adopted.

6. BOARD MEETING : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2007

On the proposal of Councillor Harkness, seconded by Mrs Brownlee, the minutes* (B/4/07/3) of the meeting held on 4 April 2007 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

7.1 INVITATIONS TO MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE ARTS & LEISURE AND EMPLOYMENT & LEARNING AND THE RESPECTIVE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES (7.3)

Mrs McClenaghan advised that invitations had been extended to the Ministers of the three Departments in addition to their respective Chairpersons of Committees to visit the Board. She advised that the Minister for Education had indicated that she would be available to meet the Board on Thursday, 31 May. However she indicated that the Chairperson of the Assembly Education Committee was unavailable on that date.

Mrs McClenaghan stated that she had been unable to obtain a commitment as yet from the Ministers for DCAL and DEL but would continue to pursue possible dates.

7.2 DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE WORKING PARTY : LETTER SENT TO PERMANENT SECRETARY ABOUT TRANSFEROR REPRESENTATION ON BOARDS OF GOVERNORS (8.2)

Mrs McClenaghan stated that she understood that the Transferors' Representatives Council had written to the Permanent Secretary requesting a second legal opinion on the position of transferor representation on Boards of Governors of certain controlled primary schools and all controlled secondary schools.

7.3 PROPOSED DATES OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2007/08 (18)

Consideration was given to the proposed dates for Board and Committee meetings as set out in the paper* (B/5/07/4.3). Mr Aiken requested that further consideration be given to changing the date for the Library Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Harkness, seconded by Very Rev Fr McVeigh, and agreed that the schedule be approved subject to the Library Committee being changed to 2.00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

8.1 RESPONSE FROM DCAL : CHIEF EXECUTIVE DESIGNATE – SINGLE LIBRARY AUTHORITY

The Board noted the contents of the letter* (B/5/07/5.1) regarding the recruitment process for the Chief Executive Designate of the Library Authority.

8.2 BOARD MEMBERSHIP : MR A G SLEATOR

The Chairperson advised that Mr Sleator had received confirmation from the Permanent Secretary that his term of office would be extended to 31 March 2008.

8.3 MUSIC SERVICE : PRIZE NIGHT

The Chairperson advised that the Music Service's prize night would be held at 7.30 pm on 1 June 2007 in Newry Town Hall to which all Members would be invited.

9. JOINT YOUTH COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Aiken referred to the next meeting of the Stakeholder Forum which was due to be held on 10 May and to the establishment of a Sub-Group of the Committee to progress issues relating to the draft Business Plan.

It was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Mr Twyble, and agreed that the minutes* (Y/4/07/6) of the meeting held on 18 April 2007 be adopted.

10. JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Campbell stated that DE had advised that funding provided through the Extended Schools' Programme might now be used to cover costs associated with the Summer Literacy and Numeracy Schemes as well as transport costs. He outlined the recommendations that the Board should write to DE highlighting the increasing difficulties facing teaching principals and concerns relating to the governance arrangements for the Education and Skills Authority.

Mr Aiken enquired if schools which did not receive funding through the Extended Schools' Programme were aware of DE's advice in relation to the funding of these Summer Schemes. Mr Mackey stated that he would communicate with schools to advise of opportunities available under the Programme.

Mr Campbell referred to the "Policy on supporting Ethnic Minority Children and Young People who have English as an Additional Language" and stated that the Committee had noted omissions in the consultation document. Mrs McClenaghan advised that Members could make further comments on the draft response** which would subsequently be forwarded to DE as an addendum.

It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Councillor Harkness, and agreed that the minutes* (E/4/07/7) of the meeting held on 26 April 2007 be adopted.

(Councillor Dr Weir entered the meeting at 3.17 pm and Councillor McAleer left at 3.10 pm.)

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

Mrs McCaul referred to the main findings highlighted in ETI's Executive Summary on Special Educational Needs in the Pre-School Sector and to the audit undertaken within special schools across the SELB and WELB which facilitated the subsequent development of the devolved funding pilot. She drew attention to the new vetting procedures which set out a protocol for Board officers when dealing with pre-employment positive criminal checks and pointed out that the budget at year end had indicated that services were being delivered within financial allocations.

Dr Cunningham outlined his association with a voluntary pre-school playgroup which catered for children with profound learning difficulties. He stated that the playgroup had received no support from the Board and negligible support from NIPPA and the Health Board. He welcomed the findings identified in the ETI Report highlighting the difficulties faced by the voluntary sector and expressed concern in relation to issues concerning disparities in funding and training between the voluntary / private and statutory sectors.

Dr Mangan stated that Dr Cunningham's concerns were valid. She advised that Boards were only responsible for children in the statutory sector and expressed the hope that an outworking of the Review of the Early Years Strategy would be to ensure that appropriate funding in addition to more effective training opportunities were provided for both sectors.

It was proposed by Mrs McCaul, seconded by Councillor McRoberts, and agreed that the minutes* (CYPS/4/07/8) of the meeting held on 26 April 2007 be adopted.

12. AUDIT COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Sleator stated that during consideration of the NIAO's Management Letter the Committee had expressed concern in relation to the volume of earmarked funding and the difficulties imposed on schools in planning budgets when receiving such late allocations during the year. He drew attention to simplified advice which would issue in the near future to Boards of Governors in relation to the awarding of performance review and staff development points to principals and vice-principals. He further highlighted discussion which had related to policies on Anti-Fraud and Guidance on the Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality.

Mr Aiken received confirmation that the Performance Indicators and Risk Register for the Library Service could be presented to the Audit Committee in due course.

It was proposed by Mr Sleator, seconded by Mrs McCaul, and agreed that the minutes* (CYPS/4/07/9) of the meeting held on 2 April 2007 be adopted.

13. SCHOOLS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE : MINUTES

(Dr Cunningham left the meeting at 3.55 pm.)

Councillor McRoberts drew attention to the opportunity to bid for Olympic Funding to provide a six court sports hall at Portadown College. She referred to the Age Legislation / Revised Redundancy Scheme effective from 1 April 2007, the Scheme for the Use of Facilities other than Schools and Libraries and presentations relating to the Independent Strategic Review of Education and Reshaping the Schools' Estate. She also highlighted discussion on the review of Transport and Catering Services.

Mr Aiken queried whether the Board was entitled to one additional member on the JNC on account of a previous officer retirement. He further queried the merit in extending the conditions of use contained within the Scheme for the Use of Facilities other than Schools and Libraries to youth clubs registered within the Western Education and Library Board. Mrs McClenaghan undertook to investigate these matters.

It was proposed by Councillor McRoberts, seconded by Mr Twyble, and agreed that the minutes* (SS/4/07/10) of the meeting held on 19 April 2007 be adopted.

14. LIBRARY COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Aiken drew attention to the Library Service Development Plan for 2007/08, the achievements identified within the 2006/07 Development Plan and the update on services provided during April 2007. He pointed out that DCAL was commissioning a report to examine the costs borne by Education & Library Boards in respect of Library Services.

It was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Mr Mayne, and agreed that the minutes* (L/4/07/11) of the meeting held on 24 April 2007 be adopted.

(Mr Mayne, Councillor McCrum and Mr Sleator left the meeting at 4.09 pm.)

15. CONSULTANTS' SELECTION PANEL : MINUTES

It was proposed by Professor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Brannigan, and agreed that the minutes* (CSP/4/07/12) of the meeting held on 17 April 2007 be adopted.

16. TEACHING APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes* (TAC/4/07/13) of a meeting held on 20 April 2007 were noted.

17. TEACHERS' STAFFING COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes* (TSC/4/07/14.1, 14.2 and 14.3) of meetings held on 11, 19 and 26 April were noted.

18. ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARDS : MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting held on 4 April 2007 were noted.

The meeting ended at 4.13 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE

* Paper circulated

** Paper tabled

10 May 2007

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