

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9 JANUARY 2008 AT 2.30 PM IN THE BOARD ROOM

1. PRESENT Mrs M E Donnell (Chairperson)

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| Mr P H Aiken | 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 J Feehan | Councillor R Mulligan |
| Mr P Gildea | Professor P Murphy |
| Mr C Mackin | Mr A G Sleator |
| Mr W Mayne | Rev D Somerville |
| Councillor P P McAleer | Mr J K Twyble |
| Mrs C M McCaul | Mrs E Wright |

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs H M McClenaghan, Mrs K Ryan, Messrs R Bullick, G Butler, G Doran, T Heron, P Keating, P Mackey, R McGreevy, T Murphy and Mrs L McCall.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor P Gildernew, Councillor R A Harkness, Dr M Hollinger and Councillor M Murphy.

4. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Mrs McClenaghan advised that the posts contained within the report were replacement posts. It was proposed by Mr Twyble, seconded by Mrs Wright, and agreed that the report** (B/1/08/2) prepared by the Head of Human Resources be adopted.

5. BOARD MEETING : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2007

It was noted that the reference within the Library Committee minutes to new opening hours should read "He stated that the new opening hours of the Irish and Local Studies Library would be operational from January 2008 ...". On the proposal of Mr Campbell, seconded by Mr Twyble, the minutes* (B/12/07/3) of the meeting held on 12 December 2007, subject to the above amendment, were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

Mrs McClenaghan stated that a note of the meeting held on 12 December 2007 with the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure would be issued to Members.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 FUNDING COMMITMENT DISCLOSURE IN ANNUAL ACCOUNTS : LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY (6.2)

Mrs McClenaghan reported that she had discussed the issue relating to the procedure for adopting minutes of joint committees by both SELB and WELB

with Mr B Mulholland. She stated that it was their understanding, and the view of the SELB / WELB Monitoring Group which had initially considered this issue, that recommendations being presented to the two Boards would have the backing of the joint Committee members. It was therefore a matter for joint Committee members to convince the non-Committee members at Board meetings of the merits of recommendations should this prove necessary. Mr Campbell stated that responsibility also resided with the chairperson or vice-chairperson of the joint committees to add strength to arguments. The Board agreed that the current process for adopting minutes from joint Committee meetings would remain.

(Mrs Brownlee entered the meeting at 2.44 pm.)

6.2 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL CONSULTATION MEETINGS : DRAFT BUDGET 2008 – 2011 (7.5)

Mrs McClenaghan stated that one of the three DFP consultation meetings had taken place in Armagh City Hotel on Monday, 7 January 2008. The meeting had focused on equality issues and had been well attended by the Youth Service. She reported that Mr Doran had presented a cogent case on the impact of the 7.5% cutback on the Youth Service which had been well supported by members attending on behalf of the voluntary youth sector. Mr Doran advised that the implications of this cut were a loss of potential activities within the Service, a loss of jobs, a loss of grants to voluntary youth clubs and a loss of training schemes. He stated that the Programme for Government had given little attention to the Youth Service and its associated targets. Mr Sleator and Councillor McRoberts drew attention to the issues which had been raised at the meeting from various representatives.

Mr Aiken drew attention to the ringfenced nature of the budget for the Youth Service and to the substantial contribution provided within the budget to Outdoor Education and the large usage of this service by schools. Mrs McClenaghan stated that she expected to receive information from DE on the budgetary position before the end of the first week in February. She advised that the effects of the cut in the Children & Young People's Fund would impact on the Youth Service budget, pre-school provision and Extended Schools. Mr Heron also advised that a further element within the Children & Young People's Fund which was allocated to the delegated schools' budget in place of the Chancellor's money could also be affected. He stated that the Executive was to give consideration to these matters on 17 January 2008.

It was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Councillor McRoberts, and agreed that the Communications Officer would prepare a press release which would record the Board's concerns in relation to the cut in the Youth Service and its impact on local services. It was also agreed that politicians in the Executive would be urged to be mindful of the detrimental effect on the Youth Service during its consideration of budgetary matters.

6.3 REPORT ON MEETING WITH THE PERMANENT SECRETARY ON 7 DECEMBER 2007 (13.2)

The Board noted the letter* (B/1/08/4) dated 20 December from the Permanent Secretary to schools advising of the change in EYF policy. Mr Sleator referred to the paragraph within the letter which confirmed that the arrangements would not impact on individual schools' entitlement to surpluses which had been carried forward and that these sums would remain committed to schools and, in the case

of their EYF, to Boards. Mr Sleator stated that the impact of the change in EYF policy would only be fully understood in the following financial year. Mr Heron stated that the Chief Finance Officers of the five Boards were meeting with the Permanent Secretary of DE, the Finance Director of DE and the Second Permanent Secretary of DFP on 18 January 2008 at which they expected to receive information on indicative figures for the following financial year.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

NEW YEAR WISHES

The Chairperson wished Members a happy New Year and expressed her gratitude for their contributions to the Board during 2007.

7.2 VACANCY ON THE BOARD

Mrs McClenaghan reported that notification of the member to replace the late Councillor Dawson had not yet been received from the Minister.

8. LIBRARY SERVICE : RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BUDGET WORKING GROUP

It was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Councillor McCrum, and agreed that discussion in relation to this matter would be held in committee.

It was proposed by Mr Mayne, seconded by Mr Campbell, and agreed to resume the meeting.

The Board noted that it had been proposed by Professor Murphy, seconded by Mr Twyble, and agreed that the following officers would be offered premature retirement on the grounds of voluntary redundancy with effect from 31 March 2008:

- Mrs Y Griffin, Learning & Access Manager, Library Headquarters
- Mr W Crangle, Learning & Access Development Librarian, Library Headquarters
- Mr J P Graham, Young People's Services Development Manager, Library Headquarters
- Mr G Burns, Education Services Manager, Library Headquarters

9. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes* (MC/12/07/7) of a meeting held on 12 December 2007 were noted.

10. TEACHING APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes* (TAC/12/07/8.1, 8.2 and 8.3) of meetings held on 5, 11 and 19 December 2007 were noted

The meeting ended at 3.30 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE

* Paper circulated ** Paper tabled

10 January 2008 LMCC