

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY, 20 MARCH 2009 AT 10.30 AM IN THE BOARD ROOM**

**1. PRESENT** Mrs M E Donnell (Chairperson)

Councillor Brannigan	Councillor S McRoberts
Rev J Byrne	Very Rev L M McVeigh
Mr M P Campbell	Councillor R Mulligan
Councillor J Cavanagh	Councillor M Murphy
Councillor C Casey	Professor P Murphy
Mr C Mackin	Councillor S Rogers
Councillor P P McAleer	Mr A G Sleator
Mrs C M McCaul	Mr J K Twyble
Councillor J McCrum	Mrs E Wright

**2. IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs H M McClenaghan, Ms L Ayling, Mr G Doran and Mrs L McCall.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr P H Aiken, Mrs S R Brownlee, Dr P Cunningham, Mr P Gildea, Councillor R A Harkness, Dr M Hollinger, Mrs M M Magennis, Mr W Mayne, Mr A McCreesh, Rev Canon J McKegney, Rev D Somerville and Councillor Dr P A Weir.

**4. BOARD MEETING : MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2009**

Reference was made to the comment within minute 9 'DE Allocations' that DE had advised that it would hold no provision to cover contingencies such as for redundancy costs. Ms Ayling pointed out that a central fund for enhanced redundancy payments was being established by DE but no details had yet been provided. Current criteria however did not provide for curricular issues. Subject to the addition of these comments, it was proposed by Mrs Wright, seconded by Councillor Murphy, and agreed that the minutes\* (B/3/09/2) of the meeting held on 11 March 2009 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

**5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

**WELCOME**

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor S Rogers from Newry and Mourne District Council to his first meeting of the Board.

*(Very Rev Fr McVeigh entered the meeting at 10.45 am.)*

**6. DE RECURRENT SCHEME 2009/10**

**6.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE : MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2009**

Mr Sleator reported that the Finance Committee had considered the budget proposals in great detail. It had taken cognisance of the need to reduce the

Maintenance budget by £2.5m in order to allow other services to operate at current levels. He referred to the risk to the Board in setting aside only £381k as a contingency figure to cover job evaluation pressures but he pointed out that to increase this figure would impact considerably on service delivery in other budget areas.

It was proposed by Mr Sleator, seconded by Mrs McCaul, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2009 be adopted.

*(Mr Twyble entered the meeting at 10.55 am.)*

## **6.2 AGREEMENT ON FINANCIAL SCHEME**

Ms Ayling presented Paper A which set out the 2009/10 Aggregated Schools' Budget (£207,734k), the Centre Schools' budget (£93,652k) and the Youth budget (£4,445k). The paper also set out the like for like increase on the 2008/09 allocation for each of these budgets and the allocation to each of the five Boards for the Centre Schools' budgets.

Ms Ayling presented the draft Scheme\*\* (Paper B) and in so doing explained the pressures and easements\*\* (Paper C) which had been factored into the proposed Scheme.

Mr Campbell enquired if funding would be transferred to the CASS service when it assumed responsibility on 1 April 2009 for the Schools' Library Service. Ms Ayling advised that the Library DE budget of £1,126k had been based on the current year's costs plus an inflationary increase. This was based on current understanding that no significant additional costs would arise from the transfer.

Councillor Cavanagh enquired as to the job evaluation pressures identified in Paper C and also to the general job evaluation process. Ms Ayling advised that £250k had been set aside for the administration of the Classroom Assistants' arrears calculations. The £381k contingency figure would form part of the projected arrears payments to staff should job evaluations be successful and business cases approved. She drew attention to the five Board process to agree the schedule of categories of staff for job evaluation prior to the date of implementation of ESA and to the roles of Management Side and the Trade Union Side. Ms Ayling referred to various categories where negotiations on pay and grading issues were continuing and for which no provision had been made within the draft Scheme. The contingency figure of £381k was the maximum amount that could be set aside in order to meet projected pressures in other budget areas and did not provide full cover for likely pressures such as Domestic Assistants. She highlighted that the level of the contingency figure could pose a significant risk on the Board's budget in light of future pay and grading pressures.

Councillor Casey referred to the considerable increase in cost in the Translink budget. Ms Ayling advised that while a small element related to an increased number of pupils using the service the majority of the increase related to Translink's increase in service delivery charges.

Ms Ayling drew attention to the Headquarters' budget in Paper B and advised that the Board was obliged to meet DE's target in this area which was a cut in real terms. She pointed out that the Headquarters' budget was showing a £167k overspend which had arisen as a direct result of the costs associated with the administration of the Classroom Assistants' job evaluation. It would be pointed out to DE that this

overspend did not relate to normal Headquarters' service delivery and could not be absorbed within DE's target.

Ms Ayling pointed out that DE had not yet given any further details in relation to the Teacher Redundancy Scheme. However DE had indicated that it would facilitate a central fund for unavoidable redundancies. Ms Ayling advised that normal statutory redundancy costs borne by the Board at Centre had been included at the current year's level uplifted by inflation. This represented a prudent estimate in the light of unknown potential impacts of changes by DE in the Redundancy Scheme. Mr Mackin referred to the allocations contained within Board Initiatives, particularly the Class Size Initiative and Traveller Support. Ms Ayling confirmed that all Board Initiative budgets were being uplifted by an inflationary rate.

Ms Ayling outlined Paper D\*\* which summarised the major issues within the proposed Scheme. Professor Murphy queried the process to administer a 9 month budget. Ms Ayling advised that the DE Finance Director, representatives of ESAIT and the Chief Finance Officers had met at the start of March to begin discussions on the monitoring and governance arrangements which would provide assurances to DE and the ESAIT Accounting Officer.

Mr Mackin drew attention to the Board's decisions in previous years to cut maintenance when the budget allocation was incapable of meeting Board pressures. He expressed regret that the Board would again have to consider this route particularly in light of the importance of maintaining the schools' estate. Mrs McClenaghan stated that many schools would be disappointed with the reduced Maintenance budget. She stated that she believed the Board had no alternative.

Mr Campbell queried the position with regard to the sale of receipts from Board properties. Mrs McClenaghan advised that DE now used this revenue to offset its capital budget.

Mr Sleator pointed out the risks in relation to adopting this Scheme given the uncertainties in job evaluation costs. It was proposed by Mr Sleator, seconded by Mrs Wright, and agreed to adopt the DE Scheme for 2009/10. Mr Sleator paid tribute to Finance staff for the preparation of the Scheme particularly in light of the late notification of budget figures.

Mr Doran presented the proposed Youth budget\*\* for 2009/10 which had been considered by the Joint Youth Committee at its meeting on 18 March 2009. The allocation of £4,445k, uplifted by 8.97% on the 2008/09 allocation before like for like adjustments, had included funding to meet the ongoing cost of the JNC settlement for youth workers. Mr Doran drew attention to inescapable commitments, optional commitments and to DE earmarked allocations. It was proposed by Mr Twyble, seconded by Councillor McRoberts, and agreed to adopt the Youth budget for 2009/10.

## **7. ANIELB : REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

Mrs McClenaghan drew attention to the request from the President of the ANIELB for the five Boards to give consideration to allocating up to £10k each in support of the ANIELB's proposed celebratory event to showcase the talents of children and young people throughout the five Boards. She advised that the President had also written to the Chief Executives of the 26 Councils seeking financial assistance. To date two Boards had

responded to indicate that they would be willing to make available £10k each for the event should this be required.

Members queried whether the proposed celebratory event could be combined with the annual conference for sponsorship purposes. Mrs McClenaghan advised that the ANIELB Planning Group had considered this option but for various reasons believed it was not feasible. It had noted that the sponsorship secured for the conference was limited for that purpose and would not benefit the Boards in meeting costs associated with for example pupils' travel and teacher substitution.

Mr Sleator emphasised the importance of ensuring that the expenditure of £10k should be met in the most measured way. It was proposed by Professor Murphy, seconded by Very Rev Fr McVeigh, and agreed that the Board would seek to provide assistance of up to £10k to the ANIELB's celebratory event should this prove necessary.

The meeting ended at 11.55 am.

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**CHAIRPERSON**

\* Paper circulated  
23 March 2009

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

\*\* Paper tabled  
LMcC

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**DATE**