

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2009 AT 2.30 PM IN THE BOARD ROOM

1. PRESENT Mrs M E Donnell (Chairperson)

Mr P H Aiken	Mr W Mayne
Councillor Brannigan	Councillor P P McAleer
Mrs S R Brownlee	Mrs C M McCaul
Rev J Byrne	Mr A McCreesh
Mr M P Campbell	Councillor S McRoberts
Councillor C Casey	Very Rev L M McVeigh
Mr P Gildea	Councillor R Mulligan
Councillor I E B Hanna	Professor P Murphy
Councillor R A Harkness	Mr A G Sleator
Dr M Hollinger	Mr J K Twyble
Mr C Mackin	Mrs E Wright
Mrs M M Magennis	

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mr A P Murphy, Ms L Ayling, Dr C Mangan, Mr R Bullick, Mr P Keating, Mr P Mackey, Mrs L McCall and for part of the meeting Mr G Doran.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor J Cavanagh, Councillor M Murphy, Councillor S Rogers and Rev D Somerville.

4. WARINGSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL : CHOIR

The Chairperson was delighted to welcome Waringstown Primary School Choir which had won the BBC School Choir of the Year Competition earlier in the year in Manchester. The Choir, accompanied by Mrs J Glass, Conductor, and Mr C McCamley, Head of Music and Accompanist, sang three pieces to the Board. Mr G Kennedy, Principal of the School, outlined the various stages that had occurred to bring the Choir to the final of the competition.

The Board congratulated the Choir on their success and the guests withdrew from the meeting.

5. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Mr Murphy drew attention to funding arrangements for posts contained within the report. Mr Aiken queried why the period of secondment for one post within Youth was to 31 March 2010 while the date for other posts was 31 August 2010. Mr Doran advised that the temporary replacement to 31 March 2010 was to facilitate the return of the permanent postholder at that date. It was noted that funding had been secured for the Youth posts up to August 2010.

It was proposed by Mr Twyble, seconded by Councillor Mulligan, and agreed that the report** (B/6/09/2) prepared by the Head of Human Resources be adopted.

6. BOARD MEETING : MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor McRoberts, seconded by Mr Campbell, the minutes* (B/5/09/3) of the meeting held on 13 May 2009 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

7.1 SEPTEMBER BOARD DATE

Approval was sought to change the September Board date to Wednesday, 23 September to enable the Annual Accounts to be signed and submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General prior to the deadline of 30 September. It was proposed by Councillor McRoberts, seconded by Dr Hollinger, and agreed that the Board should meet on 23 September.

The Chairperson stated that the Chairpersons' Committee had given consideration to inviting Mr G Boyd, Chief Executive Designate of ESA, to the Board at its September meeting to provide an update on ESA. She advised that Mr Murphy had contacted Mr Boyd who had been agreeable to this request. The Board agreed that Mr Boyd should be asked to address the Board, following the Board meeting on 23 September, and that Officers should be invited to that meeting.

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

7.2.1 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 229 : KING'S PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Board noted that the Minister had approved the establishment of a single nursery unit at King's Park Primary School to replace the current reception class in the school with effect from 1 September 2009 or as soon as possible thereafter.

7.2.2 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 231 : FAIR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, KINALLEN

The Board noted that the Minister had approved the establishment of a single nursery unit at Fair Hill Primary School with effect from 1 September 2009 or as soon as possible thereafter.

7.2.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 233 : WINDMILL INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNGANNON

The Board noted that the Minister had approved the transfer of part-time nursery status to full-time nursery status at Windmill Integrated Primary School with effect from 1 September 2009 or as soon as possible thereafter.

7.3 PREMATURE RETIREMENT ON THE GROUNDS OF VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY

It was proposed by Mr Mayne, seconded by Mrs Brownlee, and agreed that discussion in relation to a premature retirement would be held in committee.

It was proposed by Councillor McRoberts, seconded by Mrs Brownlee, and agreed to resume the meeting.

The Board noted that it had been proposed by Mrs McCaul, seconded by Councillor Hanna, and agreed that Ms F Walsh, Creative Youth Partnership Development Officer, be offered premature retirement on the grounds of voluntary redundancy with effect from 30 June 2009.

7.4 SCHOOL VISITS

The Chairperson reported that on 1 June 2009 the Chief Executive and she had visited Orchard County Primary School, Tandragee Primary School and Banbridge High School as the three principals at these schools were retiring in the current year.

7.5 BEST KEPT SCHOOL AWARDS

The Chairperson reported that she had attended the prize-giving of the NI Amenity Council's Best Kept School Awards the previous day at Antrim Board Centre. She congratulated the successful schools in each category. The winners in SELB were:

- Dromore Nursery School (Pre-Primary Category)
- Poyntzpass Primary School (Primary Category)
- Killicomaine Junior High School (Post-Primary Category)

The runners-up in SELB were:

- St Malachy's Nursery School, Newry (Pre-Primary Category)
- St Clare's Convent Primary School, Newry (Primary Category)
- Sperrinview School, Dungannon (Post-Primary Category)

8. CHAIRPERSONS' COMMITTEE

8.1 MINUTES

It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Rev Fr Byrne, and agreed that the minutes* (C/5/09/6.1) of the meeting held on 26 May 2009 be adopted.

8.2 RESPONSE TO POLICY PAPER 19 (EDUCATION ADVISORY FORUM)

Mr Murphy outlined the content of the response which had been considered by the Chairpersons' Committee at its meeting on 26 May 2009. It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Rev Fr Byrne, and agreed to approve the Response* (B/6/09/6.2). It was noted that the deadline for submission was the following day.

It was agreed to take the Board agenda in the following order of business to facilitate the attendance of Members.

9. FINANCE COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Sleator drew attention to the closing balance of £68,080.23 on the Trust and Endowment Funds for 2008/09 and pointed out that Boards of Governors should be encouraged to avail of their monies within this Fund. He advised that total losses to the

Board amounted to £362,666, £214,809 of which was due to damage to buildings, including glass and contents, and damage to Board vehicles had amounted to £43,703.

Mr Sleator referred to the consideration given to the Annual Report and Accounts for 2008/09 and reported that the final actual spend at 31 March 2009 was £327,655k with a total underspend of £3,718k, £2,877k of which related to schools' delegated budgets and £772k related to school centre. Ms Ayling advised that since the submission of the draft Accounts to NIAO the position relating to the job evaluation process for Domestic Assistants had changed. She reported that the two job descriptions for Domestic Assistants had now been agreed by the Trade Union Side which meant that the estimates on the liability of those job descriptions should now be scored against the Board's 2008/09 budget. The Board would therefore be required to submit another final RAP and another set of Accounts to include this accrual. Ms Ayling advised that the Board's in-year underspend would not cover this cost. DE had been approached in relation to the Board having full access to its approximately £1m centre EYF monies accrued over previous years. She stated that, even with full access to EYF monies, the Board would require additional funding to cover this pressure. All five Boards were currently in discussion with DE regarding the management of this pressure which had been highlighted as a risk throughout the year.

Mr Aiken highlighted that the Board had been very prudent in previous years to contain expenditure within the RAP targets. He was concerned therefore that the Board would be unable to access its EYF monies in this particular instance. Ms Ayling stated that she hoped to have a response from DE in time to report to the Finance Committee meeting the following week.

It was proposed by Mr Sleator, seconded by Mrs Wright, and agreed that the minutes* (F/5/09/10) of the meeting held on 14 May 2009 be adopted.

The Chairperson commented that she had attended the meeting of the Chairpersons' Forum with the Minister and, at the request of the Finance Committee, had highlighted various issues including the importance of schools being able to continue to access local support post 31 December 2009.

(Mr Sleator left the meeting at 3.40 pm.)

10. JOINT YOUTH COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Aiken stated that the recommendation to invite Mr G Boyd to one of the next two Youth Committee meetings had been superseded by the decision of the Board, earlier in the meeting, to invite Mr Boyd to the September Board meeting. It was agreed that issues relating to the Youth Service could be raised at that forum.

Mr Aiken referred to discussion which had taken place in relation to summer scheme funding for youth groups and to planned capital projects. It was noted that the Youth Resource Centre planned at Carnbane, Newry would not be progressing due to a flood risk assessment. Mr Aiken pointed out that approval was being sought from DE to enable refurbished accommodation and additional facilities to be provided at Killowen Outdoor Education Centre, transferring capital funds from the delayed projects.

It was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Mr Twyble, and agreed that the minutes* (Y/5/09/7) of the meeting held on 20 May 2009 be adopted.

11. JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE : MINUTES

Mr Campbell advised that the 2009/10 allocation to SELB schools for the Extended Schools' Programme was £1,832k. The number of schools participating in SELB was 88 which was an increase of 4 on the previous year. He highlighted the Committee's wish that the benefits of the Programme would be made available to all schools. Attention was drawn to the minutes of the PEAG meeting held on 7 May 2009 and to the minutes of the Extended Schools' Project Management Board of 16 January 2009. Mr Campbell pointed out that the Extended Schools' Programme would fall within the directorate of the Children & Young People's Services within ESA.

Mr Campbell referred to the overview given on 'Every School A Good School – A Policy for School Improvement' and the plans that officers were preparing to assist and support schools and Boards of Governors in addressing areas within the policy. Mr Mackey reported that DE intended to implement the policy immediately. He advised that a meeting had been arranged for 22 June 2009 involving DE, CCMS and Board officers to discuss the support to be provided to schools. He confirmed that the outcome of this meeting would be reported to the Joint Education Committee at its June meeting.

Mrs McCaul queried if Boards of Governors had been informed that DE planned to implement the policy immediately. Mr Mackey advised that officers, at a previous meeting with DE, had highlighted the necessity to write to schools and Boards of Governors to advise that the policy would be implemented immediately and to outline its impact on schools. He emphasised that this point would again be raised at the meeting on 22 June.

Councillor Harkness raised a query in relation to Little Oaks Playgroup. Mr Murphy undertook to provide a response to Councillor Harkness on this matter.

It was proposed by Mr Campbell, seconded by Very Rev Fr McVeigh, and agreed that the minutes* (E/5/09/8) of the meeting held on 20 May 2009 be adopted.

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

Mrs McCaul expressed appreciation to Members who had attended the celebratory event for special schools on 19 May 2009. She drew attention to the department's target monitors for 2009/10, the overview given on the BELONG project, the concerns that had been raised in relation to the delay in the publication of the Review of SEN and the lack of information being provided to schools by ESAIT in the area of special education on arrangements post 31 December 2009.

It was agreed that the Board, in collaboration with WELB, should write to the Chairperson of the Education Committee to highlight the Boards' concerns in relation to the undue delay in the publication of the Review of SEN which would potentially impact on the funding secured for children and young people and to advise that Boards needed to take cognisance of the recommendations in the SEN Review in preparation for the alignment of practices across Boards in connection with ESA. It was also agreed that the letter would issue from SELB should WELB not be in agreement with this approach.

Mr Murphy undertook to present a draft letter for consideration to the Joint SELB / WELB Working Group which was due to meet on Monday, 15 June 2009.

Mr McCreesh stated that the Committee had previously agreed to contact Mr G Boyd in connection with ESAIT's proposed arrangements for special education post 31 December 2009 and, in particular, keeping schools informed of developments. Mr Murphy outlined the assistance provided by Dr Mangan to ESAIT in order to enable convergence issues across the five Boards to be taken forward. It was proposed by Mr Aiken, seconded by Mr Mayne, and agreed that the Chief Executive should present a paper to the July Board meeting on the work being planned in preparation for ESA in the areas of special education and youth services and the arrangements for informing schools.

It was proposed by Mrs McCaul, seconded by Councillor Mulligan, and agreed that the minutes* (CYPS/5/09/9) of the meeting held on 28 May 2009 be adopted.

13. TEACHING APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings* (TAC/5/09/11.1 and 11.2) held on 1 and 15 May 2009 were noted.

14. TEACHERS' STAFFING COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings* (TSC/5/09/12.1 and 12.2) held on 20 April 2009 and 13 May 2009 were noted.

15. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE : MINUTES

The minutes* (M/5/09/13) of the meeting held on 26 May 2009 were noted.

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

The minutes* (B/6/09/14) of a meeting held on 6 May 2009 were noted. The Chairperson reminded Members that the conference date was 19-20 November 2009 and that letters and registration forms would be issued in September.

The meeting ended at 4.25 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

* Paper circulated
11 June 2009

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

** Paper tabled
LMcC

DATE