

EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date 27th June 2014
Time 10.00 am
Location Professional Development Centre, Santon Old School, Santon

Present

Hon Tim Crookall, MHK, (Chairperson)	Mrs B Brereton
Mr G Corkish, MLC	Mrs J Pendree
Mr R Bankes-Jones	Mrs F Robinson
Mr T Bennion	Mrs M Mansfield

Dr P.G. Allinson-Cook

Mrs M Frankwick

Mrs T Martin

Mr R Smith

Mr R Turton

Mr S Bevan

In Attendance

Mr G Moorcroft, Director of Education

Mr J Gill, Head of Legal & Administrative Services

Mrs J Callister, Advisory Teacher for the Manx Curriculum

Ms S Christian, HEO (Administration) (Note-taker)

Apologies: Professor R Barr, Chief Executive Officer

Mr T Wild

Mr D Anderson

Mrs L Strickett

Mrs G Skinner

Mr G Roberts

Item	Discussion Points	Action
09/14	Manx Curriculum Film	
	Mrs J Callister presented a short film regarding the Manx Language Curriculum, and responded to questions from Council members. Mrs Callister also distributed an advisory note regarding web-links and projects to Council Members.	
10/14	Attendance	
	Mrs Callister left the meeting at 10.20 am	
11/14	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
	Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.	
12/14	Matters Arising	
12.1/14	<u>Post-15 Education Provision</u>	
	The Director of Education updated Council Members regarding the outcome of the public consultation, reporting that it had been the 2 nd largest public consultation undertaken, with over 800 responses received.	
	He reported that 90.73% of responses were from teachers, whilst 26.34% were from parents. 62.07% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that educational qualifications should be politically independent.	
	The Director reported that the Department was working with the subject teachers, who are looking at the detail of the specifications. He further advised that the Department is reviewing the implications of moving to a new examination system.	

It was noted that a recommendation would be made to the Minister, with a final announcement at the July sitting of Tynwald.

In response to a query regarding reference to the Scottish system, the Director advised that it was likely that the Department would look to introduce the IGCE, given the very clear steer of the consultation results.

The Director advised that the Council Members would be advised of the Department's decisions at approximately the same time as Tynwald Members.

In response to a query regarding coursework, the Director advised that some IGCE qualifications have a flexible approach to coursework. He further advised that there will be a requirement to make decisions for subjects where coursework is not appropriate.

12.2/14 Budget Update/Social Affairs Policy Review Committee

The Minister updated the Members regarding the budget, and his recent attendance at the Social Affairs Policy Review Committee.

It was noted that the increase in childcare payments will be met from the Social Care budget.

12.3/14 Shared Services

Members were updated regarding shared services.

Mrs Brereton reported that a weekly report is produced by the manager of the school meals service, and enquired whether this could be circulated to the school managers.

It was suggested by a Council member that the school meals service now seems to incorporate a lot of burgers, and that the Healthy Eating initiative appears to have "fallen by the wayside".

The Director of Education reported that there will be initial implementation difficulties as a consequence of the adoption of shared services, and that the Department has created a portal for feedback. The previous week, only one issue had been reported via the portal. The Director further reassured the Members that there would be no consequence to staff for submitting negative feedback.

It was noted that during TT two members of catering staff had been on site at the campsite during the weekdays, although on Senior Race Day, four members had been present.

12.4/14

Lettings

The Minister and the Head of Legal and Administrative Services updated the Council members regarding the position regarding lettings, and the forthcoming review of the service.

12.5/14

Regional Swimming Pools

It was noted that two meetings had taken place regarding the Regional Swimming pools. The first, had involved the officers from the Department and officers employed by the Regional Swimming pools. The second meeting had involved meeting the Chairs of the Regional Pool Committees.

It was noted that the meetings had both been very positive, and that a further meeting had been scheduled.

13/14 Questions for Education Council Members

13.1/14 Middle Management Skills Development

What plans are in place to allow development of middle managers whose careers have been in one school to allow them to develop the skills needed for further promotion?

The Director of Education reported that the professional development of staff is the responsibility of Head Teachers, and that programmes are in place which explicitly seeks to develop the leadership capabilities of middle and senior leaders. In addition, the Department is working with the IOM College to try and accredit those courses which lead to a Masters level qualification.

The Director of Education further advised that the Department's recent experience of recruitment at secondary level identified a number of qualified candidates.

At the primary level, the 9th recent headship appointment process confirmed a high quality of applicants.

The Director of Education suggested that perhaps the reason for the question was related to a recent appointment at Castle Rushen, where the successful candidate had experience in a range of different schools. He reported that whilst movement by senior staff to different schools can be beneficial, transfers can generate practicalities which also need to be addressed.

The Director further advised that provided such issues could be resolved, the Department had no objections to secondments/role exchanges, which would be considered by the Department on a case-by-case basis, with the caveat that budgets are tight.

Discussion took place regarding the provision of careers development advice for teachers, with the suggestion for shared training days to broaden experience.

The Director of Education confirmed agreement with this suggestion, reporting that whilst this has been undertaken in recent years, there could be further opportunities to work together and share good practice.

The Director advised the Council members that the next in-service training would be dedicated to working together on transition. The Director further advised that in relation to Key Stage II forums, there were no obstacles to Head Teachers working together.

13.2/14 Henry Bloom Noble Primary School

When will the Minister be asking Tynwald for the finances to enable the Henry Bloom Noble building project to commence?

The Director of Education advised the Council members that Tynwald Members would be briefed in October, with the motion seeking approval for the funding to be considered at the December sitting of Tynwald.

The Director further advised that the timetable for completion of the school was July/August 2016.

(Following the meeting, the full notes of the officers' responses to the

questions were circulated to the Council Members, for information.)

14/14 Other Matters of Urgent Importance

14.1/14 Difficulties in Obtaining Candidates for Appointment to One Year Contracts

It was noted that two schools seeking to appoint into two posts from September are struggling to obtain applicants for one year contracts.

The Director of Education advised that this is a consequence of the 31st May deadline for resignation, and is a matter for Head Teachers to negotiate. The Director advised that the Department appreciates that this can result in a number of appointments taking place during a short time frame.

14.2/14 Future Holiday Dates

The Director of Education confirmed that schools would be consulted regarding the dates of future school holidays.

14.3/14 SSRE Validation

It was suggested that as the Governing Bodies were not involved in the validation process, the process did not provide a complete picture.

The Director of Education advised that as the SSRE Validators are only within primary schools for one day, and secondary schools for two days, there is insufficient time to seek a total picture. The process is that three core areas are examined, and the findings extrapolated across the other areas of the school.

14.4/14 The Role of the Education Council

The Head of Legal and Administrative Services reported that the Education Bill would look at every aspect of school governance, and that he would be meeting with the members of the Council in order to identify their ideas and suggestions. He further reported his intention that a meeting with Council members would take place during the last week of term.

Discussion took place regarding the need for further clarity of the role of the Education Council.

The Head of Legal and Administrative Services reported that each governing body is different, but that the Education Bill is an opportunity to establish further clarity.

It was noted that the cost of the Council for the previous financial year was £90,000, and that only 30% of non-education Council Governors claim expenses.

14.5/14 The Nunnery

It was noted that there was no further update regarding the Nunnery.

14.6/14 Expression of Thanks

The Minister thanked the Council members for their hard work during the year.

15/14 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place at 10.00 am, on Friday November 14th 2014.

The meeting closed at 11.30 am

Brookall. MHK
Minister

16 DECEMBER 2014.
Date