

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN
EDUCATION AND COUNCIL MEETING

Held on

Wednesday 23rd March 2016

The Professional Development Centre, Santon Old School, Santon

Present	The Hon Tim Crookall, MLC Chairperson	Professor R Barr-Chief Executive Officer
Council Members	Mrs Jennifer Pendree	Mrs Louise Strickett
	Mrs Tracey Martin	Mr Robin Turton
	Mrs Diane Brown	Mr Steven Bevan
	Mrs Barbara Brereton	Mr Ray Smith
	Mr Andrew Cole	Mrs Margaret Mansfield
Apologies	Mr Geoff Corkish, MLC	Mr Bill Malarkey, MHK
Minutes	Mr Andrew Shipley – Legal and Administration Manager	

AGENDA ITEMS

Item	Business	
1.	Apologies for Absence	
	Apologies were given by Mr Bill Malarkey and Mr Geoff Corkish.	
2.	Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 20th November 2015	
	These were recorded as a true and correct record of the meeting held, apart from one minor amendment; Page 3 – (4) Educational Regulations. This should state; Who is eligible to be a member? – Essentially, this is whoever is not on a contract with Department of Education and Children.	
3.	Department of Education and Children-Finances (Head of Finance)	GS
	The Head of Finance gave a presentation to members of the Education Council explaining the finances of the Department of Education and Children.	
4.	Matters Arising from the minutes not shown on the Agenda	
	The Minister officially welcomed everybody including all new members to the first meeting of 2016. He also thanked those who had previously applied, but were not successful in obtaining membership.	

	<p>Henry Bloom Noble - It was reported that the Henry Bloom Noble School is progressing well and although there has been a bit of a delay, handover will be in early August 2016.</p> <p>University College Isle of Man (UCM)- The Chief Executive Officer said that with effect from the 1st April 2016 the University College Isle of Man comes into existence. There is support for this move from the University of Chester and it is an aspiration of the Department of Education and Children to consolidate education across the government through the UCM. The question was raised of when the institution came into being whether we could legitimately say 1880. The Chief Executive Officer said that this was when the original institution, which subsequently became the IOM College came into being. The name of the new Principal and this will be released in due time. Mr Brian Lister will be Interim Principal until 1st September 2016. He has previously been working on the Isle of Man one week per month. There was a question regarding the governing body at the College and the Chief Executive Officer described the make up of the governing body. This consisted of a Student member, Staff member, University of Chester representative, the Principal, a representative from the Department of Education and Children and a representative from Office of Human Resources, namely the Director of Learning, Education and Development as well as five members from business and the community generally. He went on to say that a long term view is needed to consider where things are going. This could consist of continuing as we are; as a College of some other University or applying to be a University in our own right. This last option is a long, demanding process which needs to be recognised by the Privy Council. There are areas that need to be developed, but we are starting from where we are.</p> <p>Central Pupil Database - Legislation is now in place. The Chief Executive Officer and the Minister will be appearing before the Social Affairs Committee in the next few weeks. Going from the minutes of the previous meeting it was suggested that Jan Gimbert of the Education Improvement Service could possibly speak to the Educational Council at their next meeting.</p> <p>Sally Brookes has finished with the Department of Education and Children and Sue Mowle has been appointed as Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding. This name change follows advice from other departments to reflect the new job description that she will have. A request was made for a new topology of the department indicating the different roles that people have. The Chief Executive Officer pointed out that the Director of Strategy and Corporate Service is currently unavailable and that Yvette Mellor will be joining the department to cover her absence.</p> <p>Port St Mary - The Deputy Head is acting up until next year when a permanent appointment is going to be made.</p> <p>Education Bill - Work on this is due to commence in November and will cover the time period 2017-2018.</p>	AS
5.	Risk Management	AS
	Due to time constraints this item was not taken and will be discussed at a future date.	

6.	New School for St Thomas's (where are we up to?)	TM
	<p>The question of a new school for St Thomas's was raised. Sites have been looked at, including Fairfield, Ballacloan and Henry Bloom Noble. It was pointed out that Fairfield and Ballacloan are old schools. This issue will not be settled quickly though and St Thomas' will continue to be a separate school.</p> <p>The Sports facilities at Henry Bloom Noble could be readily used by a new St Thomas' school. The concern was raised that the school could be absorbed into Henry Bloom Noble. The question was asked of whether St Thomas' could be in a completely different location and this is something which needs to be considered further.</p> <p>A meeting was requested for after April 2016 in order to discuss the issue of St Thomas's further.</p> <p>The idea of an all Island faith school has been rejected.</p>	
7.	Following recent online training on asthma	TM
	<p>Q. Would the DoEC consider allowing each school to hold an inhaler and spacer for use in emergencies? At present each child supplies their own and from KS2 is responsible for it.</p> <p>In response to the question about each school holding an inhaler and spacer for use in emergencies, the view is that each child needs to have their own inhaler and spacer. Parents are responsible for supplying this to schools. Schools should not be expected to have their own inhaler and spacer as an emergency.</p>	
8.	Admission Policy	JP
	<p>Q. Could we have clarification on the Admissions Policy? Is it the duty of the school and governors to implement the DoEC policy-in which case the policy needs more substance to cover allocation of multiple birth families. Or at which point will DoEC intervene?</p> <p>This is an area that needs to be considered further and a request was made that the Admissions Policies for Primary and Secondary schools be considered by the Education Council with any views and ideas being sent to the Legal and Administration Manager for subsequent discussion.</p> <p>The issue of twins and multiple births was raised and it was considered important that the views of parents were taken on board in deciding what should happen in terms of children being in the same class or not. Bullying was also raised as an issue and needs to be considered further as well.</p>	
9.	Data Subject Access Requests	
	<p>A discussion arose around this issue which went on to talk about freedom of information and then about vexatious requests.</p> <p>It was pointed out that the Department of Education and Children will release data, as requested and as appropriate.</p>	

	It was pointed out that communications need to be carefully considered, such as emails and information generally. Information will be put out to schools, regarding FoI, but it was recognised that training will be needed.	
10.	Any Other Business	
1.	A member of the Education Council pointed out that there is a move to phase out parent governors in the UK.	
2.	The Department view of the DoI Transport Approach	
	<p>The Transport Manager within the Department of Education and Children was thanked for the work that she has done and it was pointed out how helpful she is in regard to the work that she does in communicating with schools. Service Level Agreements will be provided by DoI Transport. The Minister at Department of Infrastructure had effectively said that business would be as usual. The situation is that the Director of Public Transport wants to take over and be responsible for the school minibuses. It was reported that his view is that people will book minibuses in advance. The Head teacher at Jurby school has supplied some information which was passed on by one of the Education Council members. It was pointed out that the Director of Public Transport has the Operators Licence for the school minibuses. There appears to be an issue regarding communication, although there have been a number of meetings around this issue. This is a political decision which could lead to savings around maintenance, health and safety and insurance. There is an option for schools to maintain and run their own minibuses, but it is estimated that the cost of this would be about £3,000 per year. It was pointed out that the schools would need to apply for an Operator Licence. The Chief Executive Officer said that if minibuses are with Transport there will be consistent health and safety and high standards will be maintained in regard to the minibuses. It is felt that schools will not readily have the capacity regarding servicing. The fee for transfer to DoI Transport is £1500 per year. It was questioned where the predicted £500K saving will be derived from? The answer given was that savings will be accrued from a reduction in the size of fleet and managing minibuses more effectively. The Minister raised the question of the replacement of buses and the ongoing costs. It was pointed out that funds will be transferred from 1st April 2016 regardless of whether minibuses are being transferred or not. There will be a budgetary impact on the Department of Education and Children; the question is how this will be operationalised. The question was raised of whether a decision by the schools is needed by the 1st April 2016 or will everything happen by default. It was pointed out that deadlines to make decisions are too tight and the opportunity is needed to discuss this issue. A member of the Education Council pointed out that the way that this has progressed is of concern. The Legal and Administration Manager will pass on information as it becomes available. Schools will have the opportunity over a period of time to opt out if that is what they wish to do. As a conclusion it was pointed out that staff in schools have tried to make Shared Services work. If this is not working in the Autumn term this will need to be revisited.</p> <p>Other issues were also raised including Governing Body's and the need to look at trying to get new people to come onto these.</p>	AS

	With car parking being paid for by staff then it may mean that meetings in the future will be at Hamilton House. Another issue was around advice needed for those who have been elected to the Council.	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next Education Council meeting will be held on Friday 24 th June 2016 (to be confirmed).	

Signed

Date