

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CHILDREN**  
**EDUCATION AND COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 10.00am**

**at**

**The Professional Development Centre, Santon Old School, Santon**

<b>Present</b>	The Hon Tim Crookall, MLC Chairperson Mr Geoff Corkish, MLC Professor Ronald Barr, Chief Executive Officer Mr Andrew Shipley, Legal and Administration Manager Mr Geoff Moorcroft, Director of Department of Education		
<b>Council Members</b>	Mr Roger Bankes-Jones Mrs Barbara Brereton Mrs Jenny Pendree Mrs Gill Skinner Mr Robin Turton	Mr Terry Bennion Mrs Margaret Mansfield Mr Graham Roberts Mr Ray Smith	Mr Steven Bevan Mrs Tracey Martin Mrs Fiona Robinson Mrs Louise Strickett
<b>Apologies</b>	Mr Bill Malarkey, MHK Mrs Mary Frankwick, Education and Children Council Member		
<b>Minutes</b>	Mrs Sharon Mincher – Senior Secretary – Department of Education and Children		

AGENDA ITEMS

<b>Item</b>	<b>Business</b>
	The Minister welcomed all members to the meeting today
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>
	These are noted above for the meeting today.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015</b>
	The following minor amendments were made to the minutes taken at the last meeting;  5) <b>Appointments Commission</b> TM pointed out that this action point should state the following; <i>The Education Council members were asked to advise the Minister by email if they did not wish to continue for a further 2 years in the event of Tynwald approving the Order at the July meeting, as discussed by John Gill.</i>  2) <b>Estates Director on Estates Matters and Capital Projects</b> Questions and Answers. RB-J pointed out that; Question (3) should state RB-J and not BB-J

	<p>After amendments were recorded the Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record and were signed by the Minister.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising from the Minutes not shown on the Agenda</b>	
	<p>The Minister reported that the unofficial opening of the refurbished Baillie Scott wing at the IOM College went extremely well with contractors, those involved in the industry and also the staff from the College; reporting that they are happy with the refurbishment. The Minister said that if any Council members would like the opportunity to have a look at the refurbished building they are welcome to do so. The Minister reported that there will be an unofficial opening of the Motor Vehicle Engineering Centre at the William Kennish site.</p> <p>Professor Barr reported that the Henry Bloom Noble School, although 2 weeks behind schedule is progressing well and that he is delighted with the outcome at present and that completion of the building looks to be on time. Professor Barr reported that negotiations are taking place with St Thomas's and the Bishop in regard to St Thomas's being a separate school on the Henry Bloom Noble site with some shared catering and work facilities Professor Barr also stated that the Ballacloan site was being considered and that discussions were on-going on both options.</p> <p>Professor Barr reported that Out of Catchment area discussions are taking place and that the Department is looking at dealing with the out of catchment requests in a more robust manner. The Department will want to be absolutely clear on evidence that is presented and the decisions made in regard to out of catchment requests. He said that there are no plans for any schools to close.</p> <p>There then followed a question and answer session around out of catchment issues from which the following points arose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decisions will be based on policy guidelines</li> <li>• Consistency is needed in decisions</li> <li>• A set of guidelines had been drawn up by a group of Education Council Members</li> <li>• Decisions would be made by the Department</li> <li>• In principal pupils should go to their local school</li> <li>• The underlying legislation needs to be reviewed</li> </ul> <p>There was then discussion around 'Legal Highs' as well as Professor Barr confirming that Grainne Burns has been successful in being appointed to the new position of full-time Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer within the Department of Education and Children at Hamilton House. From this discussion a number of points were raised, the first of which was around the term 'legal' as meaning okay to take. Then there was the question of whether there is a training issue for staff in schools, which will involve the Police, as well as appropriate legislation being introduced. The Police are more than happy to work with the Department in relation to concerns around 'Legal Highs', which may include trained police dogs in schools.</p> <p>The issue of appropriate literature was raised which included advice on how to use them safely.</p>	

	<p>Professor Barr explained that the College has been managing without a Principal since the Summer and that Mary Wilson is in post as Acting Principal at present. Gill Skinner reported about applications for Assistant Principal positions from which Geoff Chatwood had been appointed.</p> <p>Professor Barr explained that the Job Description for the new College Principal was being composed, with a new Principal hopefully starting before Easter 2016. Professor Barr explained that the application process will involve the University of Chester and that this is a critical role for the IOM College/University moving forward. He explained that there will need to be some rebranding and explained that the move to a University College, Isle of Man will save individual families money, as well as the Government. It will also help on island businesses with money being spent on island.</p> <p>The Minister reported that the Department of Education and Children had visitors from the Channel Islands last week (Jersey and Guernsey), showing them the IOM College and some of the islands schools.</p> <p>There then followed discussion about people’s perception of the IOM College, including the availability of refreshments in the new Annie Gill block. It was felt that these views are changing but that it will take time. Professor Barr also made reference to positive working with the new owners of the Nunnery, agreeing that if we can still link this site with the IOM College this will be a great advantage for the island.</p> <p>Shared Services were then discussed and Members of the Council were asked if they were aware of any issues regarding catering/maintenance etc that are not being dealt with. Cleaning services were mentioned by Mrs M Mansfield along with heating at Castle Rushen High School. Professor Barr confirmed that budgets will be transferred over to Department of Infrastructure at the start of the next Financial Year. Mr R Banks-Jones raised the issue of the heating at QEII and his hope that changes didn’t make students more distant from the environmental work that they have been involved in and which had been developmental. The Director of Education explained that the control of the heating is not being taken away, it is purely the budget that is being transferred.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Education Regulations</b>	
	<p>Andrew Shipley raised the issue of the Education Council Regulations which he reported will be updated. A number of points were discussed around these including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions to include would be welcome</li> <li>• The number of individuals that could request a meeting of the Council. Should this be 6 members?</li> <li>• Who is eligible to be a member? – Essentially, this is whoever is not on a contract.</li> <li>• Whether the articles and instruments for schools and the college need to be looked at.</li> </ul>	

<b>5.</b>	<b>Communication Issues</b>	
	Comment was made about improved communications since the last meeting. All group members agreed with this.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	<p>Mrs B Brereton raised the issue of the Central Pupil Database and what is going to happen? The Minister replied that he has accepted full responsibility for this from within the Department; that appropriate legislation had not been put in place. There was discussion around the background to how the Department had arrived at the decision including various reports from the Social Affairs Committee and a supplementary response to the second report as well as an email from the Information Commissioner on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Mr Shipley informed the Information Commissioner at 6.15pm on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 that the database would be switched off and it was the following day. The following were raised in subsequent discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those in the Department who are probably most affected are the Educational Psychologists.</li> <li>• Graham Kinrade is currently looking for an alternative system.</li> <li>• 'SQL' queries could be run through the schools information systems.</li> <li>• Data cannot be accessed at the moment as the servers are switched off</li> <li>• Should data be wiped off the servers.</li> <li>• Legal advice needs to be sought.</li> <li>• Thought needs to be put in to which fields of data are actually needed.</li> <li>• Information from the Educational Psychologists for specific vulnerable children has been input.</li> <li>• The Department will work with the AG's and Information Commissioner and that all members will be kept updated.</li> </ul> <p>Other areas which require further consideration are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student cards in schools – matters discussed included what is put on them and what they are used for (eg dinner, exam ID card) and even whether a blank card would be appropriate.</li> <li>• Data collection forms in schools.</li> <li>• Greater clarity for parents and students around what data is collected, why it is being collected, what it is being used for and not putting things on them if not wanted.</li> <li>• If bullying is reduced by having these cards.</li> <li>• Use as an ID card.</li> <li>• The issue of personal privacy and that a political discussion that is needed.</li> <li>• Consistent paperwork is needed in signing up to sharing data.</li> <li>• The loss of cards and turnaround time to get new ones.</li> <li>• The cards do not hold data but provide a key to it.</li> <li>• All schools will be going on to Parent Pay in the New Year.</li> </ul> <p>Mrs J Pendree raised the issue of QTS and applications for posts. Those who have not yet qualified should not be called for interview if there are also qualified teachers applying. In the subsequent discussion around teacher training it was suggested that Mrs Gimbert of the Education Improvement Service could give a presentation so that council members understand how the system works.</p>	<p>GK</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>GM</p>

	<p>Mr R Bankes-Jones raised the issue of road signage for Bemahague. The Minister said that the lack of signage needs to be looked at and he will discuss this with Mr Richard Collister (DoEC Estates Director).</p> <p>Mrs B Brereton asked about the old Park Road site and was informed that it was now part of the Government Land Bank and that there are long-term plans for use of the site by the Department of Health and Social Care.</p> <p>Professor Barr reported that Mrs Sally Brookes has resigned as Director of Services for Children. He said that the Department will be advertising for a Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding. The post is key to protecting the vulnerable and that it will be advertised both on and off the island. He is hoping that applications will be received before Christmas.</p> <p>Mr A Shipley reported that a number of the council members had asked about meetings that are going ahead after 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015. He said that he has asked for a Ministerial Decision to extend the life of the Council until the end of December 2015. The Minister confirmed that he is happy with this arrangement meaning that existing positions, such as being Chair, will continue until that time.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p>
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p>		
	<p>Before the Department and Education Council members left the meeting, the Minister took the opportunity to express his thanks to members of the Council and particularly those who are not reapplying as an Education Council Member. The Minister mentioned that the work of the Education Council is very important to the Department and although it may change, it is very important to have the members out there working on behalf of all of the schools. Thanks were expressed for the work that has been done and the work that members are currently carrying out.</p> <p>With no further items to discuss, the meeting closed at 11.30am</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 at the Professional Development Centre at 10.00am to 12.00am.</p>	

Signed .....

Date .....