

**Department of Education, Sport & Culture
Education Council Meeting Minutes**

Date	28 th November 2018	Time	10.00am	Location	Conference Room, Hamilton House
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Attendees	
Mr Graham Cregeen, MHK	Minister for Education, Sport and Culture
Professor Ronald Barr	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Ann Corlett, MHK	Department Member
Mrs Marlene Hendy, MLC	Department Member
Mrs Louise Strickett	Education Council Member
Mr Robin Turton	Education Council Member
Mrs Barbara Brereton	Education Council Member
Mr Ray Smith	Education Council Member
Mrs Diane Brown	Education Council Member
Mr Andrew Cole	Education Council Member
Mr Alex Downie	Education Council Member
Mrs Malgorzata Simpson	Education Council Member
Mr Andrew Shipley	Legal and Administration Manager
Apologies	
Mr Lorrie Hooper, MHK	Department Member
Mrs Margaret Mansfield	Education Council Member
Mr Steven Bevan	Education Council Member

AGENDA ITEMS

1	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Mansfield; Mr Steven Bevan and Mr Lorrie Hooper, MHK.</p>
2	<p>Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting held on 13th June 2018</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2018 were agreed after minor amendments as an accurate record and signed as such by Minister Cregeen.</p>
3	<p>MATTERS ARISING – From minutes dated 13th June 2018</p> <p>Education Council Tenure</p> <p>Various Education Council Members sought clarity as to the tenure of Education Council members. The Minister confirmed that tenure will be extended until the Education Bill is passed.</p> <p>Education Bill</p> <p>The timeframe for completion of the Education Bill was discussed and certain variants that may impact upon this. Concern was raised that schools should be made aware of the timeframe.</p>

	<p>A suggestion was made that the Education Bill and the implications/ provisions of which may be explained at the next Education Council Meeting. The Minister confirmed that the Education Bill is in the final drafting stage. It was decided to extend the consultation by two weeks (if it is released over Christmas period). Clarity was sought as to appropriate responses to schools questions on changes to Education Council Members. The Chief Executive Officer reassured members that their roles will be stable until the end of the school year.</p> <p>It was recognised that the Education Bill may need modifying after the consultation.</p> <p>The activity programme (low income families to receive discounted entry to NSC) was discussed, the Minister recognised there had been a disappointing uptake and it was suggested this may be because of transport costs to the various venues. The Minister is looking into the possibility of rolling the programme out regionally.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Update on Progress of Education Act</p> <p>The Legal and Administration Manager explained that a skype meeting with the Legislative Drafter had taken place on 27th Nov and that the Department is now in the position to write the questions for the consultation.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Current limit of £500 that a school can spend without going to tender, for goods and services</p> <p>The Minister introduced the topic. Concerns were raised that the current limit is too low and that Headteachers are becoming increasingly responsible for bureaucratic tasks. A suggestion was made that an FD8 type waiver with Department backing could be used to support schools. The Minister highlighted that the issue had been raised with the Chief Financial Officer. There has been some discussion with the Chief Auditor about the possibility of raising the limit to £2000, post consultation with relevant professionals. An issue was raised about the tender for Ballakermeen High School's campsite in regards to processing.</p> <p>There was discussion around handling money in schools as well as about opening safes which requires two staff members to be present. This move was due to financial regulations and internal audit. The Chief Executive Officer suggested a camera system and a log book to monitor.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that Internal audit advise the Department what will be audited each year and it was felt this was beneficial for the Department.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Possibility for a school to apply for an FD8 type waver, from financial regulations</p> <p>This had previously been discussed.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Can the CEO or Director inform the Council as to what is pupil premium? Should it be applied to Island schools and if so what are the plus points and ramifications of such action.</p> <p>The Minister had attended a presentation on Pupil Premium. It was believed that this is not something that can be easily transposed from England to the IOM. The Chief</p>	

	<p>Executive Officer explained that the payment is made on the basis of individual students; in England this is £1300 per pupil. It was stated that the scheme had implementation issues in England particularly regarding accountability and measurable outcomes. A suggestion was made that a metric such as free school meals may be used to identify the children eligible for funding. The Minister believes that it is too early to comment on pupil premium.</p> <p>Currently the Department has a complex funding model, based on the total number of children, number of children with SEN, how many sites, amongst other factors. The Minister commented on a pilot scheme of zero based budgeting which the Department are working on. There was comment on DFM for SEN pupils. Discussion took place about priority based budgeting and it was recognised there may be conflicts of interest but it was stated that the DESC would be proactive about this.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>An update please on the survey being carried out on behaviour issues</p> <p>The CEO explained that an analysis of suspension figures has been undertaken. The Director of Education is due to present the results of the analysis and open up a discussion about the consistency and levels of suspensions with Secondary School Heads. Discussion took place about the possible reasons behind the figures, including cuts to supportive services & societal changes.</p> <p>There was some discussion about 'inclusion', instances of challenging behaviours across the islands high schools and the consistency of approach in dealing with such, including innovative approaches to dealing with issues. The Minister has asked for a review into anti-bullying, from the Diana Foundation. The Department is working collaboratively with a leading researcher in California to target challenging behaviours – this includes music and drama. The Chief Executive Officer shared hopes that the island may lead the way in this area in future.</p> <p>Members of the Education Council called for the consideration of a change in policy and the utilisation of specialist teachers to tackle with challenging behaviours.</p> <p>Discussion regarding cuts to services such as Youth Justice and team around the family that were there to help mitigate and negate issues took place.</p> <p>Education Council Members shared the need to highlight challenging behaviours at primary age and noted an increasing trend in child mental health issues, so that strategies and support may be put in place earlier. There was discussion about the support needs of some children and timeframes for intervention by agencies.</p> <p>The Minister confirmed an update on behaviour issues would be provided at the next scheduled meeting.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>a) IGCSE Maths</p> <p>The Minister shared a concern from Secondary Heads and Heads of Mathematics on the success of IGCSE maths. The Department has asked for all secondary schools to unanimously agree on an awarding body to be used. This is a specific issue regarding</p>	

mathematics IGCSE only and that an immediate, intermediate and long term solution will be discussed following school submissions, to be reviewed by DESC after 3 years. Discussion then took place about low achieving pupils and accessible provision available to them to ensure they are leaving school with valuable qualifications.

b) ParentPay

Discussion around ParentPay took place; the Department is aiming to introduce this provision to primary schools as soon as possible, however there is some governance around data protection that will need to be completed.

c) DESC attainment toolkit

There was some discussion regarding the criteria used to classify the effectiveness of schools. Concerns were raised about the impact of including children with SEN in whole school figures, specifically if a school has unit provision. Discussion took place about the inclusive approach that DESC takes and if Education Council members are worried about individual levels within schools then they should discuss with the schools link advisor.

d) Budgeting Cycles

Budgeting cycles and timelines for schools to receive yearly budget was mentioned.

e) Mr Andrew Cole's retirement

The Minister expressed his thanks and gratitude on behalf of the Department to Mr Andrew Cole for his long term commitment to the education of the Island's children and that his work is and has been greatly appreciated. Mr Cole thanked the Minister and attendees for their words of thanks.

Signature.....

Maureen M. Maska

Dated.....

27th March 2019