

No 736 Minutes 736 of the Education Committee meeting held at the Education Learning Centre on Wednesday, 18 January 2017 at 09.00hrs.

Present:	Hon. Christine Scipio-O'Dean	Chairperson
	Hon. Dr Corinda Essex	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Brian Isaac	Member
	Hon. Wilson Duncan	Member
	Mrs. Wendy Benjamin	Acting Director
	Hon. Cruyff Buckley	Member
	Mrs. Kerry Yon	Assistant Director Lifelong Learning
	Mrs. Cherilee Thomas-Johnson	Secretary
Invited:	Mr Michael Brown	For item 36.3

OPEN AGENDA

36.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairperson welcomed all to the first meeting of the year.

36.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 735

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION

It was noted that Keeping Children Safe in Education policy and Keeping Staff safe will be included on next month's Agenda

ACTION: Acting Director

36.3 INTRODUCTION TO MR MICHAEL BROWN

The Committee was introduced to PAS Science Teacher, Mr Michael Brown.

Mr Brown informed the Committee of his background and advised that he was settling in well on the island.

He also commented that he was delighted that despite the isolation of the island, PAS school appears to be well resourced and that the students were quite well behaved.

He also stated that he has commenced updating the Scheme of Work for Science due to recent changes to the UK national curriculum.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Brown for his presentation and he left the meeting.

36.4 PILOT LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Committee members noted the report, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Committee requested that thanks and appreciation to be conveyed to the staff of the Public Library for carrying out the pilot scheme.

The Committee endorsed the recommendation for the revised opening hours which will be effective from 1 February 2017.

36.5 REPORT ON ST HELENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Committee noted the report and commented that they were disappointed that the St Helena Community College Board had not yet met.

ACTION: Assistant Director Lifelong Learning

36.6 END OF KEYSTAGE ASSESSMENTS

Committee members noted the report.

It was highlighted that due to the schedule of the RMS St. Helena and the short timeline for the distribution and submission of SATs in the UK, it is not practicable for Year 6 students on the island to undertake 'live' testing of SATs.

It was also noted that from 22nd May 2017 all SAT papers will be available on line to the public world-wide; therefore students on the island will not be able to use these papers for any revision or testing.

Students commenced working on the new national curriculum in September 2016 hence it would be unreasonable to expect Yr. 6 students to be well prepared for the SAT's examinations this year as they have not had two years of working through the new curriculum.

The Committee accepted that the situation is one that exists but noted that it results in serious implications. It was agreed that the following assessment for this year only as there are no alternative viable options available:

- English – students will be assessed using the computer based Progress in English test. This test will give a level of achievement in Reading and Writing. These levels will be compared with other paper based assessments in the areas of Writing and Reading. In writing their level will be determined through teacher assessment of their writing produced over the year using a Writing Criterion Scale. Reading will also be tested using paper based test papers along with the Schonell Reading test. Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation (SPAG) will not be tested separately but will be assessed as part of the Writing assessment, as it is through their writing that children show whether they understand and can use the different elements of SPAG.

- Maths – students will be given an end of year test, the results of which will be compared to the computer based Progress in Maths test.

All end of year paper based assessments will be administered and marked by identified staff outside of schools to formalise this process and help retain the integrity of the paper.

ACTION: Acting Director

36.7 FEEDBACK FROM PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Committee members noted the report and were given additional information.

It was noted that only Harford Primary School had collated their data; the other Primary Schools had only supplied responses received which was of concern to the Committee since this has been an ongoing item since October 2016.

The Committee questioned whether Prince Andrew School had held their PTA meeting and if data had been collected. The Acting Director agreed to follow this up with the schools and circulate the information via email and will be discussed further at February's meeting.

ACTION: Acting Director

36.11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held on:

Wednesday, 15 February 2017, commencing at 09.00 hrs at the Education Learning Centre.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was closed at 10.30hrs.

Confirmed:

Honourable Christine Scipio-O'Dean

Date: 20 January 2017