

## NO 718

### **Minutes 718 of the Education Committee meeting held at the Education Learning Centre on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 09.00hrs.**

Present:	Hon. Christine Scipio-O'Dean	Chairperson
	Hon. Nigel Dollery	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Pamela Ward Pearce	Member
	Hon. Corinda Essex	Member
	Hon. Cyril George	Member
	Mrs Shirley Wahler	Director
	Mrs Wendy Benjamin	Assistant Director Schools
	Mrs Kerry Yon	Assistant Director Lifelong Learning
	Mrs Cherilee Thomas-Johnson	Secretary

## **OPEN AGENDA**

### **18.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chairperson gave a warm welcome to all present at the meeting.

### **18.2 UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Committee noted the document.

The Director reported that she felt strongly that the Strategic Plan needed to be reviewed. The Director advised the Committee that the Directorate will seek advice and direction from the Committee during the review.

The Director also informed the Committee that a review of Prince Andrew School's curriculum would be undertaken as several issues have already been identified.

The Director informed the Committee that a review on the Primary Schools had already begun. It is hoped that reviewing the curriculums will address some of teachers' concerns in regards to planning and preparation.

The Chairperson thanked the Director for providing the Committee with an update and looked forward to the review of the Strategic Plan in due course.

### **18.3 ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES WITHIN THE DIRECTORATE**

The Committee noted the report.

The Director explained the rationale behind the changes within the Directorate.

Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning), was previously responsible for Early Years Childhood Education, this responsibility has now been transferred to Assistant Director (Schools). The responsibility of the Early Years Childhood Education enables continuity as Assistant Director (Schools) is responsible for Nursery and Primary Education as well as Professional Development for Teaching Staff.

Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning) will now be responsible for Tertiary Education and Human Capital Development – both of these responsibilities link with her responsibility for Lifelong Learning.

The Director informed the Committee that she would be responsible for Secondary Education but will require input from Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning) and Assistant Director (Schools).

It was noted that further refining of management responsibilities will be undertaken.

The Director informed the Committee that the implementation of school improvement plans, which will be guided by national priorities, will be set up annually. These plans will be submitted to the Committee by no later than July 2015.

#### 18.4 CHANGES TO THE UK NATIONAL CURRICULUM AND THE WAY FORWARD FOR ST HELENA SCHOOLS

The Committee noted the report.

The Director explained that if the Directorate chose not to adopt the changes to the National Curriculum, our students would be severely disadvantaged at GCSE level in a few years time.

In relation to this, the Director informed the Committee that the Standards Attainment Tests (SATs) will undergo changes. The Director understood that the changes to these tests are likely to be quite extensive. It was noted that information on the changes to SATs would not be issued until October 2015. The Committee was informed that the Directorate would have contingency plans in place should the Directorate be faced with the problem of SATs not being readily available next year.

Advisors have provided advice and input which has identified challenges that may arise.

The Director stressed the importance of preparing teachers to be able to cope with all of the changes and spoke of the possibility of monitoring challenging areas closely.

The Chairperson thanked the Director for report and looked forward to an update.

#### 18.5 PROPOSED UPGRADES TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Director informed the Committee that the proposed upgrades would improve the service and efficiency of the current Public Library system.

The proposed system will greatly facilitate future development and growth. The possibility of Prince Andrew School having a similar system in the near future was discussed.

The Committee supported the request for the proposed upgrades for the Public Library.

#### 18.6 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 717

##### 17.7 UPDATE ON SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

The Committee was informed that approval had been given from the Procurement Board for the current school bus contract to be extended to 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

##### 17.8 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 716

##### REPORT FROM MATHS ADVISORY TEACHERS

The Director informed the Committee that the issue of securing Maths staff was ongoing; two part-time Maths teachers have been identified and will commence their role in May 2015. The recruitment of the two part-time Maths teachers will release the advisory Maths teachers and enable them to provide support and assistance as needed.

##### UPDATE ON LEARNING MENTOR ROLE – MISS ABBY KIRK

A summary of the students' survey is to be circulated; Director agreed to follow up.

**ACTION:** Director

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting closed at 10.15 hrs.



Confirmed:

Date: May 2015

Cllr Christine Scipio-Odean