

**NO 727**

**Minutes 727 of the Education Committee meeting held at the Education Learning Centre on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 09.00hrs.**

Present:	Hon. Nigel Dollery	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Brian Isaac	Member
	Hon. Wilson Duncan	Member
	Hon. Corinda Essex	Member
	Mrs Shirley Wahler	Director
	Mrs Kerry Yon	Assistant Director Lifelong Learning
	Mrs Wendy Benjamin	Assistant Director Schools
	Mrs Cherilee Thomas-Johnson	Secretary
Apologies:	Hon. Christine Scipio-O'Dean	Chairperson
Invited:	Miss Vyona Young	Item No. 27.7

**OPEN AGENDA**

**27.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Deputy Chairperson welcomed all present.

Apologies were received from the Chairperson, Christine Scipio-O'Dean.

**27.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 726**

**TEACHER INTRODUCTION – MELANIE DUNN & FATIMA BASSON.**

The Assistant Director of Schools, Mrs Wendy Benjamin informed the Committee that there were still some concerns in regards to Mr Snell, Miss Dunn and Miss Basson; The Directorate continues to provide support and are trying to help these staff members adjust to teaching on St. Helena.

Mrs Benjamin reported that she held training sessions with the above staff members for English and Maths; despite the support all three staff members continue to struggle - one shows slight improvements.

When questioned about the teacher's weaknesses, Mrs. Benjamin reported that they were struggling with controlling pupils. It was also mentioned that delivery of these teachers lessons were not at the expected level.

All three staff members have indicated that they were likely to return to their home country.

From discussions it was obvious that the Committee shared the Directorates concerns with regards to future recruitment; the Directorate reported that currently they are seeking advice from Corporate Human Resources on rewording adverts to include a phrase that would reflect applicants having awareness and/or knowledge of local context.

## **REPORT FROM RETURNING GRADUATE TEACHERS**

The meeting of the Scholarships Awards Committee was postponed and is planned to be held in March; Options for providing support to current scholarship candidates for when they go abroad are yet to be shared with them for decision-making.

ACTION: Director

## **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

The final version of the Strategic Plan has been circulated to the Committee, with corrections made to the page numbers. The Committee was informed that an extra appendix had been inserted in this document by request of Paul McGinnety.

It was agreed that the Committee would be circulated a copy of the extra appendix.

ACTION: Director

## **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY TERMS AND REFERENCE**

The Acting Director circulated the amended version via email.

## **HOME SCHOOLING APPLICATION FORM**

The amendments and additions that were recommended by the Committee are yet to be incorporated into the form; The Director agreed to circulate the amended version for information once complete.

ACTION: Director

The Committee requested that they are made aware when a home schooling application is approved.

ACTION: Director

## **CLOSED AGENDA**

### **27.3 PROPOSED GUIDANCE ON ALTERNATIVE PROVISION**

Committee members were circulated the guidance prior to the meeting for informational purposes.

### **27.4 APPROVAL OF TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME**

Committee members were circulated the document prior to the meeting for informational purposes.

### **27.5 CAREERS FAIR FEEDBACK**

Committee members were circulated the report prior to the meeting.

The Committee was informed that feedback received from the Careers Fair indicated that there was a preference to host Careers Fair every other year.

Honourable Wilson Duncan felt that a yearly Careers Fair would be advantageous and said that opportunities to promote careers would be lost should the Directorate host the Fair Bi-annually.

The Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning reassured the Committee that there are Career Guidance Sessions in schools. The Directorate were encouraged by the support from businesses which continues throughout the year in the form of visits, talks and other initiatives.

A suggestion to host a Careers week was shared and it was agreed that this option would be explored. Support was received from the Committee.

The Assistant Director of Lifelong learning agreed to circulate an analysis of the feedback.

ACTION: ADLL

### **27.10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on:

16th March 2016, commencing at 09.00 hrs at the Education Learning Centre.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting closed at 11.00 hrs.

  
Confirmed:  
Cllr Nigel Dollery

Date: 15 March 2016

