

NO 717

Minutes 717 of the Education Committee meeting held at the Education Learning Centre on Wednesday, 26th March at 08.30hrs.

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 Kerry Yon	Assistant Director Lifelong Learning
	Mrs Cherilee Thomas-Johnson	Secretary
Invited:	Mr Andy Day	For Item 17.2
	Mrs Helen Wallis	For Item 17.3
	Mrs Carlean Crowie	For Item 17.4
	Miss Elaine Benjamin	For Item 17.4
	Mrs Patricia Williams	For Item 17.4
	Mr Paul Starkie	For Item 17.4
	Ms Vivienne Ward	For Item 17.5
	Miss Joanne Crowie	For Item 17.9

OPEN AGENDA

17.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairperson gave a warm welcome to all present at the meeting and a special welcome was given to Honourable Pamela Ward Pearce and Mrs Shirley Wahler.

17.2 REPORT FROM ICT ADVISORY TEACHER: MR ANDY DAY

The Committee noted the report.

Mr Day reported that since the compilation of his report, he was now aware that the staff member who had been identified to carry out the role of ICT Coordinator within the Primary Schools has now been utilised as a class teacher therefore the implementation of the Primary School ICT Coordinator is unlikely to happen in the short-term.

It was noted that Mr Day will continue to provide training to teachers at the Primary Schools on a weekly basis but he is no longer able to teach ICT to students in the Primary sector.

It was evident that teaching and training of ICT in Primary Schools were restricted due to limited bandwidth availability – the importance of funding was noted by the Committee.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Day for attending and he left the meeting.

17.3 REPORT FROM ENGLISH ADVISORY TEACHER: MRS HELEN WALLIS

The Committee noted the report.

A member noted a concern that Mrs Wallis raised, in regards to teaching additional hours. Members recalled previously that this concern was shared by other Advisory Teachers; it was hoped that the Directorate would seek a solution for this problem.

Mrs Wallis' report also highlighted the difficulties when procuring textbooks from overseas. The Committee recalled that this was a problem highlighted at a previous meeting and Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning reported that she was investigating.

The Director informed the Committee that she too was investigating issues in regards to procurement and reported that the Directorate is looking for alternative ways to improve and efficiently manage the procurement process.

The Chairperson thanked Mrs Wallis for attending and she left the meeting

17.4 HEADTEACHERS REPORT: MRS CARLEAN CROWIE, MISS ELAINE BENJAMIN, MRS PATRICIA WILLIAMS AND MR PAUL STARKIE

The Committee noted the Headteachers reports.

Mrs Crowie, Headteacher of Harford Primary informed the Committee that a staffing plan for cover was now in place. She also reported that the PTA Committee was very proactive and supportive.

Miss Benjamin, Headteacher of Pilling Primary reported that it was likely that most classes will revert back to being horizontal with the increasing numbers of pupils; she also highlighted the difficulty with some pupils having English being taught as an additional language. She voiced her disappointment that only seven parents attended the Safeguarding Workshop at Pilling School.

Mrs Williams, Headteacher of St Pauls Primary reported the rewiring works and spruce project were still ongoing. She also informed the Committee that they had a good attendance of parents for their Phonics Workshop.

Mr Starkie, Headteacher of Prince Andrew School voiced his concerns that teaching of Music had not yet been secured for the school year commencing September 2015.

It was noted that Mrs Maria Thomas had been appointed as the PSHCE Coordinator whilst the substantive post holder is on Career break. The Committee questioned the impact that the transfer of Mrs Maria Thomas from Primary to Secondary would have on Harford Primary School, during a time of staffing shortage. The Director informed Committee that Mrs Thomas has the potential to carry out the role of PSHCE Co-ordinator; an advert for a HLTA in Maria Thomas' place had been published

The Chairperson thanked all the Headteachers for attending the meeting and commended them and their staff for their continuous hard work and dedication.

17.5 UPDATE OF EARLY YEARS: MS VIVIENNE WARD

The Committee noted the report.

The Chairperson commended Ms Ward and thanked her for attending and she left the meeting.

17.6 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Committee agreed that as the information was incomplete, the item would be deferred until April 2015.

17.7 UPDATE ON SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning informed the Committee that the current school bus contract service will be extended to 7th August 2015; awaiting approval from the Procurement Board.

17.8 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 716

REPORT FROM MATHS ADVISORY TEACHERS: JON LAMBTON & ANDY PARKINSON

Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning reported that she briefly met with PAS Headteacher to address the issue of securing Maths staff. It was reported that additional staff had been secured for the immediate to short-term period only. On-going discussions are still being held to address the situation for long term; a plan will be presented in due course.

ACTION: Director

The Committee was informed that the Assistant Director Schools had been in contact with Mr Parkinson to develop links with Primary Schools for Maths

UPDATE ON LEARNING MENTOR ROLE – ABBY KIRK

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

ACTION: Director

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 715

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

A list of maintenance for all schools for 2015/16 is to be circulated; deferred to April's meeting.

ACTION: Director

MATHS CURRICULUM

The Committee was informed that detailed planned Maths activities within the Primary Schools are to be circulated.

ACTION: Director

DFID ADVISORS REPORT

The progress report on the recommendations made in DFID Advisors report is deferred.

SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE

The Committee was informed that revisions to the Child Protection Guidance for all Schools will be presented once completed.

ACTION: Director

RECREATION AND PLAYGROUND ORDINANCE

The Chairperson advised that it has been agreed that the Social and Community Development Committee will be responsible for all Playgrounds; legislation is in progress to amend this.

17.11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15th April 2015 commencing at 09.00hrs at the Education Learning Centre

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

KS

Confirmed:

Date: April 2015

Cllr Christine Scipio-Odean