

**No 730      Minutes 730 of the Education Committee meeting held at the Education Learning Centre on Thursday, 12th May 2016 at 09.00hrs.**

Present:	Hon. Christine Scipio-O'Dean	Chairperson
	Hon. Nigel Dollery	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Brian Isaac	Member
	Hon. Wilson Duncan	Member
	Mrs Shirley Wahler	Director
	Mrs Wendy Benjamin	Assistant Director Schools
	Mrs Kerry Yon	Assistant Director Lifelong Learning
	Mrs Cherilee Thomas-Johnson	Secretary
Invited:	Mrs Carlean Crowie	Headteacher, Harford Primary School
	Miss Elaine Benjamin	Headteacher, Pilling Primary School
	Mrs Patricia Williams	Headteacher, St Pauls Primary School
Apologies:	Hon. Corinda Essex	Member
	Mrs Penelope Bowers	Ag. Headteacher, Prince Andrew School

**OPEN AGENDA**

**30.1    WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chairperson welcomed all present.

Apologies were received from the Honourable Corinda Essex who is currently overseas for a conference and Mrs Penelope Bowers, the Acting Headteacher of Prince Andrew School.

**30.2    MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 730**

**REPORT FROM RETURNING GRADUATE TEACHERS**

The Director, Mrs Shirley Wahler informed the Committee that a Scholarships Awards Committee meeting is still to be held. Work is still being carried out with regards to the provision of support to the students going abroad. The Director will meet with Mrs Kedell Worboys in June 2016 to discuss inconsistency with information received by students from the UK Rep and Managers on the island.

ACTION: Director

**CHARGING POLICY**

The public had not yet been informed of the revised charges for the Public Library; In view of this, the Committee agreed that these charges will now be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016.

ACTION: Assistant Director Lifelong Learning

ACTION: Director

### **30.3 REPORTS FROM HEADTEACHERS**

Committee members were circulated the reports prior to the meeting.

#### **A) PILLING PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Committee noted the report.

The Headteacher informed the Committee that there has been an increase in the number of serious cases of safeguarding issues within the school; this uses teaching and learning time and often is difficult to manage. The Headteacher informed the Committee that she saw a need for an extension to the current Inclusion services; Director to review

ACTION: Director

#### **B) HARFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Committee noted the report.

A Committee member questioned the external lighting of the School; the Headteacher was unaware of any changes to the external lighting, which apparently lit up the entire premises. The Headteacher agreed to check with the Electrician who was currently undertaking works on site and agreed to email an update to the Committee.

ACTION: Headteacher Harford Primary School

#### **C) ST PAULS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Committee noted the report.

#### **D) PRINCE ANDREW SCHOOL**

The Committee noted the report.

Committee members raised concerns in regards to the acts of vandalism. Members were reassured that the Police Directorate have been notified of all incidents.

The Committee noted the staffing issues across all schools and a letter of appreciation to be conveyed to all staff.

ACTION: Chairperson

The Assistant Director of Schools informed the Committee that there have been on-going discussions with the Headteachers about options to address the staffing issues in the long term.

Options included:

1. The removal of Nursery Provision which would provide an additional three teachers and teaching assistants in the Primary Sector however the removal of this provision is not currently ideal
2. The merging of two of the Primary schools could prove to be beneficial in terms of staffing however there would be social implications
3. Grouping the children differently for the classes would require an additional two teachers however an imbalance of ages would arise and this would not be ideal.
4. Increasing the sizes of each year group would require the use of Classroom instructors.

The Headteachers felt that option four would be the most manageable. It was noted that Classroom Instructors are of similar roles to that of A Higher Level Teaching Assistant however they would be required to teach more; this has been included in the Scheme of Service for teachers The Committee looking forward to receiving a proposal in due course.

Concern was raised regarding catchment areas as students were not attending the primary schools in the areas that they live. Headteachers informed the Committee that there were children attending schools that were not in their catchment area when the schools have the capacity to do so but St Helena Government did not provide transport for these students.

The Committee agreed that catchment areas should be reviewed to ensure that students are attending schools in the appropriate areas.

ACTION: Director

#### **30.4 OVERVIEW OF NEW PRIMARY MATHS SCHEME**

Committee members noted the Oxford Inspire Maths documentation and look forward to a proposal as to how the Directorate could take this forward in the future.

ACTION: Director

30.11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on:

Wednesday, 15th June 2016, commencing at 09.00 hrs at the Education Learning Centre.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting closed at 12.05 hrs.

Confirmed:  
Honourable Christine Scipio-O'Dean

Date: 2 June 2016