

NO 723

Minutes 723 of the Education Committee meeting held at the Education Learning Centre on Wednesday, 16th September 2015 at 09.00hrs.

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| Present: | Hon. Christine Scipio-O'Dean | Chairperson |
| | Hon. Nigel Dollery | Deputy Chairperson |
| | Hon. Corinda Essex | Member |
| | Hon. Brian Isaac | Member |
| | Hon. Wilson Duncan | Member |
| | Mrs Shirley Wahler | Director |
| | Mrs Kerry Yon | Assistant Director Lifelong Learning |
| | Mrs. Wendy Benjamin | Assistant Director Schools |
| | Mrs Cherilee Thomas-Johnson | Secretary |
| Invited: | Mr. Paul Starkie | For Items 23.3 to 23.6 |
| | Mrs Penny Bowers | For Item 23.3 |
| | Miss Stacey Thomas | For Item 23.4 |
| | Miss Derrie Yon | For Item 23.4 |
| | Miss Laura Lawrence | For Item 23.4 |
| | Miss Christine George | For Item 23.9 |
| | Mr. Nicholas Yon | For Item 23.9 |

OPEN AGENDA

23.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairperson gave a warm welcome to all present.

23.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 722

CLOSED AGENDA

REPORTS FROM HEADTEACHERS

The Director advised that work is in progress however the reviews of advisory teacher's roles are still incomplete.

It was agreed that this issue would be presented to the committee in November's meeting.

ACTION: Director

PUBLIC LIBRARY OPERATIONS

The draft survey was not presented to the Committee in the meeting as previously agreed; the Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning agreed to circulate the survey via email.

ACTION: Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning

The Terms of Reference for the establishment of a 'Friends of the St Helena Public Library' group was deferred to November Committee meeting.

ACTION: Director

The Committee agreed that due to staff shortages, the pilot scheme for opening hours for the Public Library will be deferred until next year. –The Committee also agreed to enable the Directorate to amend the Public Library Hours as appropriate during this time of staffing difficulties.

The Director thanked the Committee for their support.

UPDATE ON TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

It was noted that due to a breakdown in communication the survey was not presented to the Chamber of Commerce on 1st September 2015.

The Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning confirmed that she had circulated the survey to businesses.

23.3 REPORT FROM PENNY BOWERS – REPORT ATTACHED

The Committee noted the report.

Mrs Bowers informed the Committee that whilst on exposure visit in the United Kingdom she recognised Prince Andrew School strengths and weaknesses and highlighted the main weakness for Prince Andrew School was limited finance

Mrs Bowers told Committee members that she had built rapport with people who she had met - which would benefit her and the school.

The Committee thanked Mrs Bowers for her report.

23.4 REPORTS FROM RETURNING GRADUATE TEACHERS

STACEY THOMAS – REPORT ATTACHED

The Committee was issued with a printed copy of Miss Thomas's report as a result of several delays which included a reoccurring problem with email.

The Committee noted the following issues raised; Director to follow up

Removal of the book allowance

Planning processes in the Primary schools presents several differences: the timetabled approach was too structured and heavy for Key stage 1 pupils; The learning of Letters and Sounds were included within Literacy lessons rather than taught separately, Maths needed to be taught with focus on more practical activities.

Miss Thomas acknowledged and thanked the Education Directorate for giving her the opportunity to embark on her studies and conveyed her appreciation to Mr. Brian Fredericks

The Chairperson thanked Miss Thomas for attending the meeting.

DERRIE YON – REPORT ATTACHED

The Committee noted the report.

Miss Yon raised her concerns in regards to Prince Andrew School students not currently having access to the school Library.

The Committee noted Miss Yon's concerns and the Directorate assured the Committee that temporary closure of the Library in the school was being addressed.

LAURA LAWRENCE – REPORT ATTACHED

The Committee noted the report.

Miss Lawrence informed Committee of the difficulties and barriers that she was faced with in the United Kingdom whilst on study. Miss Lawrence highlighted that information which she received from the islands United Kingdom Representative differed to the information that other students received from Managers on island.

It was noted that there was a need for sharing of guidance.

The Director assured the Committee that she was aware of these problems and would follow this up.

ACTION: Director

The Chairperson thanked Miss Lawrence for attending the meeting and the three graduate teachers left the meeting.

23.5 MOBILE PHONE POLICY

The report was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

All members were content to endorse the Mobile Phone Policy for the schools It was noted that SHG would be looking at enforcing a mobile phone policy across all Directorates.

22.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on:

21st October 2015 commencing at 09.00 hrs at the Education Learning Centre.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting closed at 12.28 hrs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Scipio-Odean', is written over a faint circular stamp.

Confirmed:
Cllr Christine Scipio-Odean

Date: 30th September 2015