

749 Minutes 749 of the Education Committee Meeting at the Education Learning Centre held College on Wednesday, 20 June 2018 at 09.00hrs.

Present:	Hon. Christine Scipio-O'Dean	Chairperson
	Hon. Kylie Hercules	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Dr Corinda Essex	Member
	Hon Clint Beard	Member
	Hon. Brian Isaac	Member
	Mrs Robyn Franconi	Secretary
	Mrs Shirley Wahler	Director of Education
	Mrs Angela Benjamin	Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning
	Mrs Wendy Benjamin	Assistant Director of Schools

49.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Education Committee.

49.2 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairperson advised that the Financial Secretary had given approval for funding to be used from Education's existing budget to cover the cost of the renovations at Harford Primary School.

49.3 SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

The document and appendices were circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

The Director informed that the Scholarship Policy would be an overarching policy to replace the existing Terms of Reference and provide guidance on ad hoc matters not previously covered.

The Committee were asked to approve the draft Scholarship Policy and appendices (The Scholarship Awards Committee (Nominating Body) and Scholarship Guidelines – Undergraduate Scholarships). The Committee were content to approve the policy but reaffirmed that it would be an overarching policy which will allow latitude on how decisions are taken.

The content of the annexed documents were briefly discussed and noted items included reference to 'satisfactory vetting'. Members agreed that the consideration of 'satisfactory' would be made at the discretion of the awarding committee in line with similar practice of Universities.

The draft document related to the proposed Scholarship Trust was noted and the Committee endorsed the planned role and the development of final policy documents to support the establishment of the Trust.

The Committee further endorsed the development of guidelines for privately funded 'directed scholarships' under the Scholarship Scheme. Members noted that private sponsors /organisations should not be obligated to direct or specify the award category but have the option to, if required.

The Committee agreed that the Scholarship Policy should not be implemented until all the associated documentation had been finalised; an update would be provided to the Committee in September 2018. ACTION: Director

49.4 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND) POLICY

The document was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

The Director informed that the SEND Policy was an overarching document to include a suite of documents in support and guidance to Inclusion. The Director stated that the policy represented a definition of people with special needs which establishes a principle that not all children in need of SEND are extreme and most children's' needs could be addressed through quality teaching.

The Director further noted that the Policy provides an agreed language and terminology required to continue the development of the Education Ordinance.

The Director advised that a timeframe cannot be provided in completing supporting policy documents as input is required from other Directorates.

The Director confirmed that the SEND Policy was final and would meet the milestones established in the St Helena Connected initiative. She added that it was a robust policy that will compare well internationally.

The Committee approved the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Policy and noted that further work will continue in this area to develop supporting documents and guidance for Inclusion.

It was agreed that further work in respect of the development of supporting documents for Inclusion as well as the resumption of work on the Education Ordinance are prioritised.

49.5 PROPOSED CHANGES TO APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

The document was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

The Director informed that the Directorate were seeking to improve the efficiency in which the Scheme is structured and administered with the purpose to strengthen the capacity of the Apprenticeship Scheme.

The Director added that focus will be placed on career prospects by ensuring that apprentices are tied to clear, measurable and achievable outcomes.

The apprenticeship pathways and some areas for future training were discussed. It was agreed that Band 3A should be cross referenced to avoid ambiguity and note that Prince Andrew School has conditions in place; criteria to be circulated to Members. ACTION: Secretary

The Committee agreed the proposed changes in how the Apprenticeship Scheme will be structured and administered.

49.6 TRAINING PLAN FOR ST HELENA CONNECTED

The document was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting and noted.

The Director advised that three of the programs as indicated in terms of the Key Deliverables for Education, were already on offer. All other programs would be available in the academic school year 2018/2019 with the exception of three which are in process and would be offered in the nearby future.

49.7 ENGAGING PARENTS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

The document was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting and noted.

The Director informed that the implementation of the D6 School Communicator had been presented and approved by the Heads of Schools with some enthusiasm. The access, usage and features of the application was briefly discussed and the Director noted that there would be potential to offset for some of the cost through utilising the application as an advertising medium to local organisations.

The Committee agreed that it was a good initiative but expressed some concern in respect of the timing and cost thereof. Members added that access to computer or cellular phone devices together with internet access may prove challenging. It was suggested that the project should be presented and discussed with PTA groups and a trail run conducted prior to considering firm implementation.

49.11 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be held on Wednesday, 18 July 2018 commencing at 09.00 hours. This meeting will be held in the SHCC Hall.

There being no further items to discuss the meeting closed at 11.35hrs.

Hon' Christine Scipio-O'Dean
Chairperson
Education Committee

Date: 22 June 2018