

747 Minutes 747 of the Education Committee Meeting at the Education Learning Centre held College on Wednesday, 18 April 2018 at 09.00hrs.

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

Invited:	Mr Jacque Krige	Advisory Teacher (Item 3)
	Mr Fraser Stone	IT Advisory Teacher (Item 3)
	Mr Stephen Coates	Advisory Teacher (Item 3)
	Mr Garry Cameron	Teacher Training Advisor (Item 4)
	Miss Elaine Benjamin	Headteacher, Pilling Primary School (Item 8)
	Mrs Carlean Crowie	Headteacher, Harford Primary School (Item 8)
	Mrs Patricia Williams	Headteacher, St Pauls Primary School (Item 8)
	Mrs Barbara Osborne	Acting Headteacher, Prince Andrew School (Item 8)

47.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

A warm welcome was extended to the Advisory Teachers: Mr Jacque Krige, Mr Fraser Stone and Mr Stephen Coates and Teacher Training Advisor: Mr Garry Cameron, whom were in attendance for Agenda Item's 3 and 4.

47.2 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising to be discussed.

47.3 UPDATES FROM ADVISORY TEACHERS

ADVISORY SCIENCE TEACHERS, STEPHEN COATES

Mr Coates reported that since arriving he has been involved with improving the schemes of work for all key stages; this has included working with his colleagues to organise and develop resources.

Mr Coates shared with the committee that there is a keen interest in Marine Science on the Island. He said that teaching on St Helena is enjoyable, with relatively small class sizes and good relationships achievable with most of the students. He has found that the challenges in Prince Andrew School are very similar to those of which he had experienced in the United Kingdom. He has found that both the students abilities and behaviour are similar, and in fact, their behaviours are better than in some of the schools which he had taught in the UK. He mentioned that there were a few isolated cases of bullying

in Prince Andrew School but these cases are not, as serious as the bullying which he has experienced in Britain.

He informed the Committee that he did not have any issues to request support with; the section has adequate resources, and is better resourced than he had expected. Mr Coates said that Science is an equipment dependent subject, and was pleased to advise that the Science Department has UK standard resources available.

The Committee thanked Mr Coates for his contribution, hard work and dedication to the Directorate and he left at 09.14 hours.

IT & BUSINESS ADVISORY TEACHER, FRASER STONE

Mr Stone shared his experiences to date with the Committee. Mr Stone has been able to increase the interest within the IT & Business field and has made arrangements to ensure that both IGCSE IT and A-Level Business studies will be available to Students.

In addition, Mr Stone has mentored staff in the school to get their teaching qualifications; he has also offered staff CPD and has been working towards upskilling the department to ensure that they're more able to cope with the changing curriculum. A business course has also been developed with the relevant resources to ensure that his successor will have everything during the handover.

As a contribution to IT within the Primary Sector, Mr Stone offered to help with setting up the Tablets for the Primary pupils; these resources have been on island for quite some while but have been sat in storage awaiting configuration. Mr Stone was prepared to configure the devices but due to IT restrictions he was not able to gain access to the schools wifi password to enable him to proceed as planned. Mr Stone was able to overcome this obstacle and to date, with support from IT Staff, 32 of the 90 tablets have been configured for use in schools; currently there are 16 tablets within Harford Primary, 12 within Pilling Primary and the remainder to be handed out.

Mr Stone has commenced the set-up of Junior Achievement. This however has been delayed, as he is now struggling to get a response. As a result of this delay, Mr Stone has introduced a relevant opportunity within the Schools Enrichment programme.

The Committee was informed that Prince Andrew School is now a fully accredited CISCO academy.

The Committee thanks Mr Stone for his contribution, hard work and dedication to the Directorate and was thanked for making himself available.

MATHS ADVISORY TEACHER, JACQUE KRIGE

Mr Krige informed the Committee that during his time he has been able to set up a Scheme of work for the Maths Department. The Scheme of work which he has developed caters for the different levels of student's ability; suitable assessments have also been produced and he is now ensuring that sufficient resources are available. Mr Krige noted that the new Scheme of work is in line with the new curriculum and is tailored for the needs of our children.

Mr Krige informed the Committee that Maths Department is not well resourced; this is inclusive of staff. Mr Krige stated that Students are disabled as unfortunately they do not have access to resources like elsewhere. He spoke of the importance of recurrent internet access, both at home and school. He also mentioned, there is a dire need of additional textbooks to enable Students to take them home; it was noted that although the shelf life of resources decrease when they are taken home this would be necessary for Students further development.

Mr Krige stressed that the Department is unable to meet the needs of Prince Andrew School students, with the current staff. He noted the difficulties regarding budget constraints however, he stressed that there is a dire need for an additional Mathematician. Statistics show that the lower level table of students are increasing and the upper level decreasing, this is a worrying concern. Year groups within Prince Andrew Schools have a wide range of ability in Maths; there should be five different ability groups in each year group but due to the staffing constraints there are currently only three groups, this has a negative impact of both lower and upper ability students.

The Committee discussed the impact of limited access to internet. Mr Krige advised all present that the students are aware of resources available online however not everyone can access it from home.

The Committee questioned the possibility of Students having internet access in school, after hours such as on the weekends and during holidays. The Director advised that this might not be a feasible option and certain issues would need to be taken into consideration. These issues include but are not limited to: transport, staffing, safeguarding issues, IT security, education liability and personnel, availability.

Upon further discussions it was noted that this can be achieved with additional money however it would be very a very expensive arrangement and will require a great investment from SHG as a while. This would result in both legal and moral responsibility for the Directorate since they would be obliged to manage students.

Mr Krige suggested that SHG makes an investment into the schools Math's department. He felt that the bigger issue is staffing and once again stressed the need for more qualified mathematicians; he also noted that it would be brilliant to have Mathematician in Primary.

With both himself and his work colleague departing shortly he made a request to ensure there is a handover period for at least one week.

Mr Krige was informed that due to the lengthy recruitment process the above suggestion might not be possible. As an alternative Mr Krige offered to make himself available to communicate with their successors.

The Committee thanks Mr Krige for his contribution, hard work and dedication to the Directorate and was thanked for making himself available. Both Mr Stone and Mr Krige left the meeting at 10.08hrs

47.4 UPDATE FROM TEACHER TRAINING ADVISOR, GARRY CAMERON

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

The Committee asked to convey congratulations to the participants for their assignment results.

The Committee noted the report and thanked Mr Cameron for attending the meeting.

47.5 SCHOOL TERM TIMES

The Draft School Term Times were circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

The Committee agreed to endorse the School Term Times provided that the dates of Public Holidays and Staff Development Days, where known, are included and the calculation sheet is removed.

47.6 INCLUSION FACILITY

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

The Committee noted the concerns and the delays which were raised in the report.

Further to the report which was circulated, it was reported that Crown Estates visited the building adjacent to Harford Primary School on Monday. Crown Estates have provided an estimate of costs of £10,000; the Directorate is aware that we can't proceed without a budget as strict instructions from Finance have instructed that we cannot spend until budget has been approved.

This renovation would provide accommodation for the pupils with very specific needs in the interim period and would also provide storage space for resources.

There was in depth discussion with regards to the current situation and the Committee agreed that they will proceed to seek funding, if necessary this will be presented to Executive Council.

ACTION: Chairperson

47.7 APPRENTICESHIP STIPENDS

The Document was circulated prior to the Meeting.

It was noted that the wage will be increased in line with the Minimum wages; the suggested changes to the Policy cannot be considered and therefore will be reviewed after the approval of this year's budget.

47.8 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

The plans were circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

MISS ELAINE BENJAMIN, HEADTEACHER, PILLING PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee noted the School Improvement Plan for Pilling Primary School.

MRS PATRICIA WILLIAMS, HEADTEACHER, ST PAULS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee noted the School Improvement Plan for St Pauls Primary School.

MRS CARLEAN CROWIE, HEADTEACHER, HARFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee noted the School Improvement Plan for Harford Primary School.

BARBARA OSBORNE, ACTING HEADTEACHER, PRINCE ANDREW SCHOOL

The Committee noted that the School Improvement Plan for Prince Andrew School will be presented at a later date.

All present were advised that recent discussions regarding accommodation for Inclusion Services has resulted in Olive Cottage being offered up for the purpose. It was also mentioned that the Committee supported the conversion of the identified building adjacent to Harford Primary School for Inclusion purposes; it was also explained that due to current constraints that the Committee will need to seek support and funding from Exco members and the Financial Secretary.

The Chairperson presented several concerns which arose from constituency meetings, these concerns were discussed as below:

1. A member of the Public rose concerns in regards to the purpose and outcome of continuous Fundraising activities of the PTA's.

To address the issue it was agreed that when fundraising PTA's should state the purpose of fundraising and ensure that the total amount raised is communicated to members of the community via the different media outlets.

2. A member of the Public questioned why the assessment results of the Primary Sector are published together.

The Director informed all that within such a small community where the Cohort is so small, such information, if published separately would easily become misconstrued; it is in the best interests of the Directorate to publish these results as one.

3. A member of the Public questioned why Prince Andrew School examination results weren't published for the last academic year?

It was noted that the Directorate did not omit this information from the Public domain intentionally. It was agreed that this concern would be followed up.

ACTION: Director

A member of the Committee rose their concerns in regards to a lack of Homework being sent from Prince Andrew School. The issue was discussed and it was noted that the school was aware of this problem and addressing the issue in school. It was agreed that the schools homework timetable would be circulated to the Committee for informational purposes.

The Committee rose their concerns with regards to the recent increase in vacancies within the schools. The Committee were reassured that the Directorate were also concerned however the staff whom has left or are intending to leave the Directorate are doing so for diverse reasons.

The Committee asked the Headteachers to inform their Staff that there has been a delay with arranging Committee meeting visits; the issues were being addressed and should be resolved shortly.

The Committee commended the Headteachers for their continued hard work and dedication and asked to convey their thanks and appreciation to all of the staff for dedication and commitment that they have made within the schools and congratulate those staff whom has made assignment.

45.12 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be held on Wednesday, 16 May 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 13.33hrs.

Hon' Christine Scipio-O'Dean
Chairperson
Education Committee

Date: 19 April 2018