

772 Minutes 772 of the Education Committee Meeting at the Education Learning Centre held on Wednesday, 19 August 2020 at 0900hrs.

Present:	Hon. Clint Beard	Chairperson
	Hon. Dr Corinda Essex	Member
	Hon Lawson Henry	Member
	Mrs Wendy Benjamin	Director of Education & Employment
	Mrs Angela Benjamin	Assistant Director Life Long Learning
	Miss Kerry Lawrence	Assistant Director Schools
	Miss Santana Fowler	Secretary
Invited	Ms Amanda Curry- Brown	Senior Economist for item 72.4
	Mrs Susan O'Bey	Hon Chief Secretary for Item 72.5
	Mrs Penelope Bowers	Headteacher, Prince Andrew School for Item 72.6
Apologies:	Hon. Miss Christine Scipio	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Brian Isaac	Member

72.1 WELCOME

The Chairperson welcomed all present to the meeting; a special welcome was extended to Ms Curry-Brown for Item 72.4, Mrs Susan O'Bey for Item 72.5 and Mrs Penelope Bowers for Item 72.6 and gave apologies.

72.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairperson and Assistant Director Schools both declared personal interest as their children are currently enrolled in the education system. This will be noted for subsequent meetings. The Chairperson also declared his interest with the Benefits Office as his wife currently works there.

72.3 CONFIRMATION AND SIGNING OF MINUTES

There were no actions to be followed up.

72.4 LABOUR MARKET STRATEGY

The Chairperson welcomed the Senior Economist to the meeting to provide an update on the Labour Market Strategy.

The Senior Economist explained in much detail, the updates that have taken place or will be taken place.

A member asked what the delay in setting up the CASH strategy was. It was explained that whilst funding was approved for CASH, due to the restructuring of SHG and the freeze on recruitment, a temporary person will be recruited until the end of the year. It was noted that whilst CASH would be linked to the Benefits Office, it should not sit directly under it.

Regarding the online registry, in going forward it was reported that more engagement within the school environment is needed and for this to be promoted more widely.

The shortage occupation list is to be sent to the Director by the Chairperson.

ACTION: Chairperson

The Chairperson thank the Senior Economist for coming and it was noted that she would be providing policy support to the Education and Employment Committee.

72.5 IMPACTS OF MOVING EMPLOYMENT TO EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Hon Chief Secretary was invited to the meeting.

An email was circulated prior to the meeting and was given out within the meeting, it was noted that the details linked with the presentation of the Senior Economist presentation which showed how the employment element was very much connected to Education. It was noted that the legislation for employment did not sit with this Committee. The Hon Chief Secretary explained that Education and Employment should sit together, and responsibilities were shown to all as to what the Education and Employment Committee entails; it formalised what areas fall under the remit of the Committee.

Three Additional Ordinances the, Education Ordinance, 2008, Employees Compensation Ordinance, Cap. 121, Employment Rights Ordinance, 2010 and Pensions Ordinance, 2012 were explained by the Hon Chief Secretary, hence the linkage of CASH and Benefits office.

Various questions were answered by Hon Chief Secretary. It was noted that the budget will need to be under Education if they are to work together for the next Financial Year. Members were otherwise pleased with the role.

The Director had a query regarding Employment coming under the Education Directorate in regards to potential change of roles and responsibilities for staff, The Hon Chief Secretary advised that this will need to be embraced under the ADLL role. The review would inform if there would be need for additional resources.

The Chairperson thanked the Hon Chief Secretary for attending the meeting.

72.6 PRINCE ANDREW SCHOOL POLICIES

Headteacher, PAS was thanked for attending the meeting to discuss the following policies within Prince Andrew School. It was also noted that a Policy Register is now being developed..

- **HOMEWORK -**

The Homework Policy is a policy which was developed as a result of the school currently having a few issues with Homework. It was decided to make this a formal process; so the current Homework Guidelines were adapted. Head Teacher PAS explained to members that the policy detailed the reason why students do homework, the expectations, the procedures if homework is not completed, roles and responsibilities and sample letters. The aim would be to be put the policies on the website which would be downloadable. Members agreed that this policy was acceptable, although parents would need to be consulted on these also.

- **ANTI-BULLYING -**

It was noted that the Anti Bullying policy was due for review. It was reviewed by the Student Council normally during Anti-bullying Week, there were no suggested changes. Members asked if the front page could be consistent with the other policies. Members also asked if this policy is working and it was stated that there may be a need to look at tougher sanctions in view of persistent bullying. It was suggested that this action be done followed up.

Headteacher, PAS advised that this policy would also be consulted on with parents before coming back to Committee.

- **STUDENT COUNCIL –**

The Student Council policy has been worked on by the President and Vice President of the Student Council. They wanted to work on the policy to scale it down to make it a more effective body. The policy was explained to members.

Queries and amendments were suggested. This policy will also need to be consulted on by parents; this policy can then come back to Committee for approval.

It was agreed that the three policies can be circulated via email once amendments and consultations are done for Committee to approve.

It was said that the Behaviour Policy missed the deadline, therefore Headteacher, PAS advised that she would take this policy to the AGM and sent out as an item in October for Education Committee.

ACTION: Head PAS/Director.

NB: All three policies will be consulted on with parents during the Annual PTA Meeting.

ACTION: Head PAS

72.7 APPRENTICESHIP ALLOWANCES

Committee were asked for their opinions on the management of the Apprenticeship budget for this year. It was noted that the President of the Student Council at PAS had a discussion with the Director and stated that students were open to the idea of a flat rate if it meant that more students could have access to an allowance. Documentation was sent prior to the meeting, discussions were then held regarding the wording in legislation in regards to what constitutes employment. It was noted that legal advice will be needed. Committee were in agreement for the Directorate to use the current allowances. Various discussions were then held by members which included gaining other sponsors for apprenticeships. There are some departments who have offered to sponsor an apprentice for this year. This will continue to be worked on for the future.

ACTION: Chairperson

72.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be held on Wednesday the 16 of September 2020 commencing at 0900 hours at the ELC Hall.

There being no further items to discuss the meeting closed.



Hon. Clint Beard

Chairperson

Education Committee

Date:

16/09/2020