

771 Minutes 771 of the Education Committee Meeting at the Education Learning Centre held on Wednesday, 15 July 2020 at 1000hrs.

Present:	Hon. Clint Beard	Chairperson
	Hon. Miss Christine Scipio	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Dr Corinda Essex	Member
	Hon Lawson Henry	Member
	Hon. Brian Isaac	Member
	Mrs Wendy Benjamin	Director of Education & Employment
	Mrs Angela Benjamin	Assistant Director Life Long Learning
	Miss Santana Fowler	Secretary
Invited	Miss Vyona Young	Education Support Officer for item 71.5
	Ms Cynthia Bennett	Work Development Coordinator for item 71.6
	Mrs Joanne Jonas	Education Finance Officer for item 71.7
Apologies:	Mrs Kerry Lawrence	Assistant Director Schools
	Ms Amanda Curry- Brown	Senior Economist for item 71.4

71.1 WELCOME

The Chairperson welcomed all present to the meeting; a special welcome was extended to Hon. Brian Isaac as member and Miss Santana Fowler as Secretary. A special welcome was also given to Miss Vyona Young for item 71.5 and Ms Cynthia Bennett for item 71.6 and gave apologies.

71.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairperson and Councillor Scipio both declared personal as their children are currently enrolled onto the Education System. This will be noted for subsequent meetings.

71.3 CONFIRMATION AND SIGNING OF MINUTES

71.3.1 In regards to 70.3.1, The Chairperson informed all that he had invited the Senior Economist to clarify CASH, the Labour Market Strategy and initiatives such as the Cable Project.

71.3.2 The Director gave a verbal update on Scholarships. One applicant had been successful and two applicants were refused scholarship due to budget constraints. Members expressed concern as during a meeting with all Elected Members where the Director was present, it was agreed that funding would be included in Education's budget for three students. It was agreed that this needed to be addressed as a matter of priority. The Scholarship Trust Policy is currently being worked on and will be presented to the Committee in September.

The Director informed members that she would speak to the next year's cohort for scholarship awards to make them aware of the plans for the Scholarship Trust.

ACTION: Director

71.3.3 It was agreed by members that the Deputy Chair would be appointed as a member of the St Helena Community College board.

ACTION: Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning

71.4 LABOUR MARKET STRATEGY

The Senior Economist made apologies and asked if she could be invited to the next meeting.

ACTION: Chairperson

71.5 UPDATE ON CODE OF PRACTICE

The Education Support Officer was welcomed to the meeting. Members were asked for their approval of the recommended Code of Practice Process. Some documentation was circulated prior to the meeting along with a Discussion paper for Education Committee on the Education and Employment Directorates SEND Code of Practice Policy Management Framework which was given at the meeting.

Committee were reminded of the SEND Policy approval in 2018 and that this was the supporting documentation to the SEND Policy. Committee were reminded on how the Code of Practice works in the UK and how it would work on the island for the provision of children with SEND Needs.

It was noted by members that the Code of Practice Policy will have impacts, therefore it was advised to get a steer from the Attorney General Chambers regarding whether there are any legislative implications. Financial implications were also noted which included costs for training for specific needs and the resources that would be needed. As a result a budget costing would need to happen as soon as possible. A consultation with all elected members would need to take place in going forward.

It was noted that a lot of what is stated in the documentation is already happening in the schools and in going forward this would minimise budgetary impacts.

Members agreed that in going forward the Committee will need to see a first draft, Communication with Attorney General Chambers will need to be done, and they will need to look at the financial implications as part of the MTEF process. It was also advised that the dates on the process will need to be changed. In going forward the draft policy will need to be looked at within a 3 – 4 month period before coming back to Committee.

ACTION: Director

71.6 APPRENTICESHIP POLICY

The Works Development Coordinator (WDC) was welcomed to the meeting and thanked for attending.

Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning (ADLL) gave a brief overview of the policy, whereby it was noted that budgetary constraints would be a problem. It was noted that from a meeting with ADLL, the WDC and a member of the Education Committee, that the errors to the document were still there therefore debates were then held on the Policy content and there was concern from the member in respect of the standard of work provided such as the contradictions and typos.

The Committee were asked for a steer regarding transport and the difference of conditions between apprentices in school and the work based. The current allowances for apprentices are too expensive to accommodate. A member suggested that Corporate Human Resources should be involved in the process of setting allowances and this reported back to Committee, however

according to the current Apprenticeship Policy the Committee is responsible for setting the allowances. It was noted that apprentices are not employees. It was reported that the Committee previously based the allowance on the minimum wage.

The Apprenticeship Policy was discussed and debated with members agreeing to deferring this item to allow 10 days to provide feedback and then have the document prepared. Members therefore arranged to have an additional meeting before August meeting.

ACTION: Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning

71.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be held on Wednesday the 19th of August 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: 19/08/2020