



SUMMARY NOTES OF THE NINETEENTH ESF BOARD MEETING ON 25 JANUARY 2011

1. Chief Executive's Report

A number of items on the Chief Executive's report were highlighted, including:

- Discussion of financial arrangements, including fees and capital funding, for the Private Independent Schools. The Board requested further information and to view the financial models.
- An update on the KJS project which had been endorsed by the Public Works Subcommittee of Legco on 17 January 2011.

2. Election of Chairman

Information was received on the Search Committee's effort to find a new Chairman. Names were put forward for the Board's consideration. The Board agreed to approve the potential candidates.

3. Subvention

It was agreed to form a Subvention Steering Group, comprising members of the Board. Representatives from the Board include the Chairman/Vice-Chairman (Prof Felice Lieh Mak/Kevin Taylor); the Treasurer (Samuel Poon); two Independent members (Elizabeth Boshier, Sophia Kao); three Parent members (Elaine Leung, Russell Williams, Nick Bilcliffe); two School Council chairmen (Bill Sharp, Virginia Wilson); one Principal (to be advised) and one staff member (Gilbert Halcrow).

The Board agreed that it would respond to the letter received from the Government announcing the subvention review. The Government's letter will be published on the website.

4. Pay and Fees 2011-12

Information relating to the market for pay and fees as well as initiatives requested by schools was shared. Copies of a letter received from the Committee of Parents requesting that fee increases be kept to a minimum were circulated. The Board requested further information on historical data for Hong Kong and ESF in terms of inflation, salary increases and fee rises before a decision can be made.

5. Operating Framework of ESL

The ESL Operating Framework was approved.

6. KGV Project – Pre-tender estimate and form of contract

The pre-tender estimate and form of contract, both of which had been endorsed by the Major Building Projects Committee were approved. Information on cash flow for the current and planned projects was requested. The project will now move forward to tender stage. A further meeting of the Board in April was requested to approve the letting of the main contract in order to keep the project on track.

7. SEN Strategy

The Special Education Needs Strategy was approved. The concern of the Committee of Parents over the funding implications of some areas was noted. Individual schemes would be costed before the Board's approval was sought; once the vision was clear, the pace of improvements would be determined in line with affordability.

8. First Quarter Financial Report

The Chief Financial Officer provided highlights of the first quarter financial report. First quarter income was 1% above budget and expenses were 2% lower. The schools were operating in line, or under, budget.

9. Framework of Annual Report 2009-10

The structure of the Annual Report for 2009-10 was noted.

10. Self-evaluation

The report on the Board's self evaluation was noted.

11. Appointment of School Council Members

Mr Steven Davidson of Bradbury School Council and Mr Lance Wright of Sha Tin College Council were appointed as Community Representatives, effective 25 January 2011.

Heather Du Quesnay
Chief Executive
1 February 2011