

(Translation)

**Minutes of the 1st Meeting of
National Education Promotion Committee,
the 7th Term Kwun Tong District Council**

Date: 1 February 2024 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Kwun Tong District Office,
Unit 05-07, 20/F, Millennium City 6, 392 Kwun Tong Road,
Kwun Tong, Kowloon

Present

Mr LAM Fung, MH (Chairman)

Mr LAI Wing-chun, MH (Vice-chairman)

Mr YU Siu-lun

Mr NG Sing-wah

Mr NG Ting-fung

Ms LEE Shuk-woon, Sophia

Ms KAM Kin

Mr MA Yat-chiu, MH

Ms LEUNG Sze-wan

Mr HSU Yau-wai

Mr LIN Ho-man, MH

Mr CHAN Yiu-hung, Jimmy, MH

Mr TSANG Wing-fai

Ms YU Juliana

Mr LAU Kar-wah

Mr AU YEUNG Kwan-nok

Mr TANG Wing-chun

Mr CHENG Keung-fung

Mr KWAN Kin-wing

Mr PANG Chi-sang

In Attendance

Mr LAM Fuk-leong, Jack

Assistant District Officer (Kwun Tong)2

Mr CHOW Lap-kan, Douglas

Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Kwun Tong District Office

Mr CHAN Hoi-ming, Peter

Senior Liaison Officer (3),
Kwun Tong District Office

Ms IP Yuk-mei, Eunice

Senior Liaison Officer (4),
Kwun Tong District Office

Dr SO Wing-tim

Senior School Development Officer (Kwun Tong)3,
Education Bureau

Secretary

Miss CHAN Sing-yu, Toby

Executive Officer (District Council)(3),
Kwun Tong District Office

Absent

Mr KAN Ming-tung, MH

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all Members of the National Education Promotion Committee (“NEPC”) and government representatives to the 1st meeting of NEPC under the 7th Term Kwun Tong District Council (“KTDC”).

2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received a notice of absence from Mr KAN Ming-tung before the meeting. Since the application was in compliance with Order 64(1) of the Kwun Tong District Council Standing Orders, NEPC consented to the above application for absence.

I. Overview of the Implementation of National Security Education in Schools

3. The representative of the Education Bureau (“EDB”) gave a presentation on the overview.

4. Members raised views and enquiries as follows:

4.1 Members hoped that EDB would provide students with information on Article 23 of the Basic Law (“Article 23”), and set up a pioneer team for safeguarding national security, inviting students with good conduct and academic performance to promote national education.

4.2 Members suggested that EDB should extend national education to kindergartens.

4.3 Members hoped that EDB would make the national education programme more interesting, thereby enhancing students’ positive perception of national education.

5. The representative of EDB responded to Members’ views and enquiries as follows:

5.1 Schools would organise activities both inside and outside the classroom, such as classes on chess, horticulture, famous quotes and sayings, Chinese paintings, drama and films to enhance students’ interest in and understanding of Chinese culture. Schools would choose suitable activities based on students’ orientation and abilities. In addition, EDB provided learning and teaching resource packs for schools’ reference.

- 5.2 Regarding the promotion of Article 23 legislation in schools, EDB would move with the times to enable students to have a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the Basic Law.
- 5.3 EDB had been implementing the Constitution and Basic Law Student Ambassadors Training Scheme by inviting students with good conduct to serve as student ambassadors to assist schools in taking forward Constitution and Basic Law education.
- 5.4 Regarding the promotion of national education in kindergartens, EDB had been inviting kindergarten principals and teachers to participate in Mainland study tours.

6. Members raised follow-up views and enquiries as follows:

- 6.1 Members opined that national education must start at an early age and suggested that EDB should strengthen relevant work.
- 6.2 Members enquired whether the representative of EDB attended the meeting solely for sharing with Members information on the promotion of national education in schools and asked whether he would relay Members' views to EDB.
- 6.3 Members opined that the character of teachers were very important to cultivating among students a sense of belonging towards the country. They hoped that EDB would place emphasis on teacher training.

7. The representative of EDB responded to Members' views and enquiries as follows:

- 7.1 Regarding kindergarten education, EDB had provided kindergartens with the national security education picture book "Our Country Our Security" and produced short videos to promote information about national education. In addition, EDB had set up the "Promotion of Reading Grant for Kindergartens" to facilitate kindergartens in organising school-based reading activities. Some kindergartens would organise parent-child activities during festivals to enable parents and students to learn about Chinese culture together.
- 7.2 Regarding the character of teachers, EDB formulated the Guidelines on Teachers' Professional Conduct, which stipulated that teachers should consciously safeguard national security, support and promote national education actively and cultivate in students a sense of belonging towards the country. Also, EDB had continuously provided teachers with opportunities to participate in Mainland study tours and

training programmes to enhance their sense of national identity.

8. The Chairman said that national education was not only targeted to students but also members of the public of different age groups. The Chairman encouraged Members to collaborate with community organisations to promote national education in the community.

9. Members raised follow-up views and enquiries as follows:

9.1 Members said that the one-day Mainland study tours of the Citizenship and Social Development (“CS”) subject spent most of the time on transportation and opined that the tours were not very effective.

9.2 Members enquired whether EDB had a mechanism for monitoring the service providers responsible for organising the Mainland study tours.

9.3 Members asked whether EDB would consider organising parent-child Mainland study tours for kindergartens and primary schools.

9.4 Members enquired how schools would handle situations where parents refused to let their children participate in Mainland study tours.

9.5 Members opined that EDB should encourage enthusiastic organisations to collaborate with schools to promote national education and Chinese culture.

9.6 Members suggested that EDB should include national security elements in subjects such as Chinese History and Chinese Literature.

9.7 Members enquired how schools would handle cases where contents and objects endangering national security were found within school campuses. They also enquired whether schools would strengthen national education for certain students.

10. The representative of EDB responded to Members’ views and enquiries as follows:

10.1 Regarding the CS subject Mainland study tours, the one-day tours were meant to cater to the needs of different schools and students. Also, EDB pointed out that Mainland study tours formed an integral part of the curriculum for the subject, which was only offered at the senior secondary level.

(Post-meeting note: regarding engaging service providers to organise Mainland study tours of the

CS subject, the procurement process was conducted in accordance with the Government's established mechanism. EDB would include in the Invitation for Quotations the learning objectives, learning themes and itinerary requirements (e.g. proposed places to be visited and learning activities) of the study tours, with a view to selecting suitable service providers to organise the study tours. To ensure the quality of the study tours, EDB staff would accompany schools to the Mainland and collect feedback from teachers and students after each study tour for improvement. If there was a need for improvement or adjustment, EDB would follow up with the service providers. EDB would continue to closely monitor the quality of the study tours.)

10.2 Regarding the handling of students who were unable to participate in the CS subject Mainland study tour, EDB said that students who encountered practical difficulties and had sound justifications for not joining the Mainland study tours should obtain prior permission from schools. Schools should handle the cases prudently based on the circumstances and reasons provided by individual students, and report the cases to the Incorporated Management Committee/School Management Committee. The cases should be reported to EDB, and relevant information and records should be properly handled and archived for future reference.

10.3 Regarding the funding provided for schools, EDB had disbursed the recurrent Life-wide Learning Grant and Promotion of Reading Grant to schools.

10.4 Regarding Members' suggestion for schools to select enthusiastic organisations as service providers, aided schools should follow the procurement procedures as set out in the EDB circular in selecting the relevant service providers to ensure that the procurement process was open, fair and just.

10.5 Regarding contents and objects endangering national security found within school campuses, schools could make reference to EDB's recommended handling methods, such as activating school-based crisis management mechanism, and/or consider seeking assistance from the Police Community Relations Officers/School Liaison Officers of the relevant police districts.

10.6 Regarding whether schools would provide additional support to individual students, EDB had all along required schools to uphold the spirit of "education for all" and believed that schools could provide support to individual students according to their needs.

11. The Vice-chairman said that based on his experience, parents rarely refused to let students to join Mainland study tours, and most of the students who were unable to participate in the tours

submitted valid reasons for their absence. In addition, he said that during his tenure at EDB, he had led newly-joined teachers to go on Mainland study tours, and pointed out that the participants' responses were very enthusiastic.

II. Future Work Direction of the Committee

12. The Chairman gave an introduction.

13. Members raised views and enquiries as follows:

13.1 Members opined that DC Members, as community workers, should put more efforts in promoting national education to the public in the community.

13.2 Members suggested that different themes of national education should be introduced in each meeting, e.g. national affairs and science and technology development of modern China.

13.3 Members suggested organising activities under the themes of traditional Chinese festivals and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

13.4 Members suggested producing national education pamphlets and souvenirs and distributing them to students.

13.5 Members suggested that NEPC should collaborate with the District Youth Development and Civic Education Committee to help promote the activities organised by the committee.

14. Regarding the suggestion of introducing different themes of national education in meetings, the Chairman said that attempts could be made to arrange for government departments to introduce different topics to Members. In addition, he said that NEPC would cooperate with other committees to promote national education.

15. Members suggested that district organisations should be encouraged to apply for funding from the Kwun Tong District Office ("KTDO") to organise national education promotional activities.

III. Kwun Tong District National Security Carnival (KTDC NEPC Paper No. 1/2024)

16. The representative of KTDO presented the paper.
17. Members raised views and enquiries as follows:
 - 17.1 Members said that the display of police equipment during last year’s event was well-received by children and suggested that KTDO should continue to display relevant equipment this year.
 - 17.2 Members enquired whether KTDO would consider incorporating environmental education elements into the event to tie in with the impending implementation of municipal solid waste charging (“MSW charging”).
18. The representative of KTDO responded to Members’ views and enquiries as follows:
 - 18.1 KTDO would continue to invite the police to display counter-terrorism equipment, armoured personnel carriers and police motorcycles, etc. this year, and would ask the police whether other new equipment would be displayed.
 - 18.2 KTDO said that the purpose of the event was to promote national security and therefore activities under the MSW charging theme would not be included.
19. The Chairman said that as Members raised no objection, NEPC agreed to jointly organise the “Kwun Tong District National Security Carnival” in the name of KTDC.

IV. Any Other Business

Discussion on Matters Relating to Basic Law Article 23 Legislation

20. Members expressed full support for Article 23 Legislation and hoped that the Government would provide more publicity materials for Members to carry out publicity work in the community.

V. Date of Next Meeting

21. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 5 April 2024 (Friday).
22. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed on 5 April 2024.

Kwun Tong District Council Secretariat

March 2024