

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 6th Meeting of
the Education and Welfare Committee in 2016

Date : 1 November 2016 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Ms LAM Chung-yan (Chairman)	DC Member	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui (Vice-Chairman)	”	2:48 pm	4:00 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, BBS, MH	DC Chairman	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	DC Vice-Chairman	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:30 pm	6:05 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	”	2:30 pm	5:19 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	”	2:30 pm	6:03 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	”	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	”	2:30 pm	6:05 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	”	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	”	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	”	2:30 pm	6:05 pm
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin	”	5:02 pm	6:05 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	”	2:40 pm	6:09 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	”	2:40 pm	6:04 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	”	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	”	2:30 pm	6:04 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	”	2:30 pm	3:11 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	”	2:34 pm	6:09 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	”	2:41 pm	3:40 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH	”	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	”	2:30 pm	6:04 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	”	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	”	2:30 pm	6:04 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	”	2:30 pm	5:28 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	”	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	”	2:37 pm	6:05 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	”	2:30 pm	6:09 pm

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	DC Member	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	”	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	”	2:30 pm	2:55 pm
Mr YIP Wing	”	2:30 pm	6:05 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	”	2:30 pm	5:45 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man	”	2:30 pm	3:40 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	”	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr CHU Ho-fai, Kelvin (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1 / Sha Tin District Office		
<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Title</u>		
Mr CHAN Ping-ching, Roy	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) 1 / Social Welfare Department		
Mrs Yu CHOW Kai Ching, Alice	Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 4 / Education Bureau		
Ms LAU Yuk Yee, Lydia	Housing Manager (Sha Tin 1) / Housing Department		
Ms CHENG Ka-po, Theresa	Chief Liaison Officer / Sha Tin District Office		
Ms CHENG Yuk-kam, Brenda	Senior Liaison Officer (East) / Sha Tin District Office		
Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek	Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / Sha Tin District Office		
<u>In Attendance by Invitation</u>	<u>Title</u>		
Ms CHOW Wing-man	Assistant Community Affairs Manager / The Hong Kong Jockey Club		
Ms CHAN Wai-ying	Senior Charities Project Officer / The Hong Kong Jockey Club		
Ms LAU Ying-hung	Charities Project Manager / The Hong Kong Jockey Club		
Mr TAM Yu-chuen, Timothy	Charities Project Manager / The Hong Kong Jockey Club		
Mr LEE Wai-tong	Manager / CUHK Jockey Club Institute of Ageing		
Ms LEE Chi-ling	Project Manager / CUHK Jockey Club Institute of Ageing		
Ms LEE Ka-yi	Service Officer / Hong Kong Single Parents Association		
Ms SUEN Lai-fan	Project Executive / Hong Kong Single Parents Association		
Mrs CHAN NG Ting-ting, Elina	Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure & Research Support) / Education Bureau		
Mr CHENG Fuk-wai, Cedric	Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure & Research Support)1 / Education Bureau		
Ms Shirley YU Hee-wah	Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure & Research Support)2 / Education Bureau		
Mr SHI Yeuk-Hon	Facilities and Chief Project Director / English Schools Foundation		
Mr TANG Wing-hung	Senior Project Manager / English Schools Foundation		
<u>Absent</u>	<u>Title</u>		
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	DC Member	(Application for leave of absence received)	

Absent

Ms TSANG So-lai

Title

” (”)

Action

The Chairman welcomed all members and representatives of government departments to the 6th meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee this year.

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received the applications for leave of absence in writing from the following members:

Mr Alvin LEE	Official commitment
Ms TSANG So-lai	”
Mr MAK Yun-pui	”
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	Sickness

3. Members unanimously endorsed the applications for leave of absence submitted by the members above.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 30 August 2016

(EWC Minutes 5/2016)

4. Members unanimously confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 30 August 2016.

Matters Arising**Response of the Relevant Government Department to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

(Paper No. EW 24/2016)

5. Members noted the above paper.

Discussion Items**2016-2017 Revised Work Plans of Working Groups under the Committee**

(Paper No. EW 25/2016)

6. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Revised Member Lists of Working Groups under the Committee

(Paper No. EW 26/2016)

7. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Draft Baseline Assessment Report on “Age Friendly City Project”

(Paper No. EW 27/2016)

8. Ms LAU Ying-hung, Charities Project Manager of the Hong Kong Jockey Club

Absent

Title

(HKJC) and Ms LEE Chi-ling, Project Manager of CUHK Jockey Club Institute of Ageing gave a brief introduction of the paper.

9. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he hoped to know about the methods adopted by the baseline assessment report as the emphasis seemed to have been placed on Ma On Shan when Sha Tin was divided into 12 communities. Tai Wai and Sha Tin had a population of 200 000 and two to three communities, respectively. However, there were seven communities in Ma On Shan which also had a population of 200 000. He wanted to know how the number of questionnaires and samples was allocated and whether an analysis was made with reference to the data of the Census and Statistics Department by district council constituency, population distribution, number of population and types of housing in the community;
- (b) the situation of each district varied. For example, Tai Wai was a relatively old district, Sha Tin was relatively new and Ma On Shan was the newest. New districts had better city plans and transportation network. Some problems that appeared in other constituencies might not necessarily occur in Ma On Shan; and
- (c) he wanted to know about the benefits brought by completion of the questionnaire.

10. The views of Mr HO Hau-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) he held that some issues were not mentioned in the report, such as lack of downlink facilities for the elders to go up and down pedestrian overpasses, and neglect of the elders' needs in design of Tai Wai Station, and hoped such long-term problems would be considered for elderly care. He wanted to know whether relevant works would cease after the publication of the report or whether continuous efforts would be made to collect the elders' opinions after accreditation. Elders in different areas had different needs; and
- (b) as the project could not solve all the problems in the district in one go, he hoped the authority could make reviews and improvements from time to time. If available, an in-depth study might be made on the needs of the elders in the district in such aspects as telephone booking system for out-patient services.

11. The views of Mr Thomas PANG were summarised below:

- (a) although Tai Wai was an old district, the buildings there were relatively low and there were also new buildings including Festival City. It was inconvenient for the elders to go into and out of the buildings that were not built on flat land, such as Sui Wo Court and other buildings in Fo Tan. Moreover, the ageing problem was also serious. He hoped the CUHK

Absent

Title

could share ideas based on the opinions of the DC;

- (b) the HKJC had allocated HK\$500,000 to each district and there were over 90 000 elders in Sha Tin. Therefore, each elder could only get about HK\$5 on average. In the population structure of Sha Tin, the elders accounted for a higher proportion. Therefore, he hoped the authority could allocate appropriate resources to such aspects as research, activity and promotion; and
- (c) there were many contact points in the elderly centres. But now, many elders became hidden elders as their living environment was not good and lacked family care, which affected their mental and physical health. He hoped that methods to provide care for such elders could be taken into account when a study was made.

12. The views of Ms Scarlett PONG were summarised below:

- (a) she extended thanks to the HKJC and the CUHK for their assistance to Sha Tin District Council (DC) in promoting the Age-friendly Community Programme. After completion of the baseline assessment, the working group on the Age-friendly Community provided opinions on eight domains. For example, it was hoped that low floor buses could be provided. Moreover, on 8 July this year, the working group invited the DC Members to learn about the programme and provide opinions. After that, more than half of the members provided written opinions in regard to their constituencies and relevant opinions had been included in the study report. At the seminar held on 5 October this year, a total of 366 elders from 11 elderly centres provided opinions and put forward demands and an introduction about the programme was made to them. Therefore, the short-term and long-term strategic suggestions about the district had also been included in the paper. The group would submit a report and improvement plans to the World Health Organization (WHO) every year and use the DC's resources to support various improvement measures under the age-friendly community programme;
- (b) donations from the HKJC rather than the DC's resources were used for the baseline assessment report. The working group had done lots of different works in the past, for example, requiring setting special seats for the elders in public transport carriers and installing facilities along Shing Mun River. In the future, the working group would continue to make improvements. Therefore, elders would be invited to join the working group. This year, a study would be made to the provision of funding from the Elderly Commission to 11 elderly centres. Other activities included fostering harmony between elders and teenagers and prevention of cognitive disorder; and
- (c) the working group was responsible for the overall work for the age-friendly community and primarily WHO accreditation. She extended thanks to the HKJC and CUHK for their professional advice. In the

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coming four years, the working group would aim to improve the community facilities in Sha Tin, promote an age-friendly atmosphere and help the residents show respect, care and love for the elders. All members were welcomed to join the working group.

13. The Chairman said if the working group had the opportunity to contact the elders and listen to their opinions, it might consider submitting the opinions to the Committee for further discussion. The DC had also been engaged in the works for age-friendly community and the members might also propose opinions in the group.

14. The responses of Ms LEE Chi-ling were summarised below:

- (a) the baseline assessment carried out sampling based on Social Vulnerability Index, including health conditions of the elders, proportion of elders living alone and proportion of population in the district. Sampling was carried out based on the proportion of population in Sha Tin District as a whole rather than that of an individual community. First, the constituencies in Sha Tin District were classified into four grades based on Social Vulnerability Index; then, the four grades of constituencies were divided into three zones according to different housing types; finally, the zone with the largest elderly population was selected for sampling based on the population data of the Census and Statistics Department. If any member wanted to get more information, he/she might refer to pages 16-18 of the baseline assessment or contact them after the meeting; and
- (b) in the assessment, not only the opinions of elders but also the viewpoints of the elderly groups in the district were listened to. Moreover, the CUHK had included these opinions in the action plan and the three-year district scheme was also based on proposals included in the action plan. Regarding hidden elders, it was also mentioned in the action plan that the society would no longer wish to see the situation that the elders could not go out for activities due to health or economic problems. Therefore, there were also some proposals on holding activities for the frail elders who could not go out. She hoped the district scheme could play an initiating role with the funds from the HKJC and other resources from Sha Tin District Council, for example, mutual collaboration between different committees under Sha Tin District Council to improve age-friendly environment in the district.

15. The responses of Ms LAU Ying-hung were summarised below:

- (a) the HKJC would grant HK\$500,000 to Sha Tin District annually over a three-year period, with a total appropriation of HK\$1.5 million. The funding was provided to help promote the district-based scheme, foster an age-friendly atmosphere in the district, and enable people of different ages to pay proper attention to the elders' needs; and
- (b) continuous efforts would be made to collect opinions from the elders via appropriate platforms, and a three-year action plan had also been worked

Absent

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out apart from the report. An evaluation report for the funding of HK\$500,000 for district scheme would be submitted by related parties and a district-based evaluation would be carried out after completion of the three-year plan, so as to examine whether Sha Tin District had made continuous improvements in the eight domains in the past three years.

16. Members noted the above paper.

Working Group on Family and Women Affairs - Draft of “Survey Concerning Woman’s Employment”
(Paper No. EW 28/2016)

17. Members noted the above paper.

Information Items

Reports of Working Groups
(Paper No. EW 29/2016)

18. Members noted the above paper.

Information Papers

Arrangement of Two Vacant Premises in Sha Tin District Lending to Hong Kong Island Secondary School as Temporary School Premise
(Paper No. EW 30/2016)

19. The Chairman welcomed representatives of the EDB to the meeting.
20. Mr Thomas PANG asked why the paper was defined as an information paper. As the schools of English Schools Foundation (ESF) had led to many traffic problems in Sha Tin over the years, which had created a severe impact on Sha Tin District, he believed the paper should be supported by the DC and therefore suggested classifying the paper as discussion paper.
21. Mr CHIU Man-leong asked why the paper was an information paper rather than a discussion item.
22. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:
- (a) he asked why the paper was an information paper;
 - (b) the EDB often notified the DC of the arrangements of vacant school premises at a later stage. He thought the EDB had showed no respect for the DC; and

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- (c) the two school premises mentioned in the paper were both located at housing estates, which involved not only school travelling of the children but also traffic problem. He asked why the Traffic and Transport Committee was not informed of this.
23. The views of Mr WONG Hok-lai were summarised below:
- (a) as the EDB had made no consultation for relevant arrangements, he thought this was an act of disrespect for the DC; and
- (b) he asked why the two school premises were lent to one school and whether there was travelling arrangement between the two school premises, which might create further traffic impact.
24. Mr WONG Yue-hon said the DC had held a discussion on the use of the vacant school premises, but the EDB did not notify the DC of the arrangement of the vacant school premises till now. He asked whether the EDB would make arrangements for the long-term use of the vacant school premises, and the Bureau should not constantly lend them to other schools needing reconstruction for temporary use. The DC once said that some non-governmental organisations did not have work premises and it was unsatisfactory to lend the vacant school premises to some schools only. He hoped the EDB would consider whether the vacant school premises could be used for development other than education purposes.
25. Mr MAK Yun-pui held that the paper should not be classified as information paper and therefore suggested the paper be discussed at the next meeting.
26. The Chairman said she was not informed of the contents of the paper before setting the agenda and learned about the name list of the attending officials shortly before the meeting. The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned for five minutes to discuss the change of the agenda. The Chairman declared the adjournment extended for five minutes.
27. As Mr MAK Yun-pui had arrived, the Chairman suggested cancelling his application for leave of absence.
28. Members unanimously endorsed cancellation of Mr MAK Yun-pui's application for leave of absence.
29. Mr Kelvin CHU, Executive Officer (District Council)1 of Sha Tin District Office said change of the information paper to discussion paper could be deemed as change of the agenda and approval of more than half of the members attending the meeting should be obtained. Members unanimously endorsed the change of the agenda as discussion items.
30. Mrs Elina CHAN NG, Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure & Research

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Support) of EDB said the EDB respected the DC and therefore sent representatives to the meeting to explain the suggested arrangement of the temporary school premises to the DC and listen to the opinions of the DC. The EDB understood that after the vacant school premises became temporary school premises, more than one thousand students would come to Sha Tin District, which might create impact on the traffic. Therefore, the representatives of ESF were also invited to the meeting to answer the questions and listen to the opinions of the members at the meeting.

31. Mrs Elina CHAN NG and Mr TANG Wing-hung, Senior Project Manager of ESF gave a brief introduction of the paper.

32. The views of Mr Thomas PANG were summarised below:

- (a) the DC has discussed the use of the vacant school premises before, but the EDB gave a cold shoulder and did not inform the DC until it worked out the programme. Therefore, he condemned the EDB for showing no respect for the DC;
- (b) there were many problems with the 40-year-old school premises. He asked whether they were resulted from the building works. He declared interests for his capacity as a member of the board of directors of Holy Spirit Primary School, which had applied for the allocation of new school premises for years, but the EDB gave a cold shoulder and the applications for maintenance were only approved in part. There were a large number of private cars travelling to Sha Tin College on Sui Wo Road before school hours. So, he did not believe only 4% of students would go to school by private car or taxi after the school premises were lent. After school hours, there were also many cars parking on Sui Wo Road, which posed danger and might damage the trees on the roadside, and the police could not deal with the situation. He pointed out that no improvement was made and no centralized school bus service was offered after repeated complaints. He asked why 1 200 students needed two school premises and whether preferential treatment was given to the school; and
- (c) he hoped the EDB could review the relevant programme and suggested addressing a letter to the chief executive in the name of the committee to strongly condemn the EDB for disregarding the DC. Moreover, all the programmes should be discussed by the DC first.

33. The views of Mr WONG Yue-hon were summarised below:

- (a) he declared interests for his capacity as an alumnus of Holy Spirit Primary School. The premises of many schools in Sha Tin District were rather old. He asked why priority was given to schools in other districts rather than

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the existing “matchbox-style” school premises. Holy Spirit Primary School once expressed its wish to replace the school premise. However, the EDB said new school premises would be provided according to the quality of education. He asked if it meant the quality of education of schools in Sha Tin District was unsatisfactory. In the long run, would the EDB consider lending the school premises to the Home Affairs Department, Social Welfare Department or non-governmental organisations in Sha Tin District to serve the residents in Sha Tin District; and

- (b) the place for school buses to pick up and set down school children in Sun Chui Estate was far from the school and several speed bumps in the estate affected the entry of school buses. He asked whether the EDB considered this problem.

34. The views of Mr LI Sai-hung were summarised below:

- (a) by making such an arrangement, the EDB had showed no respect for the residents in Tai Wai. The current arrangement would be valid until 2021 and the development project above Tai Wai Station was underway. The MTR did not explain the future arrangements for temporary passage. The increased hundreds of migrant students now in the district would cause inconvenience to the residents and students in the district. He did not believe only 4% of students would go to school by private car or taxi and held that the place for school buses to pick up and set down school children was not satisfactory. That place was located at a carpark for large vehicles and there was no lay-by for school buses to pick up and set down passengers. He asked whether the EDB had considered the safety of the students when they got on and off the bus. Therefore, he objected to the EDB’s arrangement; and
- (b) he said the management office of Sun Chui Estate was not informed of the situation that double-decker school buses would enter the estate. If double-deckers were not used, the traffic on Chui Tin Street and Che Kung Miu Road would be seriously affected. He also said many residents had filed complaints about the Renaissance College Hong Kong and the aforesaid situation would be similar to that.

35. The views of Mr TONG Hok-leung were summarised below:

- (a) he was dissatisfied that the EDB did not submit the programme to the DC for discussion until it had settled on the programme. Other organisations and schools had applied for use of the vacant school premises, but the EDB did not approve. Now, the EDB approved ESF to use them. He did not understand its standard; and

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- (b) the project of Island School would be completed in 2022. Regarding traffic arrangement, he doubted whether the estimation that 4% of students would go to school by private car or taxi was correct. Before and after school hours, there were many private cars dropping off or picking up children near the school. He asked how the EDB had made such an estimation. The roads of the carpark in Sun Chui Estate were narrow. Although the location outside the bus stop at Che Kung Miu Road was not far, illegal parking of vehicles might appear, which might seriously affect the traffic. Therefore, the EDB's traffic impact assessment might not be in line with the actual situation.

36. The views of Mr CHING Cheung-ying were summarised below:

- (a) he deemed it reasonable to lend the vacant school premises to the schools in need for temporary use. He wanted to know how many of other sponsoring bodies had applied for use of the two vacant school premises and what the mechanism was for the EDB's decision;
- (b) he doubted about relevant traffic impact assessment and believed more than 4% of students would go to school by private car or taxi, which would definitely lead to traffic jam near the school. If the school premises were used for lower-grade students to have class, the situation would be more serious as the parents of lower-grade students are were likely to drop off and pick up their children with private cars. He hoped a reassessment would be conducted for the traffic and schools of the same type in the district would be selected for reference. Besides, it was impractical for school buses to pick up and set down passengers at Tai Wai Station; and
- (c) the data provided by the school only indicated the will of parents after relocation of the school. He wanted to know how the traffic on Borrett Road was affected before and after school hours of Island School at present. Moreover, he hoped the school could truthfully reflect its impact on the traffic nearby.

37. The views of Mr NG Kam-hung were summarised below:

- (a) he wanted to know why the Secretariat had not arranged interpretation services for representatives of the school;
- (b) it was undesirable that the EDB had long known about the changes of ESF schools but did not submit the programme to the DC for discussion till now. The two periods of time mentioned in the bus investigation were within school hours. Had the consulting company made an investigation on the total number of school buses using the road section at the same time. Moreover, the scope of the investigation covered only ESF's situation, which was insufficient. The school buses were double deckers. He wanted to know whether the estate would allow the entry of double deckers;

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- (c) 55% of the 1 200 students lived on Hong Kong Island. He asked how six coaches could carry all the students from Hong Kong Island. The investigation indicated that 41% of school children would take public transport means to school. He doubted whether the parents would let young children take public transport means to school by themselves. Therefore, he thought the parents would set down and pick up their children with private cars. The current arrangement just represented a support of the parents rather than a commitment. He asked whether relevant traffic arrangements had been submitted to the Transport Department and the police for consideration;
 - (d) he asked whether the two school premises could accommodate all the students of relevant schools of ESF and what arrangements would be made if the funding support from the Legislative Council was not secured; and
 - (e) if the conditions of the school premises of Island School had been so bad, had they become dangerous buildings and were the classes suspended now. Moreover, representatives from such government departments as the Transport Department, the police and the Buildings Department should be present to give explanation.
38. The views of Mr CHIU Man-leong were summarised below:
- (a) it was stated in the paper that the buildings of Island School were continuously ageing, and there were cases of concrete spalling and exposure of steel bars; however, the above situation was not shown on Google Maps; he wondered whether EDB had requested professionals or the Buildings Department to prove the necessity of its reconstruction; and
 - (b) he thought the assessment made by the school itself was one-sided and the Transport Department hadn't voiced its opinions. During the morning peak hours, traffic at roundabouts and transport interchanges in Tai Wai was extremely heavy, and the situation would worsen after relocation of the school. He held that there would be more than 4% of students going to school by car or taxi, and hoped that relevant parties could provide correct figures.
39. The views of Mr Rick HUI were summarised below:
- (a) EDB should give an account on the criteria of approving ESF's application for borrowing of school premises. ESF didn't appoint any representative to consult DC Members of relevant constituencies about traffic arrangements; he asked whether ESF had consulted the representatives of Housing Department and Link REIT responsible for relevant district during the assessment. He doubted the data about the

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impact on traffic in the vicinity and opined that the school hadn't established any mandatory measures to make sure future arrangements would be in line with expectations. He hoped that ESF would conduct a further review and carry out site inspections with various departments; and

- (b) the traffic assessment was only a questionnaire survey on parents; the school would only encourage parents, which was not appropriate. The school did not discuss with the management office of Sun Chui Estate about whether double deckers could enter the area of the estate.

40. The views of Mr Sunny CHIU were summarised below:

- (a) he held that the paper should be classified as discussion paper given its importance. The report of EDB was not stringent, as quite a few primary and secondary schools in Sha Tin needed to be rebuilt or repaired, but there were no vacant school premises for rehousing. Now, the vacant school premises in the district were to be lent to schools in other districts. He asked whether schools in Sha Tin had applied for using these school premises;
- (b) he was dissatisfied with the traffic arrangements and inquired how the 1 200 students would be allocated to two school premises and whether one school premise could accommodate all the students. He also asked about the area of the premises of Ma Chung Sum Secondary School and Tsung Tsin Secondary School, and the differences between them and the original premise of Island School in size;
- (c) regarding the traffic arrangement, the school would arrange five coaches to enter the estate in two sessions. He thought such an arrangement would seriously affect the residents in the estate as there were already many residents driving into and out of Pok Hong Estate using their private cars. The central pick-up/drop-off spot was set at Yat Tai Street near Exit B of Sha Tin Wai Station, where green minibuses of route no. 812 and buses of route no. 288 pass by; there was also an estate bus stop behind the public bus stop. He asked how EDB would make traffic arrangements and whether it had consulted and obtained the consent of the Transport Department. Besides, there was no safe crossing on the street there; he wondered whether the crossing could bear extra pedestrian flow;
- (d) the school premises would be lent until 2021/22. Given the long timespan of lending, he would like to know whether EDB would make a long-term plan and detailed reports to explain relevant arrangements. The estimation that only 4% of students would go to school by car or taxi was also unreliable; and
- (e) he asked whether the spot for double deckers to drop off and pick up students was located inside or outside the estate and whether double deckers could enter the estate; he also asked whether the school had taken

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into account the floor loading capacity of the estate, the impact on underground water pipes and fees for the use of road it might have to bear.

41. The views of Mr Tiger WONG were summarised below:
- (a) he would like to know how many vacant school premises the government had in Hong Kong and the grounds for lending the two school premises in Sha Tin. After learning that the school needed to be rebuilt, whether ESF had settled the problem of student resettlement through internal procedures, given that ESF still had seven school premises in Hong Kong; and
 - (b) since ESF claimed that the traffic assessment had been conducted by professionals, he would like to know whether the school had conduct a study on the surrounding traffic environment of the two school premises with the Transport Department.
42. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised below:
- (a) the estimation that 4% of the students would go to school by private car or taxi was not reliable because even for general public schools, the percentage of students going to school by these means already exceeded this figure. Moreover, it was mentioned in news reports that EDB would share the reconstruction cost of HK\$270 million, so it was believed that ESF was eager to rebuild the school for this reason. He asked whether other sponsoring bodies had applied for use of the school premises, and inquired about the statistics of and reasons for the approval results; and
 - (b) he asked about the current area of Island School and why two school premises were needed to accommodate 1 200 students. It was mentioned in the paper that as many as three school buses would stop over before and after school hours, he wondered whether this was within the bearing capacity of the road there. As school buses would cause traffic congestion in the estate, he hoped EDB to seriously think of some solutions to the traffic problems.
43. The views of Mr Victor LEUNG were summarised below:
- (a) many issues in the paper were not addressed. He would like to know the criteria of approving ESF's application and whether there were other schools applying at the same time. He doubted if the school would cooperate with the community in the future. In respect of students, if students from Hong Kong Island went to Sha Tin for school, it would create a heavy burden on Sha Tin District; he wondered whether EDB had considered lending school premises near Hong Kong Island to ESF. He hoped that EDB could arrange a visit to the current school premises of ESF on Hong Kong Island for members, and he questioned whether the

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numerous problems of ESF's school premises were caused by the principal's mismanagement; and

- (b) he hoped EDB to conduct a review and address relevant issues, otherwise it would not win support from the DC.

44. The views of Mr PUN Kwok-shan were summarised below:

- (a) since the renovation of school premises of Island School involved electricity, sewage and other works, the school should coordinate with the Housing Department; however, there was no representative of the Housing Department present. In regard to traffic issues, as the representative of the Transport Department was not present either, so related issues could not be discussed in depth;
- (b) change of school sites would lead to more parents driving students to and from school, which would affect traffic conditions of the district and create a worrying situation. The traffic on Octopus Flyover was already heavy during commute hours, and it would worsen with the increased hundreds of students in the district;
- (c) the premises of Wong Fut Nam College had also been lent before, but no major renovation works were carried out at that time. He wondered whether ESF would restore the borrowed school premises to their original state after renovation and the borrowing period, and whether the renovated school premises would suit the needs of next user. As the tuitions of schools under ESF were high, he wanted to know the difference between ESF schools and other public and directly-subsidized schools, and whether ESF needed to pay rent to EDB; and
- (d) he said that Shatin Tsung Tsin Secondary School did not cease operation, but its school premises were not in use.

45. As Mr Alvin LEE had arrived, the Chairman suggested cancelling his application for leave of absence.

46. Members unanimously endorsed the cancellation of Mr Alvin LEE's application for leave of absence.

47. The views of Mr HO Hau-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) the Chief Executive once said that the districts should solve their own problems and grasp their own opportunities. Nevertheless, it was disappointing that EDB only invited the DC to note its arrangements. The DC had been paying long-term attention to the use of vacant school premises in the district, such as handing them over to schools whose premises needed to be replaced or using them as community facilities

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which were in need in the district; however, currently there were only a limited number of school premises available for use in Sha Tin. He said that EDB was obliged to make public the process of identifying vacant school premises and explain why ESF had to select the vacant school premises in Sha Tin instead of in other districts; if EDB had sought advice on this matter, who did it seek advice from and who were the stakeholders; and

- (b) he would like to know whether ESF could enroll students during its resettlement period in Sha Tin, and what the planned use of the vacant school premises was after ESF's use, or they would just stay idle.

48. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) ESF had sent foreign representatives to attend the meeting, but there was no simultaneous interpretation service at the meeting;
- (b) he declared interests for his capacity as a graduate of Wong Fut Nam College. EDB only discussed with the school about temporary lending of school premises without consulting the DC, and it was not possible to see the internal conditions of buildings through Google Maps. EDB should consider having members inspect the school premises of ESF on Borrett Road;
- (c) he held that ESF underestimated the percentage of students going to school by private car during its traffic assessment. Taking Renaissance College as an example, parents of students of the college would park their cars at the roadside and even occupy the slow lane; and there had been traffic accidents because of this. He inquired the percentage of parents driving their children to and from the current school premises on Borrett Road for comparison. He also inquired whether the traffic assessment report had been submitted to the Transport Department for review;
- (d) in regard to the point to point pick-up/drop-off spot of the school premise in Sun Chui Estate, vehicles heading towards the school would cross 18 speed bumps and the students also needed to walk some distance to the school. As the gate machine of the estate operated slowly, it would produce severe impact on road traffic if parents drove their cars into the estate. The central pick-up/ drop-off spot in Pok Hong Estate was located on Yat Tai Street. After the completion of Shui Chuen O Estate, the pick-up/drop-off spots of all public transportation to / from Shui Chuen O Estate would be set on Yat Tai Street; he asked whether the school bus could stop there to pick up and drop off students. Vehicles passing behind Christ College needed to stop at the traffic lights at Pok Hong Estate crossroads; since the traffic signal cycle was very short, and the gate machine at the entrance of the estate also worked slowly, it would cause traffic congestion in Pok Hong Estate. He suggested that EDB and

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the school should provide more information before further discussion;

- (e) the current traffic assessment was not a baseline assessment based on the existing school premises of Island School, but was more like a questionnaire survey. Only Citybus Limited (Citybus) could provide double decker services and the non-franchised department of Citybus was shrinking in scale; and it was not yet known whether the roads in the estate were suitable for double-deckers. What would the school do if parents eventually drove their children to and from school, given that it would be impossible to prevent parents from driving into the estate by that time; and
- (f) ESF's traffic assessment report had been submitted to EDB. He wondered whether EDB had submitted the report to engineers of Transport Department responsible for the district for review. In his opinion, the report should be made public for reference by the members.

49. The views of Mr WONG Hok-lai were summarised below:

- (a) the paper showed that the plan of rebuilding the school premises of ESF was proposed as early as 2013, but it was not submitted to the DC until now. He wondered whether EDB had consulted DC Members of relevant constituencies and various stakeholders. Also, EDB did not explain whether other bodies had applied for use of the school premises as temporary school premises or for other purposes; and
- (b) he held that the estimation that 4% of students would go to school by private car or taxi was not accurate and hoped EDB and ESF to provide more information.

50. Mr Kelvin CHU replied that the Secretariat was requested by EDB to submit a paper for members' information, so the paper was classified as information paper at EDB's request. Regarding simultaneous interpretation service, the Secretariat was informed by EDB that representatives of ESF would be present. After discussion with EDB, the Bureau had invited ESF's representative Mr TANG Wing-hung to answer questions, and had communicated with Mr John Stewart, Director of Facilities about the contents of the meeting.

51. The responses of Mrs Elina CHAN NG were summarised below:

- (a) EDB respected the DC and sent representative to attend the meeting in the hope of answering the questions of members and listening to their opinions at the meeting. EDB didn't consult the DC specifically when using the premises of former Tsung Tsin Secondary School as temporary school premises in the past. By attending the meeting together with the representatives of ESF this time, it was hoped that ESF could coordinate with the community as far as possible when using the temporary school premises, and make timely amendments when improvements to the

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arrangement were required;

- (b) as far as the disposal of vacant school premises was concerned, EDB had set up a mechanism for disposal of vacant school premises. Whenever a school premise was vacant or projected to be vacant, EDB would, according to the factors including size, location and buildings' conditions thereof, examine whether the vacant school premises were suitable for educational purposes or whether the school premises needed to be re-allocated to be used as schools or for other educational purposes. If it was confirmed that the vacant school premises needed not be allocated by EDB as schools or for other educational purposes, EDB would, as per the Central Clearing House Mechanism, inform the Planning Department and other relevant departments for Planning Department's consideration of suitable alternative long-term uses. Currently there were three vacant school premises in Sha Tin District; any organisation that wished to use the vacant premises not under the jurisdiction of EDB could consult and apply to the District Lands Office concerned. As of November 2016, EDB had reserved 18 vacant school premises and two partly vacant school premises in Hong Kong to be used as schools or for other educational purposes, and EDB was following up relevant works based on their intended uses;
- (c) relocation of existing schools generally meant relocating schools to new school premises on sites reserved for such purpose or vacant school premises suitable for relocation purpose through open and fair school allocation exercise. EDB would allocate school premises for school relocation from time to time, and all eligible sponsoring bodies in Hong Kong could apply for relocation of their existing schools. Relevant applications would be submitted to the School Allocation Committee (the Committee) (the members of which included government and non-government personnel) for review. In reviewing the applications, quality of education would be the Committee's foremost concern; other considerations included track records of sponsoring bodies and future school plans after relocation. The condition of existing school premises was also one of the factors to be considered. Given the great amount of applicant school and limited resources, EDB could not meet the needs of all schools. Regarding in-situ school redevelopment, it was subject to site area of the school, technical feasibility and other factors; if the site area was too small, school facilities and teaching environment still could not be improved after redevelopment of school premises;
- (d) EDB had communicated and discussed with the Legislative Council, relevant schools and the Subsidized Primary School Council about the handling of "matchbox-style" school premises this year; two closed-door meetings were held at the Legislative Council and representatives of the schools were also present. The so-called "Matchbox-style" school premises were built in housing estates in 1960s-1980s to be used as primary school premises. Since the school premises were built according

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to the designs of housing estates at that time, there were quite a few design defects. For example, the convectional classroom arrangement led to mutual interference of noises during school hours; floor-to-ceiling grille panels were installed along staircases and hallways, hence raindrops would easily slant in in rainy days. Therefore, EDB had discussed with the school and the Legislative Council about the design deficiencies of matchbox-style school premises. In this July, EDB had arranged for project consultants to have an onsite investigation of the schools so as to effectively consider the possible short-term and medium-term improvement measures for matchbox-style school premises. In the long run, relocation was the only solution to insufficiency in campus space and facilities. It was not easy to redevelop these school premises owing to their relatively small sizes. Given that not every school could find a suitable place for relocation in the same district, not every school was willing to relocate to other districts, and the vacant school premises in other districts might not be suitable for use, EDB would further discuss with the schools;

- (e) if the plan of rebuilding Island School was not approved within the current legislative session, the plan would be submitted again in the next legislative session. The school premises of Island School on Borrett Road were ageing and there were cases of concrete spalling; now the school premises had already been fenced up. ESF had once hired consultants to check the structural condition of buildings in these school premises and had also explored the feasibility of enhancing building safety, looking for alternative premises or resettling students in other school premises, but didn't come up with a feasible plan at the moment. So ESF hoped to borrow the vacant school premises in Sha Tin as temporary school premises; and
- (f) since Island School had 42 classes of students and its scale was larger than that of an ordinary secondary school, so it needed to borrow two school premises. As two school premises were needed by one school, EDB hoped that the lent premises were in the same district and not far from each other. Among the existing vacant school premises under the jurisdiction of EDB, only two school premises in Sha Tin were suited for this purpose.

52. The responses of Mr TANG Wing-hung were summarised below:

- (a) relevant traffic data was obtained from the survey with existing students of Island School and their parents. The school had briefed the parents and students on the locations of the school premises to be borrowed, including introduction of MTR stations and other public transport in the vicinity. Upon field investigation, the school and its traffic consultants estimated that it would only take five to ten minutes to walk from the school premises to MTR stations. The school had actively encouraged students and parents to use public transport. The school had also met with parent representatives, who said they would respond to the school's appeal. At present, many parents of students of Island School drove their children to

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and from school because there were few direct public transport services to the school. Therefore, the school believed that after moving into the temporary school premises, there would be fewer parents driving their children to and from school, and the school would keep encouraging parents to let their children go to school by public transport;

- (b) the school had discussed with Citybus about the parking location of centralized shuttle bus bound for the premises of Ma Chung Sum Secondary School according to the traffic consultants' suggestions. Citybus said its bus station was capable of accommodating two or three extra buses every day. It was suggested that the centralized shuttle school bus be double-deckers to reduce the number of vehicles needed and therefore minimize the effect on the traffic in the district;
- (c) regarding the issue that there were many trucks parking at the proposed pick-up /drop-off spot in Sun Chui Estate, the school explained that reference was made to the past practice of TWGHs Wong Fut Nam College, which used to borrow a parking space from the property management company for school buses to pick up and drop off students. By attending this meeting, the school wished to listen to the views of the members and would actively discuss with the property management company about choosing an appropriate pick-up/drop-off spot;
- (d) currently there were five secondary schools under ESF with a total admission quota of 5 649. Given that there were already about 5 600 students enrolled in these schools, other school premises of ESF could not accommodate the additional 1 200 students from Island School. The school had engaged an independent professional structural engineer to assess the school premises of Island School and had submitted a report to EDB. The school had set up fences and safety platforms inside and outside the school premises to avert potential threat of concrete spalling to students. In addition, the school commissioned consultants to carry out assessment and examination every month, and the records showed on average more than 30 places needed to conduct concrete repairs every month. The school said the members were welcomed to pay an inspection visit to the school premises of Island School;
- (e) at present, water seepage was found in the temporary school premises and many other places thereof needed to be repaired. ESF only proposed a decoration project instead of a large-scale one, and the project wouldn't involve structural changes to minimize the effect on the surroundings; and
- (f) double-deckers wouldn't enter the estate but only provide service at the central pick-up/drop-off spot outside the estate. Only single-decked buses with a maximum capacity of 60 seats and approximately 40 students on board would enter the estate. The reason why the current traffic condition around the school premises on Borrett Road was unsatisfactory was because there was no space for parking school buses inside the campus;

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after the redevelopment, relevant facilities would be provided to improve the traffic condition.

53. Mr Thomas PANG proposed the provisional motion below:

“The Education and Welfare Committee of Sha Tin District Council strongly opposed Island School’s temporary borrowing of the school premises of Tsung Tsin Secondary School and Ma Chung Sum Secondary School and denounced EDB’s ignorance of Sha Tin District Council’s long-time suggestion and appeal for the use of vacant school premises in Sha Tin.”

Mr HO Hau-cheung seconded the motion.

54. The Chairman asked the members to vote on the paper.

55. Mr LI Sai-hung requested that the names of members who voted for and against to be record, which was supported by four members.

56. The Chairman declared that the provisional motion above was endorsed by 23 affirmative votes, 1 abstention vote. One member did not cast any vote.

The 23 members casting affirmative votes were:

Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr Tiger WONG, Mr HO Hau-cheung, Mr NG Kam-hung, Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr LI Sai-wing, Mr CHIU Man-leong, Ms LAM Chung-yan, Mr TONG Hok-leung, Mr Michael YUNG, Mr Rick HUI, Mr Billy CHAN, Mr Thomas PANG, Mr CHING Cheung-ying, Ms Iris WONG, Mr WONG Yue-hon, Mr WONG Ka-wing, Mr WONG Hok-lai, Mr YIP Wing, Ms TUNG Kin-lei, Mr Sunny CHIU, Mr PUN Kwok-shan and Mr LAI Tsz-yan.

The 1 member abstaining from voting was:

Mr Alvin LEE.

The 1 member who did cast any vote was:

Mr Victor LEUNG.

57. The Chairman asked the members to vote on Mr Thomas PANG’s proposal of sending a letter in the name of the Committee to the Chief Executive to strongly denounce EDB’s ignorance of the DC’s appeal.

58. Mr Michael YUNG inquired whether the letter was to be sent in the name of the Chairman of the Committee or in the name of the Committee as a whole.

59. The Chairman said the letter was to be sent in the name of the Committee and asked for the members’ opinions.

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60. The Chairman said she received no opposition from the members; so a letter would be sent in the name of the Committee as proposed above.

61. The Chairman declared the end of discussions on this issue.

Number of Newly Arrived Mainland Children Admitted to Public Sector Secondary and Primary Schools in Sha Tin District Provided by the Education Bureau
(Paper No. EW 31/2016)

62. Members noted the above paper.

Financial Position and Activity Progress of Expenditure Head 5 (Education and Welfare)
(Paper No. EW 32/2016)

63. Members noted the above paper.

Date of Next Meeting

64. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 3 January 2017 (Tuesday).

65. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/35 V

November 2016