

**Sha Tin District Council**  
**Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of**  
**the Education and Welfare Committee in 2017**

**Date :** 2 May 2017 (Tuesday)  
**Time :** 2:30 pm  
**Venue :** Sha Tin District Council Conference Room  
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Time of joining the meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Time of leaving the meeting</u></b>
Ms LAM Chung-yan (Chairman)	DC Member	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, BBS, MH	DC Chairman	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	DC Vice-Chairman	2:30 pm	3:53 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:30 pm	6:16 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	"	3:04 pm	6:17 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	2:30 pm	5:40 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	"	2:47 pm	6:17 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	"	2:30 pm	6:16 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	"	2:30 pm	5:03 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	"	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	"	2:35 pm	5:36 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	2:30 pm	4:29 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	3:35 pm	5:03 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	2:30 pm	5:03 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr SIU Hin-hong	"	4:06 pm	6:06 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	"	2:30 pm	5:03 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	"	2:30 pm	5:06 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	"	2:30 pm	5:03 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	"	2:30 pm	5:25 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	"	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	"	2:46 pm	6:17 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	"	2:30 pm	5:29 pm
Mr YIP Wing	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	"	2:30 pm	4:29 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	"	2:30 pm	6:17 pm
Mr MOK Man-lok, Mannix (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1 / Sha Tin District Office		

**In Attendance**

Ms CHING Oi-ho, Sandy

Mrs YU CHOW Kai-ching, Alice

Ms LAU Yuk-yee, Lydia

Ms CHENG Ka-po, Theresa

Ms CHENG Yuk-kam, Brenda

Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

**Title**Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) 1 (Acting) /  
Social Welfare DepartmentSenior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 4 /  
Education Bureau

Housing Manager (Sha Tin 1) / Housing Department

Chief Liaison Officer / Sha Tin District Office

Senior Liaison Officer (East) / Sha Tin District Office

Senior Executive Officer (District Council) /  
Sha Tin District Office**In Attendance by Invitation**

Mrs LEE CHEUNG Yat-wai, Gloria

Ms KWONG Wing-han, Ivy

Mr LAI Chun-fai

Mr WU Yat-king, Kingson

**Title**District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) /  
Social Welfare DepartmentAssistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) 2 (Acting) /  
Social Welfare Department

Senior Engineer / General Legislation 4 /

Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Executive Assistant (District Council) 3 / Sha Tin District Office

**Absent**

Mr MAK Yun-pui (Vice-Chairman)

Ms CHAN Man-kuen

Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin

Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH

Mr YAU Man-chun

**Title**

DC Member (Application for leave of absence received)

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**Action**

The Chairman welcomed all members and representatives of government departments to the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee (EWC) 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:

Ms CHAN Man-kuen	Official commitment
Mr Alvin LEE	"
Mr PUN Kwok-shan	Other reasons
Mr MAK Yun-pui	"
Mr YAU Man-chun	"
Mr SIU Hin-hong	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 28 February 2017**

(EWC Minutes 2/2017)

4. Members unanimously endorsed the meeting minutes.

**Matters Arising**

Response of the Relevant Government Department to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting  
(Paper No. EW 12/2017)

5. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:
- (a) he asked about the latest news about Refine Home. As the Social Welfare Department (SWD) replied that they had reached an agreement with the Government Property Agency (GPA) to renew the lease of Refine Home to 30 June this year, he would like to know what SWD would do if not all of the residents in the nursing centre had moved to other nursing homes before 30 June;
  - (b) he asked how many residents still live in Refine Home as of 30 April, how many residents would move out within a month, how many residents still had not found a suitable nursing home, and what countermeasures SWD would take;
  - (c) if Refine Home failed to arrange alternative accommodations for all residents as of 30 June, he asked what measures SWD would take and wondered whether it would provide temporary accommodations for the residents. If Refine Home failed to return the land as scheduled, the second phase of expansion project of Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) would be affected; he asked how SWD would coordinate with the Hospital Authority (HA) in dealing with this problem; and
  - (d) SWD said that nursing centres must notify the licensing office and submit relevant documents one month before closure of business; he asked that if Refine Home failed to submit relevant plan as of 31 May, whether SWD would take contingency measures to learn about the difficulties met by the residents during the move. Regarding the move, he suspected that the operator tried to delay the time of closing business by taking advantage of the residents, leaving the residents with no choice but to move to other nursing homes run by the operator. As part of the accommodation expenses of residents might be paid by public funds, SWD would be criticized if it failed to address this issue properly. He could feel from the replies of SWD that this issue was not properly addressed.
6. The responses of Ms Sandy CHING, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) 1 (Acting) of SWD were summarised below:
- (a) SWD had been coordinating with various departments including the GPA and the HA, and had been in touch with Refine Home Company Limited (“Refine”) and the affected elderly residents and their families and understood that they might need a little more time to deal with the relocation issue. After negotiation with HA, GPA and SWD, Refine had been approved by GPA to extend its lease period to 30 June 2017. SWD also issued a license to Shui On on 31 March

2017, which was valid from 1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017. Meanwhile, Refine had returned the leased units on the second floor to GPA. SWD kept reminding Refine to comply with the *Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation*. It was the operator's responsibility to notify SWD's the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly in writing at least 30 days in advance of cease of operation and submit a resident relocation plan; at the same time, the operator should notify the residents and their guardians/guarantors/family members/relatives/contact persons in writing and provide referral services or other assistance to those in need; and

- (b) as of 26 April, there were still 57 elderly residents living in Refine. Among them, five would move to other nursing homes before mid-May; about a dozen had decided to move to a nursing home in Kowloon which was also run by the operator of Refine; the rest more than 30 elderly residents were still looking for a suitable nursing home or had not made specific arrangements yet. SWD and social workers of various integrated family service centres in the district had contacted each elderly resident and their family members on a regular basis. Apart from providing information on other nursing homes to facilitate their relocation, they also helped them look for other suitable nursing homes. The number of elderly residents had dropped from about 100 to about 50 now. It was estimated that the number would further fall to about 40 by mid-May. As the residents were moving out in succession and the operator had returned some floors, those elderly residents and their family members taking a wait-and-see attitude would feel urgent to make resettlement arrangements. SWD and social workers of integrated family service centres would continue to follow up with the residents to make sure they were well accommodated and would provide assistance and take contingency measures according to the progress of the relocation.

7. The Chairman hoped that SWD continue to report on the progress of this issue at the next meeting.

8. Members noted the above paper.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **2017-2018 Work Plans and Funding Applications of Working Groups under the Committee** (Paper No. EW 13/2017)

9. The Chairman said that according to Order 40(6) of *Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders*, the "Standing Working Group" should formulate the work plan for each financial year in the first quarter of the financial year and should submit the plan to the committee where it belonged for approval. Any amendments to the work plan should also be submitted to the committee where it belonged for approval. If necessary, the "Standing Working Group" should submit its work plan to the District Council for approval. To start preparatory work as soon as possible, various working groups under the Committee had had their work plans for 2017 and relevant funding applications endorsed.

10. Ms Scarlett PONG said that the work plan of the Working Group on Age-friendly Community needed slight amendments; there was no joint organiser for the campaign of making personal “Family Newsletter” for the elderly and the joint organiser of “2017 Cross-century Elderly Wedding” was Sha Tin District Secondary School Heads Association. Regarding life and death education, the working group had set a date with the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) for relevant activity and students from faculties of medicine and pharmacy would serve as tour guides. Members were welcome to participate in the activity. “2017 Cross-century Elderly Wedding” was scheduled to be held on Senior Citizens Day on 19 November. Members were welcome to participate.

11. Members unanimously endorsed the above paper.

2017-2018 Work Plan of Sha Tin District Social Welfare Office  
(Paper No. EW 14/2017)

12. Mrs Gloria LEE CHEUNG, District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) of SWD gave an introduction of the paper.

13. Ms Scarlett PONG thought highly of SWD’s work plan, especially on elderly care and social inclusion. The work plans of Working Group on Age-friendly Community and Working Group on Healthy City and International Day of Disabled Persons were in line with the plans of SWD. For example, the working groups also had planned activities themed on depression on International Day of Disabled Persons this year. She hoped that the working groups could work with SWD on relevant plans.

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

- (a) residents moved in Yan On Estate in 2011 and the facilities there were insufficient. Students’ class and group activities had to be held in shelters without seats, and students needed to go to the community centre of Heng On Estate to attend classes. One sixth of the 6 000 residents were kids and teenagers but there were only facilities for the disabled but no youth activity centre or elder care facilities; SWD failed to take into account the residents’ needs when planning the construction of community facilities;
- (b) in respect of enhancing family functions, he said he did not see any good that the Integrated Family Service Centre had done to the community. In respect of supporting the growth of teenagers at grass-roots level, class and group activities of students had to be held in shelters without seats. In respect of building a caring community, SWD said as the residents of Shui Chuen O Estate had moved in and the social and welfare facilities in the estate would be completed this year, SWD would coordinate those units providing social services for Shui Chuen O Estate in the district. He knew that there was no youth activity centre in the estate; given that there were more than 5 000 teenagers living in the estate, he asked how SWD would address this issue; and
- (c) the Housing Department (HD) had submitted the paper in 2013 but so far there was little difference in the replies of SWD, which was really disappointing. Since relevant authority did not build relevant auxiliary facilities before

completion of large estates, just like the case in Yan On Estate, it was no wonder teenager problem was worsening. The situation in Yan On Estate was better. Residents could walk to the family service centre in Heng On Estate for relevant activity; by contrast, due to poor transport facilities, the service centre was not easily accessible to teenagers from Shui Chuen O Estate.

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

- (a) he said the services provided by SWD had always been “up-to-date” in the past years and its performances this year could barely be described as “up-to-date”. He said that local residents hoped SWD to do better in two aspects. First was elderly care services; the elders often needed to wait four to six years before being provided the services they need. It was social reality that there were more and more small families; as a result, more and more solitary seniors were left unattended;
- (b) the second was that the procedure of dealing with disturbance caused by psychiatric or convalescent patients to local communities was still complicated and ineffective. Even if the members’ office or HD referred the cases to other organisations, they might not necessarily be resolved with satisfaction; he held that SWD should pay more attention to this; and
- (c) the services from youth volunteer service centres or organisations were only attractive to ordinary teenagers but not attractive to teenagers from problematic families. Teenagers did not feel that they could study in these centres or organisations to meet their academic or social needs; SWD should talk with relevant organisations about improvement measures.

16. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised below:

- (a) in respect of psychological support activities, he asked what kind of activities SWD would organise. Since there had been a general misunderstanding about ex-mentally ill persons, he wondered whether SWD had organised relevant activities to acquaint the public with the needs of ex-mentally ill persons;
- (b) he held that the activities arranged by integrated family service centres were out of date and unattractive to teenagers from problematic families. Even if they were willing to participate in the activities, he doubted if a single training camp would provide enough support;
- (c) SWD made fewer efforts to promote online outreach activities in recent years. Nowadays teenagers would rather turn to social media than to social workers for help, so there was great room for development of online outreach activities. He was also concerned about teen suicide; he asked whether there were other schemes to provide psychological support for students apart from Mental Health First Aid course. He also pointed out that many small families lived in Shui Chuen O Estate but there was no service centre; he wondered how SWD would provide support for these families; and

- (d) it was rumoured recently that SWD would hand out lucky bags to the elders to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China; he asked whether it was true.

17. The views of Ms TUNG Kin-lei were summarised below:

- (a) according to the paper, a community support scheme would be launched in Mei Tin Estate; she hoped that SWD pay more attention to the disadvantaged groups in the estate. New estates would be built successively in Sha Tin. Four public housing estates would be built in Shek Mun and there would also be new estates in Fo Tan. In Mei Tin Estate, Yan On Estate and Shui Chuen O Estate, the community services failed to meet the needs of their residents. There were many new families in Mei Tin Estate and social workers needed to provide outreach services, which might cause different problems. She hoped that SWD could make a survey with HD before completion of new estates so as to make sure the services provided meet the needs of residents in the estate; and
- (b) she thought highly of the Recognition Award for Carers of Persons with Disabilities for recognition of carers. There were many elderly carers in Sha Tin District. To honor their efforts, she asked whether these carers could also be included in the Recognition Award for Carers of Persons with Disabilities.

18. As Mr Sunny CHIU said, it was said in the paper that SWD would continue to organise community psychological support activities in cooperation with HA, social service agencies and government departments. He said that recently a woman in mid-thirty was diagnosed with a rare disease; though it was pointed out at the hearing of the Legislative Council that there was a drug therapy for this disease, the woman could not afford these drugs. He asked whether the government would allocate resources only to infrastructure but not to public welfare. Though it was a rare case, in reality there might be many patients who could not afford their medical treatment. He asked whether SWD could provide support for these patients; he also hoped SWD to communicate with relevant departments about improving relevant mechanism.

19. The responses of Mrs Gloria LEE CHEUNG were summarised below:

- (a) regarding elderly care and social inclusion, SWD could work with relevant working groups under Sha Tin District Council on suitable themes of activity; for example, SWD could organise educational activities themed on depression, which had been a focus of World Health Organization (WHO) this year;
- (b) SWD had noticed the increased population in Yan On Estate after completion of the second phase and had been discussing with HD about how to increase relevant social welfare facilities. HD would arrange for a site to serve as temporary youth service centre in Shui Chuen O Estate;
- (c) in view of the planning standards, not every new estate was equipped with various service centres; however, the existing service centres in the district would try to cater for the needs of residents from new estates; for example, social workers would provide outreach services for teenagers in these new estates;

- (d) regarding elderly care, as there was an increasing population of elders in Hong Kong, the time of waiting for services was relatively long. In this regard, the government would work with HA to come up with new services, such as the “pilot scheme of supporting elders leaving hospital after treatment in public hospitals”; through cooperation between hospitals and communities, the scheme aimed at providing transitional-period supporting services for elders leaving hospital; this way the elders could continue to live in their communities without receiving residential care too early. Residential care homes would also be provided in Shui Chuen O estate for those elders in need in the district;
- (e) regarding mental rehabilitation services, there was an integrated community centre for mental wellness in the district. SWD had also worked closely with PWH. The outreach team of PWH would visit those in need with social workers, and the frequency of visits was based on actual needs; accompanied by the police, social workers used to take some suspected mental patients to the hospital for diagnosis. Earlier on SWD held a seminar to share its experience in providing relevant services and handling relevant cases with DC Members and office colleagues of Sha Tin District;
- (f) regarding youth services, many integrated youth service centres had been subsidised to add facilities popular with young people, such as band rooms and dancing rooms. The outreach team often got in touch with teenagers in places where they liked to hang out. She also thanked the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for lending indoor sites to the social workers for outreach activities. SWD was also discussing with non-governmental organisations that fund youth services about how to improve the service agreements;
- (g) regarding mental health support activities, apart from the integrated family services centre, SWD’s medical social services department and integrated mental health community centre would also work with hospitals to organise seminars and other promotional activities;
- (h) regarding the issue of teen suicide, the Education Bureau, SWD and HA would work with schools at different levels to promote message about teen suicide prevention and identify suicidal students as early as possible;
- (i) the “Celebrations for All” project in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to China was planned and organised by the District Office;
- (j) SWD learnt that there were many nuclear families, elders and people with disabilities living in Mei Tin Estate. SWD would work with the welfare services units and community-based organisations serving the estate to promote cross-sector collaboration, carry out care activities and improve community support network;
- (k) regarding drug formulary, medical social workers would work with HA to help patients apply for relevant charity funds to cover their medical expenses as advised by the doctor; and



- (l) regarding online outreach scheme, though the online pilot scheme supported by SWD was completed, Hong Kong Jockey Club had funded three organisations' online outreach schemes in 2015.

20. Members noted the above paper.

Updated Membership Lists of Working Groups under the Committee  
(Paper No. EW 15/2017)

21. Members endorsed the above paper.

**Motion**

Motion by Mr CHAN Nok-hang on Requesting to Shelve the Basic Competency Assessment (BCA) (Formerly Known as Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA))  
(Paper No. EW 16/2017)

22. Mr CHAN Nok-hang said the problem of Basic Competency Assessment (BCA) had been under heated discussion all the time in Hong Kong. Particularly, for parents of Primary 3 students, they sincerely hoped that the Government could abolish BCA as early as possible, so that students could grow up in an environment without too much pressure. In his view, it stood to reason that opinions were brought forward in the name of the EWC of Sha Tin District Council. Therefore, he proposed this motion in the hope that members could do their bit for students and parents in Sha Tin District without party stands. He hoped that members could cast abstention votes even if they did not second the motion.

23. Mr WONG Yue-hon said that the motion had nothing to do with party stands. In his opinion, BCA aimed at measuring the effectiveness of school education and allocating students at similar levels to proper secondary schools to facilitate teachers' teaching. If there was no assessment system, whether lots would be drawn to decide how primary school students would be allocated to secondary schools. The New People's Party agreed to temporarily shelve BCA, but held that the most important point was to conduct an overall review of the assessment mechanism, so that students could be systematically allocated to proper secondary schools after the abolition of BCA. He hoped that Mr CHAN Nok-hang could add the words "an overall review of the assessment mechanism was required" to the motion.

24. The views of Ms Iris WONG were summarised below:

- (a) in her view, education was a subject of concern to all the people of Hong Kong and had nothing to do with party stands. She was quite confused about the title of the motion, saying that BCA was formerly known as Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA). She pointed out that both TSA and BCA were measures of the education reform in 2000 (education reform). BCA referred to Basic Competency Assessment adopted by both the Government and schools, while TSA was only a part of Basic Competency Assessment implemented centrally by the Government. TSA was included in BCA, but neither of them were compulsory. A few years ago, there were disputes over TSA, but only some improvements were made in the end, including taking Primary 6 TSA in

the next year, abolishing the release of attainment rates to primary schools, deleting TSA from Key Performance Measures (KPM) of primary schools and providing interactive reports. In 2014, the Education Bureau (EDB) established the Coordinating Committee on Basic Competency Assessment and Assessment Literacy, whose terms of reference included the review of TSA. She hoped that the proposer of the motion could fully understand the various relations involved in the contents;

- (b) in modern society, interest classes were not merely aimed at cultivating interests and study was not merely about seeking knowledge, which was something the parents and schools should reflect upon. Where there was an examination, there would be drillings. Joint Primary 6 Examination was introduced in 1978, and Hong Kong Academic Aptitude Test (HKAAT) was launched after 1978. In 2000 when Mr Antony LEUNG Kam-chung became the Chairman of the Education Commission, he conducted an overall review of the education system of Hong Kong, abolished HKAAT and promoted an on-campus assessment mechanism to help size up students' abilities. The experience proved that drillings would not disappear as long as there were examinations. The education system should not be changed overnight regardless of previous efforts, and the EDB should explore the room for improvement. Citizens did not want to see students losing interest in study, so the Government should supervise and assess whether the existing system was in line with teaching philosophy. Whether to abolish BCA should be decided by schools, so she hoped that schools could be given more autonomy; and
- (c) the Government should enhance publicity and tell the parents how to use the data obtained in BCA to help students.

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

- (a) as an educator, he had some opinions on the motion of Mr CHAN Nok-hang. The first part of the motion could be supported. Assessments were indispensable to the current education system of Hong Kong. The education system would be untenable without assessments. After abolition of TSA or BCA, what the rulers needed to think about was how to develop a good assessment system. He held that the assessment system should enable students to study effectively and happily. However, TSA and BCA were heavily criticized in this regard, because students needed repeated drilling. Certainly, different stakeholders, such as schools, parents and commercial tutoring centres, should also take the blame for this negative phenomenon; and
- (b) the Chief Executive-elect had pronounced on the abolition of TSA, saying that the most important thing now was to conduct an overall review of the current assessment system. He advised the proposer of the motion to include "an overall review and optimisation of the current assessment system was required" in the motion, so as to relieve the pressure of Primary 3 students.

26. The views of Mr Wilson LI were summarised below:

- (a) the problem of TSA had been discussed for a long time, and many parents of Primary 3 students hoped to abolish it. TSA and BCA were indeed related. The EDB issued an education reform report in 2000 and started holding TSA tests every year from 2004, with a view to understanding the students' standard. But in fact, schools had already established examinations; and
- (b) in his view, TSA was less relevant to allocation of secondary school places and the students' study. Students should rely on their own efforts rather than examinations in their study. Complaints had been heard everywhere since the education reform in 2000. Given that reviews were carried out for so many years and there were enough on-campus assessments, those needed to be abolished should be abolished immediately. In some countries, children under the age of 11 would be prohibited from reciting or kindergarten pupils would not be allowed to write as their muscles were underdeveloped; however, in Hong Kong, kindergarten pupils had been required to write. He seconded the motion of Mr CHAN Nok-hang.

27. Mr Tiger WONG opined that pressure on students could not be relieved merely by abolishing TSA or BCA. In 2014, the Government listened to people's voices and introduced the BCA after review. Students had time to complete the whole examination paper, schools did not drill students excessively, and the result was quite good. In his opinion, children were faced with multiple pressures in their study. He hoped that members could think in a calm and rational manner whether the students' pressure could be relieved merely by abolition of an assessment system.

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

- (a) he held that abolition of TSA in 2014 indicated its deficiency. TSA focused on intensive drillings, and it was also reported that some students needed to take psychiatric drugs due to intensive drillings and great pressure. Member could go to bookstores to see the current drilling exercises if they did not believe that. Though abolition of TSA might not relieve students' pressure in real time, it did not mean that there was no need to abolish TSA; and
- (b) if the result of TSA would not be released, even parents did not know the result after the examination. Then, the examination became meaningless. Some schools chose not to take TSA, showing that there were problems with it. He hoped that members could take time to study other better policies after supporting shelving this policy.

29. The views of Mr James CHAN were summarised below:

- (a) he supported the motion of Mr CHAN Nok-hang. There was a need for the EDB to conduct examinations and assessments, but the key was how to conduct them. He heard that the result of TSA would be released to the principal. If the principal only taught hundreds of students, but he/she still asked the EDB to provide assistance in assessing his/her students, it showed the principal

himself/herself had problems; and

- (b) TSA had caused social division. He opined that the reason for the EDB's insistence on not abolishing TSA was to prevent a staff cut due to abolition of TSA.

30. The Chairman said Mr SIU Hin-hong had arrived at the conference room, and asked whether there were any members who objected to cancelling his application for leave of absence.

31. Mr James CHAN said that others might come back to the conference room after submitting the application for leave of absence, but he would never do that. He was not against Mr SIU Hin-hong, but just wanted to know what we should do if he lodged an objection.

32. Mr SIU Hin-hong said that he submitted the application for leave of absence due to follow-up consultation, and he came back to attend the meeting immediately after the consultation. There were no other incentives and he hoped that he could be forgiven.

33. Mr Mannix MOK, Executive Officer (District Council)1 of Sha Tin District Office said that it was necessary to go through the voting procedure if there were members who objected to cancelling the application for leave of absence.

34. Mr Michael YUNG inquired what we should do if the EWC objected to cancelling the application for leave of absence.

35. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to respond to the enquiry of Mr Michael YUNG after the meeting. She asked if there were any members who objected to cancelling the application for leave of absence of Mr Michael YUNG.

36. The Chairman said that she did not receive any objections from members, so the cancellation of Mr Michael YUNG's application for leave of absence was endorsed.

37. The views of Mr SIU Hin-hong were summarised below:

- (a) he said that his children also had to take the TSA tests, and currently, many advanced countries adopted examination systems similar to TSA, with test results accessible. The practice in Hong Kong had imposed relatively less pressure; and
- (b) the TSA data could enable teachers to rethink their teaching strategies. As the Government had invested large amounts of public funds, it was against reason that it did not have the right to know the schools' performance. Competition was fierce in Hong Kong, so parents hoped that their children could win at the starting line. But it was not sure that the problem could be solved by abolishing TSA. Some people only listened to the opinions that they liked to hear but paid no heed to the education. He hoped that members would not lodge objections for the sake of objection.

38. The views of Mr LI Sai-wing were summarised below:

- (a) in his view, primary school students should not bear too much pressure. Since the purpose of the motion was to relieve students' pressure, he asked whether shelving TSA could achieve this, which was worthy of our careful consideration; and
- (b) everyone cared about primary school students. In his opinion, professional decisions should be respected, namely, letting schools and parents decide on their own as to whether to participate in the scheme or not. He also held that the Government should be urged to effectively conduct the monitoring work and should not conduct data-based assessment, which exerted pressure on schools. He wondered why TSA needed to be abolished since it was optional as to whether to participate in the assessment or not. If TSA was not abolished, more data could be obtained for reference by teachers, thereby improving teaching strategies.

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

- (a) there were little difference between TSA, short for Territory-wide System Assessment, and BCA, short for Basic Competency Assessment. Though he had never taken any TSA or BCA tests, he also experienced extremely painful aptitude tests and was drilled endlessly in primary school. There would be no objections if the original purpose of TSA was to know about the difference between schools and thereby making some fine-tunings. But now, it turned out to be a regular drilling for students; and
- (b) he wondered why the current Government could not abolish TSA since the Chief Executive-elect had already clarified her position towards the issue. He did not understand why the scheme was introduced again if it was for the sake of primary school students. He objected to TSA or BCA.

40. The Chairman said as a parent, she certainly hoped that children could bear less pressure, but she also understood that the Government needed to make assessments. She hoped that Mr CHAN Nok-hang could respond to other members' opinions again.

41. Mr CHAN Nok-hang needed a little time to consolidate the contents of the motion.

42. The Chairman announced the meeting adjourned for three minutes.

43. Mr CHAN Nok-hang said that after listening to the members' opinions, he agreed to add "the Government was required to conduct an overall review of the current assessment system" to the motion.

44. Mr LI Sai-wing proposed the amended motion below:

"The Government decides to introduce the Basic Competency Assessment (BCA) in primary schools in 2017/18 as an auxiliary tool for improving teaching. Given that some parents and schools are doubtful about the scheme, the Education and

Welfare Committee of Sha Tin District Council urges the Government to take active measures to ensure that when introducing the scheme:

1. professional decisions are respected and school-based principles should be observed to allow schools and parents to decide on their own as to whether to participate in the scheme or not for their students;
2. the Government should effectively conduct the monitoring work and ensure that the schools will not drill students for the scheme;
3. the Government should strictly follow the spirit of the scheme to ensure that the assessment data will not be used for assessing the performance of schools;
4. the Government should enhance publicity and explain in detail the arrangements of the scheme to schools and parents to dispel their doubts.”

Ms Iris WONG seconded the motion.

45. Mr TING Tsz-yuen held that amendments to a motion should be based on the original contents thereof. There were differences but no conflicts between contents of the amended motion of Mr LI Sai-wing and those of the original motion. Therefore, he thought that the two motions could both be handled.

46. Mr Michael YUNG opined that instead of making amendments to words and expressions of the original motion, the amended motion was totally different from the original one. However, regarding the amended motion of the Legislative Council, amendments were also made based on the text of the original motion. Therefore, he agreed with the opinions of Mr TING Tsz-yuen. If the Chairman accepted the amended motion, he would consider proposing amendments to it. He asked the Secretariat whether it was feasible or not.

47. The Chairman said that the original motion and the amended motion were both directed at BCA and were not totally irrelevant. Therefore, she held that the amended motion was acceptable.

48. Mr HO Hau-cheung opined that Mr LI Sai-wing could consider changing the amended motion into a provisional motion for processing side by side.

49. Mr LI Sai-wing asked whether the amended motion could be changed into a provisional motion.

50. Mr Mannix MOK said that Mr LI Sai-wing could first withdraw the amended motion, and then, submit a provisional motion. After withdrawal of the amended motion, the original motion should be handled before the provisional motion.

51. Mr LI Sai-wing proposed to withdraw the amended motion.

52. The Chairman asked whether there were any members who objected to the withdrawal of the amended motion by Mr LI Sai-wing. The EWC unanimously endorsed the withdrawal of the amended motion.

53. Mr CHAN Nok-hang revised his motion below:

“Therefore, the Education and Welfare Committee of Sha Tin District Council requests the current Government to shelve the Basic Competency Assessment (BCA) for Primary 3 students in 2017, and requests the new Government to shelve BCA immediately from 2018 and comprehensively review and optimise the current assessment system to relieve the extremely heavy academic pressure faced by primary school students, especially Primary 3 students, right now.”

Mr Billy CHAN seconded the motion.

54. Mr LI Sai-wing considered it redundant to once again require shelving BCA as the Government-in-waiting had taken its stand. He agreed to relieve pressure of primary school students, but expressed reservations about the cancellation of the scheme.

55. Mr CHAN Nok-hang responded that he understood that the Government-in-waiting had taken its stand, but since the term of the Government was five years, he did not hope that the new Government could not abolish BCA until the fifth year, which was the reason why he requested the Government to shelve BCA immediately.

56. The Chairman proposed to go through the voting procedure. Mr Billy CHAN requested an open vote, which was supported by four members.

57. The Chairman announced that the motion of paragraph 53 was endorsed with 19 affirmative votes, 2 negative votes and 6 abstention votes.

The 19 members casting affirmative votes were:

Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr HO Hau-cheung, Mr NG Kam-hung, Mr LI Sai-hung, Ms LAM Chung-yan, Mr TONG Hok-leung, Mr Michael YUNG, Mr Rick HUI, Mr Billy CHAN, Mr James CHAN, Mr CHAN Nok-hang, Ms TSANG So-lai, Mr CHING Cheung-ying, Mr WONG Yue-hon, Mr WONG Hok-lai, Mr YIP Wing, Mr Sunny CHIU, Mr WAI Hing-cheung and Mr LAI Tsz-yan.

The 2 members casting negative votes were:

Mr MOK Kam-kwai and Mr SIU Hin-hong.

The 6 members casting abstention votes were:

Mr Tiger WONG, Ms YUE Shin-man, Mr LI Sai-wing, Mr CHIU Man-leong, Ms Iris WONG and Ms TUNG Kin-lei.

58. Mr Michael YUNG said that some members had indicated an open vote before voting. He asked why members needed to log in repeatedly to complete the voting and whether the answer could be given after the meeting.

59. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to answer the question of Mr Michael YUNG after the meeting.

60. Mr Mannix MOK said that he was so sorry that the members had to vote again because there was a slight delay of the system just now.

61. Mr LI Sai-wing proposed the provisional motion below:

“The Government decides to introduce the Basic Competency Assessment (BCA) in primary schools in 2017/18 as an auxiliary tool for improving teaching. Given that some parents and schools are doubtful about the scheme, the Education and Welfare Committee of Sha Tin District Council urges the Government to take active measures to ensure that when introducing the scheme:

1. professional decisions are respected and school-based principles should be observed to allow schools and parents to decide on their own as to whether to participate in the scheme or not for their students;
2. the Government should effectively conduct the monitoring work and ensure that schools will not drill students for the scheme;
3. the Government should strictly follow the spirit of the scheme to ensure that the assessment data will not be used for assessing the performance of schools;
4. the Government should enhance publicity and explain in detail the arrangements of the scheme to schools and parents to dispel their doubts.”

Ms Iris WONG seconded the motion.

62. Mr LI Sai-wing requested an open vote, which was supported by four members.

63. Mr WONG Yue-hon hoped that the proposer of the motion could explain the scheme mentioned in point 3.

64. Mr HO Hau-cheung said that just now he supported the motion of Mr CHAN Nok-hang. The assessment test this year was just around the corner, but the current government still insisted on holding the Primary 3 assessment. Therefore, he held that the motion of Mr LI Sai-wing was meaningful and he supported the motion.

65. Mr SIU Hin-hong said that the assessment results would not be released, which supposedly could dispel members’ doubts. There was no need to cancel or shelve BCA.

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

- (a) he agreed that assessments were necessary, but if schools and students were allowed to decide on their own as to whether to participate in the scheme or not, namely, on a voluntary basis, how would the EDB assess students;
- (b) contents of the motion pointed out that monitoring should be carried out effectively and students should not be drilled for passing examinations. However, there were many drilling exercises for TSA in bookstores, which were not textbooks and thus were not subject to the examination and approval by the EDB. Excessive drilling would not appear as long as publishers were prohibited from publishing such types of exercises;



- (c) contents of the motion specified that the Government should strictly follow the spirit of the scheme to ensure that the assessment data would not be used for assessing the performance of schools. He could not understand the point of an examination if the results could not be used for assessment after the examination; and
- (d) contents of the motion requested the Government to enhance publicity and explain in detail the arrangements of the scheme to schools and parents to dispel their doubts. He opined that no matter how the arrangements were explained, schools would continue to drill students because they would still worry that the result of the scheme would affect the result of allocation of their students' secondary school places.

67. The responses of Ms Iris WONG were summarised below:

- (a) every school hoped to cultivate students with good qualifications on the one hand and strengthen counselling for less talented students on the other hand. The idea of the scheme was to enable parents and teachers to know about the students' needs in study and provide data to the Government and schools for analysis, so as to learn about the problems between teaching and study;
- (b) in the past when the remedial and enhancement scheme was not yet introduced, there were only assessments like aptitude tests and joint examinations, which placed extreme pressure on students in 1-2 years. Schools and students were permitted to decide on their own as to whether to take TSA or BCA or not. The mechanism was reviewed in 2000 because everyone knew the disadvantages of drilling, but there would be drilling culture as long as there were examinations, which was a fact that could not be changed merely by abolishing a test; and
- (c) members mentioned that there were many exercises in bookstores. She opined that there were also lots of picture books in bookstores which could be used to train students to write after watching pictures, but many parents were unlikely to buy such books. In spite of heavy homework load in Baptist Lui Ming Choi Primary School, a great number of parents still hoped that their children could study there.

68. The Chairman announced that the provisional motion of paragraph 61 was vetoed by 11 affirmative votes, 13 negative votes and 3 abstention votes.

The 11 members casting affirmative votes were:

Mr Tiger WONG, Mr HO Hau-cheung, Ms YUE Shin-man, Mr LI Sai-wing, Mr CHIU Man-leong, Ms LAM Chung-yan, Mr MOK Kam-kwai, Ms Iris WONG, Ms TUNG Kin-lei, Mr WAI Hing-cheung and Ms Scarlett PONG.

The 13 members casting negative votes were:

Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr NG Kam-hung, Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr Michael YUNG, Mr Rick HUI, Mr Billy CHAN, Mr James CHAN, Mr CHAN Nok-hang, Ms TSANG So-lai, Mr CHING Cheung-ying, Mr WONG Hok-lai, Mr YIP Wing and Mr Sunny CHIU.

The 3 members casting abstention votes were:

Mr TONG Hok-leung, Mr WONG Yue-hon and Mr SIU Hin-hong.

69. Mr LI Sai-wing said the whole EWC agreed today that we should not put too much pressure on primary school students. He hoped that members would not distort the target of relieving pressure on primary school students no matter what the result of the motion would be.

70. The Chairman announced the agenda ended.

### **Questions**

Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on Lift Maintenance Course  
(Paper No. EW 17/2017)

71. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) the department responded that it was estimated that the manpower was sufficient to cope with the demand. He asked the department on what basis the above estimation was made. The department said that there was sufficient manpower for repair and maintenance, but insufficient manpower for installation. He asked whether the shortage of manpower was an estimation or a fact;
- (b) he shared what he had seen, saying that housing estates generally needed to install, repair and maintain lifts, and sometimes, some housing estates would purchase repair and maintenance service through tender exercise. Response to the tender was relatively active in the past but was lukewarm of late. On the contrary, the response to the tender for installing lifts was active. Lift companies actively responded to the tender for installing lifts, but maintained a passive attitude towards the tender for repair and maintenance, which was caused by the shortage of manpower according to his understanding. What he knew was slightly different from the responses of the department;
- (c) the department said that the number of people engaging in the industry and studying relevant courses increased in recent 1-2 years. He asked whether this meant that the department had found the shortage of manpower in the industry two years ago and therefore launched relevant courses. It could be seen from the number provided by the department that students enrolled started increasing from 2015, but there was no sign of increase in the number of graduates. The department said that about 140 students were expected to be qualified as registered engineering staff every year in the next three years. Such two figures could not match. According to the department, about 70% of students graduated every year. He wanted to know how the department got this number. He asked about the reason of the sudden increase in the number of students enrolled from 70 in 2014 to more than 200 in 2015 and 2016;
- (d) new housing estates would be completed successively in Hong Kong in the next few years, so it was believed that demands for manpower would increase. He

wanted to know the number of people demanded in the market in the next three years, the calculation method and the number of people that retired in the industry every year. Besides, he also wanted to know whether the department knew why the two institutions did not provide the number of dropouts of relevant courses, the reasons for their dropout; whether there was anything wrong with teaching or student enrollment. In addition to attracting students to study relevant courses, the department should also consider how to retain industry professionals in the industry. There would still be a shortage of manpower in the industry if many students changed profession soon after graduation; and

- (e) the Construction Industry Council provided financial assistance to people who wanted to devote themselves to the lift and escalator industry. He wanted to know what kind of financial assistance the Council would provide and whether its financial assistance were sufficient to attract more people to voluntarily devote themselves to relevant industries.

72. The responses of Mr LAI Chun-fai, Senior Engineer / General Legislation 4 of Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) were summarised below:

- (a) the EMSD once engaged a consultant company to estimate the time required for the repair and maintenance of a lift. Generally, a regular maintenance would need about one and a half hours. In 2014, the EMSD issued a notice, saying that the contractor should reserve enough time for engineering staff to carry out proper maintenance. If it was planned that more than 6 maintenance works projects would be handled every day, the contractor should carry out inspections before work to ensure that the maintenance could be carried out in safe and proper conditions;
- (b) as for manpower resources, data showed that last year about 3 390 registered engineering staff and 1 070 engineering staff conducted regular maintenance works for lifts and escalators, accounting for about 65% of all registered staff. Assuming that a lift needed maintenance once every two weeks and each group had two engineering staff working for 250 working days a year, every engineering staff in each group needed to complete maintenance of about 3.2 lifts every day. Therefore, it was estimated that the current manpower in the industry was sufficient to meet the demands.
- (c) with regard to the lukewarm responses to tenders for the repair and maintenance service of housing estates, as professional knowledge was required for the repair and maintenance of escalators and lifts, the contractor would make a commercial consideration before deciding whether or not to make a tender, e.g. whether it was technically feasible to conduct maintenance for machines of other brands;
- (d) the Government passed the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance in December 2012 to introduce the registration system, so the EMSD could get better informed of the manpower in the industry to promote training. According to the experience of

training institutions over the past years, about 70% of students could graduate and become registered engineering staff every year. Therefore, the EMSD estimated that in the next three years, about 140 students would be qualified to become registered engineering staff every year, which was broadly in line with market demand. In respect of the demand, thanks to the registration system, the EMSD could predict how many registered engineering staff would retire every year and the demands in the next few years based on the number of newly completed housing estates every year; and

- (e) the Vocational Training Council introduced the “Earn and Learn Pilot Scheme” together with the Construction Industry Council in 2015, so the number of students enrolled increased from about 70 in the past to 200 odd in 2015 and 2016. The EMSD would continue to discuss with the Vocational Training Council and the Construction Industry Council on increasing training allowance for apprentices and relevant courses, so as to encourage youngsters to enter the industry. However, the Vocational Training Council did not provide any information about the number of dropouts and relevant reasons. He would relay the opinions of Mr WAI Hing-cheung to the Vocational Training Council, and request the Council to consider recording relevant data and reviewing teaching effectiveness.

Question to be Raised by Mr YAU Man-chun on School Places in Sha Tin District  
(Paper No. EW 18/2017)

73. The Chairman said Mr YAU Man-chun, who asked for leave of absence, submitted a letter of entrustment to the Secretariat before the meeting, entrusting Mr Sunny CHIU to raise questions on his behalf. She endorsed relevant entrustment and asked Mr Sunny CHIU to continue to raise questions.

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

- (a) he asked about the size of a class that could be considered as a small class under the existing policy. The EDB said that three vacant school premises had been used to run time-limited schools. One was located in Yuen Long and two were in Kwun Tong. He asked about the relationship between these schools and Sha Tin District and whether some students living in Sha Tin District had been assigned to these three schools;
- (b) the EDB said that if the school temporarily “increased allocation” to each class to more than 31 students, the allowance for each additional place would be about \$40,000. During the headcount in September, the average class size ranged from 28 to 30, and the allowance for each “additional” student was \$13,725. He wanted to know whether \$40,000 would be granted again after the grant of more than \$10,000. He also asked about the basic allowance for each school place, and whether the amount of \$40,000-\$50,000 was sufficient to attract schools to enroll additional students;
- (c) the EDB said that it had announced in 2013 that the overall demand for Primary One places was expected to peak in the 2018/19 school year and then fall back.

But as now was only 2017, he asked whether there were enough school places in Sha Tin District. The authority did not start planning for the construction of a primary school until the completion and occupation of Shui Chuen O Estate. In the future, there would be Yan On Estate and new estates in Fo Tan. He hoped that the authority could make a better plan. He asked about the number of students in Shui Chuen O Estate who currently needed to take a cross-district journey to go to schools. He hoped that the authority would tell the timetable for the construction of a primary school in Shui Chuen O Estate; and

- (d) he said that there were two vacant school premises in Sha Tin District and the authority was planning to lend one to an international school. He asked why not use the two premises for primary school purpose to serve residents in Sha Tin District.

75. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised below:

- (a) he asked whether the number of students per small class was 25 and whether the number would change in the future. The authority estimated that the overall demand for Primary One places would peak in the 2018/19 school year. He asked the authority whether it had any measures to deal with this situation, and why the two vacant school premises in Sha Tin District were lent to an international school, rather than being used to supplement school places in Sha Tin District; and
- (b) the EDB did not provide the list of affected schools in its reply. He hoped that the EDB could make a response. There were three kindergartens in Shui Chuen O, but no primary school had yet been developed. He wanted to know the timetable for the construction of a primary school. If the primary school was completed after the peak demand for Primary One places, there would be enrolment problems. He asked how the EDB would deal with the situation.

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

- (a) at the time of the construction of Yan On Estate Phase II, he said that there would be problems in planning and building community facilities on “Government, Institution or Community” sites. Sha Tin was located in the centre of the New Territories. However, the EDB used three vacant school premises to run time-limited schools, with one in Yuen Long in West New Territories and two in Kwun Tong in Kowloon East. Doubly non-permanent resident (DNR) students expressed dissatisfaction when they were allocated to the North District. If the students in Sha Tin were allocated to Kowloon East and the New Territories West, they would also find this unacceptable. He wanted to know the grounds on which for the EDB to choose these time-limited schools;
- (b) the departments repeatedly used these vacant school premises to run time-limited schools. These schools might have been closed after students’ graduation. It would be difficult for the students and parents to organise parent-teacher associations or alumni associations;

- (c) on the one hand, the EDB promoted small class teaching and happy learning, but on the other hand, it also changed small classes into large ones due to the increasing student population. Now it was not only the problem of School Net 91, the School Net 88 and 89 were also affected. He asked whether the EDB could provide the number of additional school places provided by School Net 88 and 89 and the affected schools. In addition, whether some disadvantaged schools would be forced to accept additional classes in order to obtain subsidies, thereby affecting the quality of teaching; and
- (d) he asked whether it was due to the special rooms that the existing secondary schools were not suitable for conversion into primary schools. If so, whether the EDB should consider constructing dual-purpose schools in its future plan.

77. The responses of Mrs Alice YU CHOW, Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 4 of Education Bureau were summarised below:

- (a) for public primary schools implementing small class teaching, the standard size per Primary One class was 25 students, the cap being 110% of the standard class size, namely 27 students;
- (b) regarding the three time-limited schools in Kwun Tong and Yuen Long mentioned in the paper (EW 18/2017) submitted by the EDB, it did not mean that the EDB would allocate students in Sha Tin District to Kwun Tong District and Yuen Long District to study. Instead, it meant that in dealing with the Primary One allocation, the EDB would maintain close communication with the industry and would join hands with the industry in exploring different solutions, including using appropriate vacant school premises in relevant districts to run time-limited schools, so as to increase the supply of school places during the transitional period;
- (c) regarding the measures of temporarily “increasing allocation” to each Primary One class, according to the established arrangements, if schools temporarily “increased allocation” to each class to 30 students, the EDB would provide additional teaching posts at the Assistant Primary School Master/Mistress rank to qualified schools implementing small class teaching. Starting from 2013 (2013/14 school year), if the school temporarily “increased allocation” to each class to more than 31 students, the EDB would provide cash allowance for the 31th or above places in each class. With reference to the calculation in December 2016, the allowance for each additional place was \$41,508. Starting from 2015 (2015/16 school year), if qualified schools implementing small class teaching needed to temporarily “increase allocation”, and the “increase” (cap) was 28 or more students, they would also obtain “additional study allowance” apart from the existing support mentioned above. During the headcount in September, if there were 28 – 30 students per class on average, the “additional” allowance for each student was \$13,725;
- (d) regarding Primary One allocation in 2017 in Sha Tin District, after borrowing places from School Net 88 and 89 according to the established arrangements,

the number of places in School Net 91 was still not enough to meet the current year's requests, making it necessary to "temporarily increase allocation". All schools in the net should share the burden by "temporarily increasing allocation" to each Primary One class to 33 students. The list of schools in the School Net 88 and 89 which had lent school places would be followed up after the meeting;

[Supplementary information after the meeting: schools in the School Net 88 which lent school places include: G.C.C.I.T.K.D. Cheong Wong Wai Primary School, Free Methodist Mei Lam Primary School and Kowloon City Baptist Church Hay Nien (Yan Ping) Primary School; schools in the School Net 89 which lent school places include: Ma On Shan St. Joseph's Primary School, H.K.T.A. Shun Yeung Primary School, Ng Clan's Association Tai Pak Memorial School and Christian Alliance Toi Shan H.C.Chan Primary School.]

- (e) some members mentioned why we did not consider converting two vacant school premises into primary schools when dealing with the issue of Primary One places. The EDB had announced in 2013 that the overall demand for Primary One places was expected to peak at the 2018/19 school year and then fall back. The EDB had reached a consensus with the industry on the following: regarding the expected temporary changes in the demand for Primary One places, it was sensible to adopt flexible arrangements (for example, temporarily "increase allocation" when necessary and consider using vacant school premises to run time-limited schools) for flexible increase in school places to meet the rising demand. This could also reduce the impact of the decrease in the number of students in the year and/or in the long run on the steady development of public sector schools. As for the three vacant school premises in Sha Tin District that had been earmarked for school use, the EDB was following up on its intended use;
- (f) regarding the school building, the EDB had already set aside a 30-room primary school premise in Shui Chuen O Estate. In particular, the Architectural Services Department had engaged an engineering consultant firm to design school premises, make a budget for construction costs and prepare bidding documents; the EDB was also applying to the District Lands Office/Shu Tin for the Government's arrangement of land allocation according to the established mechanism. The school allocation exercise of Shui Chuen O Estate Primary School had commenced on 27 March 2017 and the application was closed on 27 April 2017. The school allocation exercise was carried out in a fair and rigorous manner according to the established mechanism. All school allocation applications were reviewed by the School Allocation Committee. Depending on the number of applications and the complexity of the cases, all procedures for school allocation exercise would normally be completed within six to nine months, and the allocation result was expected to be announced around the second half of 2017. The EDB would consult the Sha Tin District Council about this school building project and apply for funding from the Legislative Council. The school building project was expected to commence in 2019 and complete in 2021; and

- (g) under the existing mechanism, in planning large-scale residential development areas, the Government would reserve land for schools in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standard and Guidelines based on the population and the needs for social services, so as to support the development of the population and related public housing in the district, meet the community's demand for education services and support relevant policies (including the demand for school places in the district, the reprovisioning needs of existing schools and the need to provide diversity in the school system). According to the relevant mechanism, the EDB had reserved primary school sites at Shui Chuen O Estate in Sha Tin to meet the educational needs of the newly-increased population.

78. The Chairman hoped that the EDB could report the school building in Shui Chuen O Estate to the EWC in due course to keep members in view of the progress. He also asked the EDB to follow up the information requested by individual members after the meeting.

Question to be Raised by Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick on Senior Citizen Card  
(Paper No. EW 19/2017)

79. The views of Mr Rick HUI were summarised below:

- (a) he said that he raised this question because the residents told him earlier that a large fast-food chain restaurant did not offer concessions to the holders of old Senior Citizen Cards because the old cards were not numbered. Although the concession might be just a few dollars, it might be very important for the elderly people. The approach of this fast-food restaurant was stubborn indeed, but in his opinion, the SWD should also take some of the blame. He understood that regarding the replacement of old cards with new ones, the old cards showed the identity card number, but the new cards bore numbers, which might misleading some stores into thinking that the number was the data for certification; and
- (b) in his opinion, the authority had issued several batches of Senior Citizen Cards with varied qualities. There was no reason to punish the elderly people who just got poor-quality cards and needed to replace them with new ones. At present, a fee of \$22 would be charged for replacement of a Senior Citizen Card. He asked about the basis for determining the fee, whether it was the cost or whether the authority charged the fee just in the hope of preventing the elderly people from replacing the card frequently. He hoped that the authority could consider replacing new cards for old card holders in batches, or lowering the fee charged for replacement of a Senior Citizen Card. In his view, after lowering the fee, there would be no abuse of the replacement system because in addition to paying the fee, the one who applied for replacement of a Senior Citizen Card also needed to prepare photos and fill in forms.

80. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised below:

- (a) he said he also received quite a few complaints from the residents, saying that the large fast-food chain restaurant did not offer concessions to holders of old Senior Citizen Cards. The Senior Citizen Card system had been operating for many years. If concessions were offered only to the new card holders, it would



also increase the authority's workload. He asked if the authority had communicated with this fast-food restaurant; and

- (b) he wanted to know the basis for determining the \$22 charged for replacement of a Senior Citizen Card. Senior Citizen Cards were issued from 1994, that was to say, the elderly people born from 1929 to 1935 held old cards. If the Government could afford the fees for replacement of smart identity cards for 7 million people, it should also be able to bear the fees for replacement of Senior Citizen Cards. He also suggested the authority consider replacing new cards for the elderly people who needed to replace their old cards with new ones not because their old cards were too old, or consider lowering the fee.

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

- (a) he understood why the elderly people did not like the design of the Senior Citizen Card. That's because the old Senior Citizen Card was only a laminated hard card. He had seen that the old cards held by quite a few elderly people were worn out. In comparison, the old cards were not as durable as the current new ones. He understood that the authority charged \$22 for replacement of a Senior Citizen Card for the purpose of reminding those careless elderly people. However, some elderly people might need to replace their cards probably because their old ones were already worn out. The elderly people could buy a lot of things with \$22. He understood that there were procedural difficulties, but he believed that the authority could use computers to check the issue date of old cards, so as to exercise discretion to waive the administrative fees payable for replacement of new cards by the elderly people who held aged cards. Otherwise, members of the public would think that the SWD placed more emphasis on administration than welfare;
- (b) the SWD's Integrated Family Service Centre would assist in replacement of Senior Citizen Cards. He asked whether the staff in the Centre could be given discretion in work. If they found that the old cards were worn-out, they could exempt relevant holders from the replacement fee; and
- (c) if the firm did not participate in the Senior Citizen Card Scheme but used the Senior Citizen Cards for publicity, he asked how the SWD would handle it.

82. The responses of Ms Ivy KWONG, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) 2 (Acting) of Social Welfare Department were summarised below:

- (a) Hong Kong residents aged above 65 were eligible to receive a Senior Citizen Card as a proof of age and enjoy the concessions provided by the commercial establishments or public organisations participating in the Senior Citizen Card Scheme. The three types of Senior Citizen Cards had the same purpose or function;
- (b) all companies participating in the Senior Citizen Card Scheme accepted both new and old Senior Citizen Cards. Regarding that some members mentioned

that a firm did not accept the new Senior Citizen Card and therefore did not offer any concessions, she said that this firm was reluctant to participate in the Senior Citizen Card Scheme and voluntarily offered concessions for Senior Citizen Card holders as long as they could provide their Senior Citizen Card number;

- (c) the SWD's Senior Citizen Card Office had also discussed with this firm and invited it to participate in the Senior Citizen Card Scheme, so that the holders of old or new Senior Citizen Cards could enjoy the concessions. But the firm chose to offer the concessions on its terms. The elderly people could check their Senior Citizen Card number at the Senior Citizen Card Office and provide the number to the firm without presenting a new card;
- (d) the replacement of Senior Citizen Card was based on the user-pays principle and the Senior Citizen Card Office would charge \$22 as cost. There was no exemption mechanism at present. She would report to the Senior Citizen Card Office the member's views on discretionary exemption or reduction of fees for replacement of worn-out Senior Citizen Cards with new ones; and
- (e) the SWD considered that the new and old cards had the same effect as a proof of age in facilitating the elderly people to enjoy the benefits of "Senior Citizen Card Scheme". It also noted that from time to time there were outlaws posing as staff of Senior Citizen Card Office claiming to replace new cards for the elderly people. So, at present, it did not intend to carry out massive replacement of new cards for the elderly people.

### **Information Items**

#### **Reports of Working Groups** (Paper No. EW 20/2017)

83. Ms Scarlett PONG said she hoped to make a supplement to the record of the first meeting of the Working Group on Age-friendly Community: the Jockey Club "Age-friendly City Project" would provide allowance for three years for non-profit-making organisations in the community to promote the "Age-friendly Community Program". At the first stage, there were only two applicants, including the Jockey Club "Self-Awakened Exercise Programme" (the allowance requested was \$350,000) and the "Be Happy Together" under the Jockey Club "Age-friendly City Project" (the allowance requested was \$150,000). Therefore, there was no need for review. The working group also provided some advice to them. In the next two years, the Jockey Club would have \$500,000 available for applications from non-profit making organisations. The working group recommended three members to serve as judges, including herself, Ms TUNG Kin-lei and Ms CHAN Man-kuen. She hoped that members could note that.

84. Members noted the above paper.

**Information Papers**

Number of Newly Arrived Mainland Children Admitted to Public Sector Primary and Secondary Schools in Sha Tin District Provided by the Education Bureau  
(Paper No. EW 21/2017)

85. Members noted the above paper.

2017-2018 Approved Estimates of an Expenditure Head under the Committee  
(Paper No. EW 22/2017)

86. Members noted the above paper.

**Date of Next Meeting**

87. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 4 July 2017 (Tuesday).

88. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat  
STDC 13/15/35

June 2017