

**Sha Tin District Council**  
**Minutes of the 4th Meeting of**  
**the Education and Welfare Committee in 2017**

**Date** : 4 July 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	8:07 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui (Vice-Chairman)	"	2:30 pm	4:45 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, SBS, MH	DC Chairman	2:30 pm	7:48 pm
Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	DC Vice-Chairman	2:30 pm	7:30 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	"	2:57 pm	5:20 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	"	2:30 pm	7:48 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	3:01 pm	7:27 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	"	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	"	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	"	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	"	2:30 pm	7:30 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	3:28 pm	5:37 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	"	2:30 pm	7:33 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	"	2:30 pm	7:38 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	2:30 pm	5:50 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	2:30 pm	7:25 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS,JP	"	2:30 pm	7:25 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH	"	2:30 pm	8:06 pm
Mr SIU Hin-hong	"	2:30 pm	7:29 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	"	2:30 pm	7:26 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	"	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	"	2:30 pm	7:28 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	"	2:30 pm	7:30 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	"	2:30 pm	7:28 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	"	2:30 pm	7:26 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	"	2:30 pm	7:25 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	"	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	"	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
Mr YIP Wing	"	2:30 pm	7:28 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	"	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man	"	2:30 pm	7:37 pm

<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>
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael Mr MOK Man-lok, Mannix (Secretary)	DC Member Executive Officer (District Council)1 / Sha Tin District Office	2:30 pm	8:07 pm
<b><u>In Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>		
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		
<b><u>In Attendance by Invitation</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>		
Ms WONG Hok-ling, Jessie, JP	Deputy Secretary for Education (2) / Education Bureau		
Mrs CHAN NG Ting-ting, Elina	Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure and Research Support) / Education Bureau		
Ms YU Hee-wah, Shirley	Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure & Research Support) 2 / Education Bureau		
Ms LI Sau-yee	Sha Tin (South) Social Security Field Unit Supervisor / Social Welfare Department		
Ms NG Man-wah, Pauline	Vice-Chairman / Board of Governors / English Schools Foundation		
Mr John STEWART	Director of Facilities / English Schools Foundation		
Mr TANG Wing-hung	Senior Project Manager / English Schools Foundation		
Mr Paul BENTHAM	Vice-Principal / Island School / English Schools Foundation		
Ms Rebecca YIP	Business Manager / Island School / English Schools Foundation		
Ms YAU Nga-sze	Representative of Kwoon Chung Bus Holdings Limited		
Mr CHAN Chung-yee, Alan	Representative of Kwoon Chung Bus Holdings Limited		
Ms Rebecca CHAN	Representative of MVA (Transport Advisor)		
Ms Karen CHAN	Representative of MVA (Transport Advisor)		
<b><u>Absent</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>		
Ms TSANG So-lai	DC Member (Application for leave of absence received)		
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin	” (No application for leave of absence received)		

#### Action

The Chairman welcomed all members and representatives of government departments to the 4th meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee (EWC) this year. She congratulated Mr HO Hau-cheung, Chairman of the Sha Tin District Council (DC), on being awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star.

2. Mr HO Hau-cheung said that he was commended for his long-term service with support from all of you. He especially thanked for the support from the colleagues of DC, the Sha Tin District Office (STDO), various government departments and the Secretariat of the DC.

**Application for Leave of Absence**

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received the application for leave of absence in writing from the following member:

Ms TSANG So-lai                      Official commitment

4. Members unanimously endorsed the application for leave of absence submitted by the above member.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meetings Held on 2 May 2017**  
(EWC Minutes 3/2017)

5. Mr Michael YUNG asked who “she” as set out in paragraph 35 of the minutes was referring to.

6. Mr Mannix MOK, Executive Officer (District Council)1 of STDO responded that “she” was referring to Ms LAM Chung-yan, the Chairman.

7. Members unanimously confirmed the minutes.

**Matters Arising**

**Responses of the Relevant Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**  
(Paper No. EW 23/2017)

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

- (a) the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said that with the assistance of Refine Home (“Refine Home”), their family members and social workers, the elderly residents had been given accommodation and care arrangements, including the relocation to other residential care homes or return to home according to the wishes of residents and their family members. He asked whether the residential care homes had been returned to the Government Property Agency and whether the licence for the relevant residential care homes had been cancelled; and
- (b) the elderly had to make new friends again in new residential care homes. He asked SWD whether there was any social worker to follow up each case to help the elderly integrate into the new homes.

9. Mr Roy CHAN, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin)1 of SWD responded that Refine Home had completely moved out on 23 June and the relevant venue had been returned to the Government Property Agency. Its licence had also been cancelled. All

elderly residents had been given accommodation and care arrangements, some of whom had been relocated to other care centres run by Refine Home operators as agreed by their family members and the residents themselves, while most of the remaining elderly residents had been relocated to other private residential care homes. SWD would arrange for social workers to continue to follow up each case to help the elderly integrate into the new homes and provide the welfare services they needed.

10. Members noted the above paper.

### **Discussion Items**

#### 2017-2018 Revised Work Plans and Funding Applications of Working Groups under the Committee

(Paper No. EW 24/2017)

11. The Chairman said that according to Order 40(6) of the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders, a “standing working group” should draw up the work plan for the first quarter of each financial year, and submit it to the relevant committee for endorsement. Any amendment to the work plan should be submitted to the relevant committee for endorsement. The work plan should be submitted to the Council for endorsement if necessary. She asked whether there were any members who needed to declare their interests in co-organisers in the amended work plan, including Volunteer Space and the Hong Kong Single Parents Association.

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

- (a) he considered that volunteers had no interest in an organisation and he asked whether the scope of the declaration of interests was too excessive; and
- (b) he said that some members knew they were unable to attend the meeting and applied for leave. However, it was worth encouraging that they eventually returned to the conference room to attend the meeting. Attending meetings was the duty of the members. He considered that there was an issue in approving the withdrawal of leave application and this issue might have to be discussed in a future meeting as appropriate.

13. Mr Michael YUNG said he considered Mr Thomas PANG was talking about Order 52(1) of the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders. He understood that members should first apply for leave to the DC before members decided at the commencement of this meeting whether to approve the absence of the members concerned. Therefore, it was logical for all members to agree to withdrawal of the relevant leave application. However, he asked how the situation should be dealt with if members disagreed with the withdrawal. He considered that the mechanism for handling members who had applied for leave and returned to the conference room to attend the meeting should be included in Order 52(1). Any amendment to the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders might have to be discussed with the Finance and General Affairs Committee (FGAC) in the future to avoid embarrassment.

14. Mr Wilson LI agreed with Mr Thomas PANG’s views that it was the right of members to attend the meeting. Regarding the declaration system, a more rigorous one was better. He

considered that declaring the interests in Volunteer Space meant that any persons holding substantive positions in the relevant organisation. He also considered that this could be discussed with FGAC.

15. Regarding the amendments to the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders, Mr HO Hau-cheung said that the committee had already reached a rapport and consensus at the beginning of the current term and reviewed the Standing Orders in due time so as to make amendments in line with the times. Based on the earlier social discussions about the operation of DCs, the Audit Commission also intervened in the relevant issues. He hoped that after these discussions had settled, he strived for opportunities for discussion with FGAC in around the second half of the year to be endorsed by the DCs.

16. Mr Mannix MOK responded that the prevailing Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders did not stipulate that members were required to agree to withdrawal of the approved applications for leave. Therefore, the Secretariat had slightly amended the chairman's memorandum since this meeting. If the members whose application for leave had been approved returned to the conference room, the chairman would ask members to note.

17. The Chairman said that if members had other views on the application for leave, they should submit them to FGAC for handling. As for the declaration of interests in Volunteer Space, she said that according to the usual practice, the declared members could attend the meeting while holding substantive positions in relevant organisations, but they did not have the right to vote on funding application.

18. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Arrangements for the Lending of Two Vacant School Premises in Sha Tin District to Secondary Schools on Hong Kong Island as Temporary School Premises  
(Paper No. EW 25/2017)

19. Ms Jessie WONG, Deputy Secretary for Education (2) of Education Bureau (EDB), Ms Pauline NG, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr TANG Wing-hung, Senior Project Manager of English Schools Foundation (ESF) and Ms Rebecca YIP, Business Manager of Island School gave a brief introduction of the paper.

20. The views of Mr WONG Ka-wing were summarised below:

- (a) ESF briefly introduced the traffic arrangements and community integration measures in the hope of minimising the impact on the community. The school premises would be lent to ESF for three years. He asked the EDB and ESF whether these were the best arrangements for ESF students. The chart showed that among the 1100 ESF students, more than 100 of them lived on Hong Kong Island and the outlying islands. These students took public transport and school buses every day. They had to spend a long time on transport and had two to three hours less per day spending on studying or participating in extra-curricular activities. He, as an educator, was not satisfied with the arrangement of EDB. He believed this was the decision of EDB that increased ESF's workload and he expressed sympathy to ESF; and

- (b) at the last meeting, the school said that the school premises would be dangerous if maintenance works were not carried out. He asked why the school knew the school premises had structural problem and did not plan early and schedule for minor maintenance during the holidays so as to avoid the need for major maintenance. It was unreasonable that students went to school by taxis during heavy rain but would be punished for their influence on the community. He understood that EWC just expressed their views today, but he was dissatisfied with the arrangements of EDB.

21. The views of Mr Victor LEUNG were summarised below:

- (a) Mr WONG Ka-wing, as an experienced educator, provided correct opinions. The DCs had always attached great importance to how to make good use of vacant school premises because they were precious land resources. In the past few years, the EDB did not make good use of vacant school premises. When there was a request from an educational institutions, EDB considered that a good method was to lend vacant school premises. It was indeed a waste where the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School were kept vacant for nearly five years and were not properly utilised; and
- (b) the Bureau and the school said that they would make good use of the school premises and provide a library for community use. He considered that the library provided was not a formal library. Members and citizens in Tai Wai District had always hoped to get a formal library. He hoped that the government departments could make long-term and proper arrangements for vacant school premises, for example, the vacant school premises could be used as community clinics to alleviate the issues of long waiting time at the Prince of Wales Hospital and benefit the community residents. The current arrangement was not conducive to students. Therefore, he would propose a provisional motion.

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

- (a) he understood that if ESF chose Sha Tin as a temporary arrangement for school relocation, it was necessary for them to consider the various factors before they could find out whether this arrangement was appropriate. ESF eventually chose Sha Tin. He considered that ESF's colleagues such as Ms Pauline NG and Mr TANG Wing-hung visited the district and make consultations quite conscientiously. He basically understood the various arrangements of ESF;
- (b) regarding the problem of refusing students to go to schools by private cars as mentioned by the members, he recalled that Ms LIAO Sau-tung, Sarah, delivered a speech in the school he was teaching a few years ago and said that some community primary schools in Japan did not allow parents to pick up their children by private cars. At that time, they were very envious of it. If the school could make a car-free arrangement in Sha Tin, he personally would advocate this practice in the school he was teaching. He did not consider that it was a thoughtful arrangement for students to go to school by private cars and taxis. He, as a teacher, appreciated and supported the school's practice;

- (c) regarding the community integration, he believed that after implementation, the school would make fine-tuning after listening to the opinions and needs of the community;
- (d) regarding the traffic problem, the school needed to carefully address it. He asked whether the school had made adequate efforts to implement the relevant traffic measures so as to enable parents to cooperate. The school needed to give us confidence in this regard. He hoped that the school would take a similar approach to other schools in Sha Tin District so as to show the effectiveness of these measures to all schools in Hong Kong;
- (e) members had different views on how to make good use of vacant school premises. He did not have sufficient information to decide whether it was the best decision to lend the two vacant school premises to ESF. However, he considered that ESF had already fulfilled the responsibility of borrowing the school premises for few years;
- (f) as an educator, he appreciated that ESF was committed to bringing students into community integration. He hoped that the school could do so with more interaction and fine-tuning during the process; and
- (g) if the two vacant school premises were lent to ESF and the Bureau could make the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School as a pilot school premises for setting up a school in Shui Chuen O Estate in the future, he considered that the whole scheme was acceptable. He did not hope that students were allocated to go to Ma On Shan to attend classes.

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

- (a) the Water Supplies Department would carry out long-term replacement of water pipe works in the vicinity of Chui Tin Street, requiring closure of roads. If ESF did not implement the car-free policy after using the temporary school premises in Sun Chui Estate, traffic congestion would be more serious;
- (b) he appreciated ESF's community integration policy but considered this policy was not a compensation package. In the future, those affected by traffic congestion might not get any benefit from it. Therefore, he hoped this policy should be examined independently. He did not hope that there was criticism from the community in the future about students going to school and causing traffic congestion while the school replied that a lot of compensation packages had been given;
- (c) rule enforcement and imposing penalties were necessary for the car-free policy to be implemented well. Rule enforcement was far from satisfactory. When the school discussed the relevant arrangements with members earlier, he proposed that the area of Chui Tin Street and Sun Chui Estate was too large that four people were not adequate for law enforcement. He considered it necessary to increase staff in the early stage, especially in the vicinity of Chui Tin Street. He

asked whether it was the best option for ESF to borrow the vacant school premises in Sha Tin. He believed that the car-free policy would eventually make students feel resentful;

- (d) he hoped that ESF students would continue to wear school uniforms after relocating to Sha Tin so as to facilitate monitoring by staff members. It was very important for the residents to assist in monitoring. He asked the school how to deal with complaints from residents and members. Residents did not know the students, and might only provide photographs, making the whole rule enforcement process difficult. He asked whether the school would ignore the relevant complaints; and
- (e) regarding the issue of Sun Chui Estate, the Bureau or ESF members did not contact him to discuss the issue from November last year to now. However, they repeatedly contacted the members of Pok Hong Estate to discuss the matter. He hoped that the school would respond to why it chose to consult individual members. As a consequence, he had no confidence in the future community liaison group of the school.

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

- (a) he doubted the effectiveness of the car-free policy. He did not know whether it was adequate to monitor Sun Chui Estate with only a few people. Parents might park their cars at the interchange or in Lung Hang Estate and he estimated the problem could not be solved. Besides, members who supported the scheme had not considered the issue of ESF students who had to travel a long way to school and the Bureau did not provide any clear data to explain why the school premises in Sha Tin must be chosen;
- (b) regarding the library, he considered it was a good scheme. However, Lek Yuen Public Library had more than 20 000 books while there were only a few thousand books in ESF's library, which was not sufficient to satisfy the needs of the community. As the Government did not provide any positive feedback on years of efforts by members to establish Tai Wai Library, that's why members had to grasp every opportunity now; and
- (c) he asked why the Bureau did not address the demands of the community. They did not make good use of vacant school premises for years. It was so unfair to Sha Tin District that they were now lending the school premises to ESF. He hoped that the Bureau would use the school premises for community affairs.

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

- (a) she hoped to have a policy on long-term planning of vacant school premises. As always, the Bureau did not have a clear planning for the use of vacant school premises and the transparency of handling the premises was not sufficient. When discussing the lending of vacant school premises to ESF last time, materials were submitted to EWC in the form of information paper. She expressed her disappointment with the Bureau;



- (b) vacant school premises should cater to community needs. Taking the premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School in Tai Wai within her constituency as an example, the premises had been vacant for nearly seven years. She had made written correspondence with the Bureau for many years and expressed her wish to use the school premises as social welfare facilities or an integrated services building. However, the Bureau responded that they had no plan. So far, the Bureau had still not replied on how the school premises would be used. If there were so many places in School Net 88, she asked whether it was still necessary to retain the school premises. She hoped that the Bureau would consult with members or residents of the district about the use of vacant school premises. There had been many rumors about the use of this vacant school premises over the years, even some newspapers reported that the school premises would be converted into public housing;
- (c) the community had always expressed its demands to build a library and relocate the Sha Tin (Tai Wai) General Out-patient Clinic. If the departments operated individually, the community might not necessarily benefit. Therefore, she hoped that the Bureau could make a better planning on the use of vacant school premises so that the school premises could be used to address the needs of the community; and
- (d) she considered that members speaking in the meeting should be respectful of each other. Some members proposed to borrow the premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School. Local residents had not been consulted on this proposal. Sung Lan Middle School was subject to closure some years ago, and the school premises was lent to St. Margaret's Girls' College, Hong Kong for five years without any consultation. Students from Shui Chuen O Estate found it hard to go to school in Tai Wai. Similarly, the elderly of Mei Lam Estate found it hard to walk to the clinic near Man Lai Court for medical treatment and receive the old age allowance in the city centre. There was no place for non-profit-making organisations in Tai Wai to provide their services. Since 2011, she had proposed the conversion of the premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School into social welfare facilities. The Government had not provided any positive feedback so far.

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

- (a) both the Bureau and ESF mentioned that the community library would be set up in the premises of Shatin Tsung Tsin Secondary School. He considered it would be better to convert the school premises directly into a library instead. He said at an earlier meeting that, although the Bureau and ESF said they would arrange for double decker buses to pick up ESF students in Sun Chui Estate, after his inquiry to the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Department responded that they could not work on it. Besides, the Bureau said that it had conducted district consultation but he understood that only the Housing Authority was consulted. He asked how he could trust the Bureau and ESF;
- (b) he asked whether the car-free policy proposed by ESF was feasible. Although it was feasible to implement the policy in other ESB schools, the whole Sun Chui

Estate was surrounded by roads. He did not consider it would ensure that parents would not pick students up by private cars or taxis by relying on several staff members only. Traffic problems were unlikely to be resolved and he considered that it was not necessary to provide any other measures for compensation; and

- (c) the premises of Shatin Tsung Tsin Secondary School that the Bureau hoped to lend out was within its constituency. ESF would conduct a trial on the car-free policy. If the policy failed, the residents would be directly affected. He hardly supported this. Besides, EDB and the Housing Authority should be held accountable.

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

- (a) he concerned about the traffic problems. ESF said that it was now piloting the policy in other schools and students had positive responses. He wanted to know how many parents violated the policy in using their private cars to pick up students upon implementation of the pilot policy. Although he considered that junior secondary school and senior secondary school students might not need to be picked up by their parents, the students might be from wealthy families and prefer taking private cars. He asked about the effectiveness of the car-free policy. The school said they would punish students who violated the rules by not permitting them to participate in extra-curricular activities. However, parents might have other countervailing measures. Taking the premises of the former Hong Kong and Kowloon Chiu Chow Public Association Ma Chung Sum Secondary School (Ma Chung Sum) as an example, the parents would park their cars at Sha Kok Street, causing traffic problems in this area. He believed that school officials would not conduct enforcement at Sha Kok Street. He asked how the school would deal with the situation;
- (b) regarding community integration, the school said that there would be two hours of community activity in the timetable. He asked whether there was any more detailed information on how to make use of the two-hour timeslot. Besides, a lot of members had just mentioned that they hoped to build a library in the district. He considered that it was not useful to provide feedback to ESF and was better to give feedback to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Planning Department. Some political parties strived to build an actual library in Sha Tin for nearly 20 years but were still in vain. ESF was willing to lend the library. Although there were only a few thousand books, he considered that the ESF's scheme might be accepted in the interim, given that there was no library in Tai Wai indeed; and
- (c) he appreciated that ESF was sincere in dealing with this issue and had repeatedly visited Pok Hong Estate to solve the traffic problem.

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

- (a) the matters that many members had just mentioned were related to inadequate ancillary facilities in the community. The DC strived to increase supporting

facilities in community for a long time. In the past, we all reflected the slow progress of works. For example, it took a long time to complete the works of the facilities within the constituency of Mr YIU Ka-chun. Although we strived for many years, there was only one temporary car park in Area 103, Ma On Shan. If construction of the ancillary facilities could be accelerated, members might not necessarily strive to convert the school premises into community facilities today. This time, the Government had to learn from experience. Although it might not fall within the scope of EDB, cross-departmental cooperation was sometimes necessary to reach a consensus on ancillary facilities in the community;

- (b) he felt that EDB and ESF were very sincere this time, especially on traffic issues. Although it was not perfect, members did have a lot of doubts. He hoped that both the Bureau and the school would review the traffic conditions with the DC in the mid-term after borrowing the school premises and communicate with each other; otherwise, members would not be able to clear up doubts;
- (c) regarding the community integration, community needs were constantly changing. He hoped that the school could do more to provide facilities that were conducive to residents in the long run; and
- (d) some newspapers reported today that EDB did not address the problem of some shabby school premises. He considered that EDB did address the problem. At this moment, it was at least assisting ESF in redevelopment of the school premises.

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

- (a) EDB lacked preparation when meeting with EWC last time. However, EDB and ESF had sufficient preparation this time, and provided detailed information. Now the DC was in a dilemma;
- (b) the library provided by the school could provide only 5 000 books, which were indeed inadequate. We had been striving for many years to build an actual library in Tai Wai. The school said the library would be open to the community from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. He asked whether the opening hours could be extended to 8:00 pm. He asked about the opening hours on Saturdays and whether the library would also be open on Sundays;
- (c) regarding the car-free policy, he agreed with Mr CHING Cheung-ying's views that it was a good policy. The growth rate of Hong Kong vehicles was very high. It was worth promoting the environmentally friendly car-free policy. He knew that the school would punish students who violated the rules but he asked whether the school would reward students who abided by the rules to enhance their incentives to abide by the rules, and what reward and punishment system was in place for staff members in relation to the car-free policy. With the exception of the example in Japan, he knew that the car-free policy was implemented in Park Island, so he considered the school's car-free policy should be encouraged. However, parents would park their cars elsewhere nearby.

Therefore, he considered that only four staff members responsible for rule enforcement were not adequate. He hoped that the school would deploy more staff to the Tai Wai Station Public Transport Interchange and the octopus footbridge as well as further examine the environmental impact; and

- (d) he did not encourage students to go to school across districts. Students had to get up at 5:00 am and went to school for a transport time of one and half hour, which was not very healthy to parents and students. He also received some requests for assistance. The Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School (Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School) is a direct subsidy scheme primary school. The birth rate was relatively low after 2000, and we agreed that Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School would receive about 15% of cross-district students, but he considered that it was necessary to have regard to the prevailing circumstances and continue to follow up and monitor the situation.

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

- (a) community libraries had a relatively small collection of books, short opening hours and were used on a temporary basis, which did not meet the needs of Tai Wai residents. He asked why not set up an actual library;
- (b) the data provided by ESF showed that most of the students lived on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon, so he had doubts about the effectiveness of the car-free policy. Even if students lived along the MTR lines, staff members would just station near the school. In fact, this might simply shift traffic problems to other places in the vicinity. Besides, there were only four staff members which might not be able to implement the policy effectively; and
- (c) regarding the school place arrangements, the Bureau's paper indicated that land was a precious resource. Therefore, the construction of new schools shall keep up with sustainable development of the district. In the past, the Bureau seldom mentioned the use of vacant school premises in Sha Tin. He asked why the school premises were left vacant for many years without effective planning. It was a waste of precious resources that the Bureau did not make use of vacant school premises for educational purposes and not use the school premises as community facilities.

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

- (a) it would be more effective if EDB was more socially conscious in advance, carried out community works properly, and liaised with all the relevant groups and DC Members in Sha Tin District. EDB did not conduct comprehensive consultation with parties such as residents and tenants. With the support of these stakeholders, ESF would encounter less difficulties. He believed that tenants were pleased the school premises was lent to ESF because more students would visit the shops. Unfortunately, the car-free policy prevented students from shopping there and was not conducive to the economic development of the district. He did not know how many vehicles would travel there if students were

allowed to go to school by private cars and perhaps the situation could be manageable. The car-free policy was not fair to parents indeed;

- (b) he considered that the school might consider allowing parents to pick up more than one student in a car or the school might consider parking a car at the MTR station in the long term for immediate use;
- (c) nowadays, time had changed and many people were using e-books. The demand for a library was not necessarily high. It was hoped that we could strike a balance when making decisions; and
- (d) he considered that ESF was more uni-directional in social integration. The school should give students more opportunities to engage with the community.

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

- (a) EDB sent supplementary information on the issues of school places before the meeting. He thanked the Bureau for submitting this paper and the Bureau began to address the issue of school places. At present, the primary one school places in Sha Tin District, especially School Net 91 were seriously inadequate. Some students who lived in Shui Chuen O Estate were allocated to Ma On Shan. Many parents in his constituency, Pok Hong Estate, had reflected that their children were allocated to Ma On Shan. However, according to the principle of studying in their home district, they should be allocated to schools in School Net 91. The Bureau proposed small class teaching. However, information from EDB showed that schools in School Net 91 had increased the number of students from 25 to 33 per class, which was not ideal for the development of children in the long run;
- (b) he asked the Bureau how many classrooms and classes were added in the schools in School Net 91, the total number of primary one students and how many students who originally belonged to School Net 91 were allocated to schools in School Nets 88 and 89. If the Bureau was unable to provide information at the meeting, he hoped that it could be provided after the meeting;
- (c) he thanked Ms Pauline NG, Mr TANG Wing-hung, and Mr John STEWART, Director of Facilities of ESF for discussion with him in Pok Hong Estate earlier about the arrangement for borrowing the school premises of Ma Chung Sum. He also truthfully reflected the problem of traffic congestion in his constituency. He collected joint signature of more than 300 citizens and submitted their views to EDB. As a DC Member of the Pok Hong Estate, he worried about the traffic problems in the estate. The school said that there would be 11 school buses entering the estate in batches in the morning. However, Pok Hong Estate implemented one-lane two-way traffic with narrow roads. He considered that this would affect residents. Besides, school buses entering the estate at 6:50 am might affect residents while they were sleeping. Regarding the car-free policy, he considered that there were difficulties in implementation and hoped that ESF could seriously handle the traffic problems;

- (d) Pok Hong Estate is the estate under the Tenants Purchase Scheme managed by an owners' corporation which was also responsible for the maintenance of roads. However, the school provided only one activity room. He asked whether subsidies would be provided to the estate; and
- (e) he was pleased that the Bureau, at the members' request, now agreed to consider temporarily using the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School as the transitional school premises for Shui Chuen O Estate Primary School so as to directly solve the problem of insufficient primary school places in School Net 91. Of course, he considered the residents in the district should be consulted on this method.

33. The views of Mr CHIU Man-leong were summarised below:

- (a) both the Bureau and the school had expressed sincerity in recent months to explain the relevant arrangements to members and they had also made improvements based on the views expressed by members at the first meeting. He agreed that regarding the school's bus policy, the impact on traffic could be reduced if students boarded and alighted school bus at school. Regarding the car-free policy, he doubted the implementation method. He asked about the extent of coverage of the policy. If the areas surrounding the estate were not covered, the vehicles would park at the Tai Wai Station Public Transport Interchange or on the road outside Che Kung Temple, causing traffic congestion. He hoped that the school would reply on how to solve the problem;
- (b) regarding community integration, the school said it would set up a community liaison office to enable residents to make inquiries or provide their opinions. He considered that ESF could hold regular collaborative meetings. If there was a major works scheme in Sha Tin District, the relevant departments would set up community liaison groups and hold regular meetings with the neighbouring owners' corporations, mutual aid committees and DC Members. This would assist the school to implement different policies more effectively, such as car-free policies; and
- (c) he hoped that ESF could implement the car-free policy in its other schools and solve the traffic problems in the vicinity. For example, traffic problems at Sha Tin College or Renaissance College in Sui Wo Road had been improved but still not been solved. He hoped that the school would continue to improve the situation.

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

- (a) he was very dissatisfied with EDB at the last relevant meeting regarding its improper handling of the problems of the school premises and ESF. The DC had requested the Bureau to deal with the vacant school premises for a long time, but the Bureau had not taken it seriously. In particular, the handling of school premises, commonly known as matchbox-style school premises, was slow and had put students in a very unfair environment. Even though teachers were enthusiastic about teaching, the environment had become a hurdle to learning

for students and the quality of learning had naturally declined. He hoped that EDB would make improvements under the leadership of the new Secretary; and

- (b) the traffic problems caused by ESF had caused long-term nuisances to Sha Tin District, especially his constituency. Under the efforts of Ms Pauline NG, a slight improvement was indeed made. Although the problems remained unresolved, the school seemed to have received no opposition against the car-free policy, indicating that parents were learned people. Although some members mentioned that parents might park their cars around, he considered that the policy had always given students more opportunities to take the school bus. However, this did not mean that there was no need to pay attention to the traffic problems around. He hoped that ESF could properly handle the problems, given that Ms Ng handled the problem seriously. Ms Ng was worthy of appreciation for her sincerity. He considered that EDB should encourage other schools to follow the example of the ESF's policy because these nuisances to the residents made the community dissatisfied. He hoped that ESF would contribute to the community in the future after borrowing the school premises.

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

- (a) the paper showed that there were about 1 130 students in ESF. He hoped to explore the issue of students going to school by private cars. There was a secondary school in Tai Wai and lot of private cars travelled during peak hours in the morning. It took only about 20 minutes from the MTR Tai Wai Station to the secondary school, but up to 20 private cars were parked at the school gate to pick up the children during peak hours. ESF was a school on Hong Kong Island. There was no reason to object if the car-free policy was feasible;
- (b) he believed that there were not too many students from ESF living in the New Territories at present. If the school were to be moved to Sha Tin premises, it took 45 minutes during non-peak hours and around one and a half hours during peak hours from Admiralty to MTR Tai Wai Station. If the class started at 8:30 am, students would have to wake up before 6:00 am. He asked EDB whether this was reasonable and acceptable. He hoped EDB would ensure that the ESF's car-free policy was feasible and hoped that the Bureau could extend it to other schools if feasible; and
- (c) the trigger point of this matter arose from the way of handling vacant school premises. Assuming the school premises was successfully lent to ESF, he asked how the Bureau would deal with the school premises after three years and whether it would remain vacant. EDB had promoted small class teaching over the years. He asked whether it was possible to make good use of the vacant school premises to promote this. If so many members mentioned the issue of vacant school premises, whether Mr YEUNG Yun-hung, Kevin, Secretary for Education would be invited to answer questions. He hoped the Chairman would consider it.

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

- (a) at the last discussion on this issue, he expressed concerns about traffic problems. The discussion paper submitted to EWC this time was clearer and more progressive than the information paper submitted last time. He paid special attention to three locations: the first one was the Public Transport Interchange at Tai Wai; the second was the roundabout of octopus footbridge at Che Kung Miu Road; the third was the end traffic sign to the left of L-shaped footbridge at Hung Mui Kuk Road and Tin Sam Street. All these three locations were undergoing construction work or were relatively more dangerous. Replacement pipe works would be implemented in L-type footbridge at Tin Sam Street for a period of two years. There were frequent traffic accidents at the roundabout of octopus footbridge. If the vehicles were parked at Tin Sam Archway, it would pose a certain danger. Works were underway at Tai Wai Public Transport Interchange. He did not find a good solution from the Bureau;
- (b) according to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, Tai Wai District had a population of 200 000 and there should be a district library. The library provided by the school now was far below the standards of the regional library in terms of the number of books, types of books and opening hours, and was not managed by LCSD. It was far below the standards of the regional library that we had been striving. He asked whether the library could be managed by LCSD in the long run;
- (c) EDB would use these two school premises to be lent to other schools for temporary school premises, and it was unfair to Sha Tin residents in the vicinity of the school premises; and
- (d) he was dissatisfied with the planning of EDB. Shui Chuen O Estate had been occupied, but the construction of primary school was procrastinating. He asked whether the Bureau would set up a task force to arrange students in Shui Chuen O Estate to go to school nearby.

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

- (a) regarding the school premises borrowed by ESF, from October last year to now, he observed a general objection by members to this arrangement in the previous discussion. He said he appreciated this time since ESF had expressed their sincerity and goodwill and made a lot of measures and work to listen to the voices of the community and DC. Although ESF put forward a lot of measures, it did not mean that all problems had been solved;
- (b) he did not agree with EDB and the relevant government departments in handling this matter. The major measures of community integration were to provide a community library. After paying some attention to the DC, people would know that it was a consensus and strong demand of DC to build a library in Tai Wai. What the community had strived for was an individual district library of no less than the size of Lek Yuen Public Library managed by LCSD. Completion of such library could mean our goal met. After three years, ESF would withdraw,



and the community library it provided no longer existed. There was no further commitment and direct response from the Bureau or LCSD that after three years, whether they were receptive to good advice on using vacant school premises, and whether it was for educational purposes or providing facilities lacking in the existing community; and

- (c) if the Government took a negative attitude, it would be very hard for them to deal with the ESF matter in a positive way. The DC had long put forward facilities lacking in the community and asked whether these two vacant school premises could be used. However, the Bureau did not indicate its stand. Therefore, he held reservation on the lending of school premises to ESF.

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

- (a) the Bureau submitted the paper to EWC in the form of information paper last time, which was not a proper way of handling. However, she observed that the Bureau and ESF worked hard to cooperate. Her son was studying in an ESF school. She appreciated ESF's teaching methods, but worried that the measures taken would be unfair and unsatisfactory to ESF students;
- (b) she personally supported the lending of school premises to ESF. However, she considered that the Government must make long-term planning for vacant school premises and discuss with the DC so that precious resources could be better used. For example, the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School was a matchbox-style school premises which was basically no longer suitable for use as school premises. She asked whether it should be used as a community facility in the long run or to improve the environment of some school premises such as the Little Flower's Catholic Primary School in Wo Che and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong Wo Che Lutheran School, both of which were a matchbox-style school; and
- (c) this incident reflected the unsatisfactory planning of EDB. By 2017-18, the number of students would be 5 700. By 2018-19, the number of students would be 5 800. By 2019-20, the number of students would drop to 5 200. She considered that there was a need to solve the school places problem in Shui Chuen O Estate in the near future and set up an advisory committee before the peak period to ensure proper arrangements for students. The long-term plan was to speed up the construction of the planned school premises, including the school premises in Fo Tan and Shui Chuen O Estate.

39. The views of Mr YAU Man-chun were summarised below:

- (a) EDB had provided a supplementary paper on the school places problem in Sha Tin District the day before. However, the Bureau did not discuss the use of vacant school premises throughout Sha Tin District with local community;
- (b) Ms Pauline NG from ESF answered the questions from members and he hoped that lending the school premises would not bring too much negative impact on the region. He considered that the Bureau and the school should think how to

effectively implement the car-free policy to deal with the traffic impact that the members worried about. He did not know whether this paper needed a vote. If a vote was not needed, the discussion was in vain;

- (c) EDB had no response to vacant school premises, an increase in population in the district and insufficient primary school places. He asked how to use the vacant school premises of Mei Lam Primary School in the future. Shui Chuen O Estate was occupied this year. At present, he knew that more than 200 transfer students had not been arranged, and the DC Members' offices had received a lot of requests for assistance. He asked EDB how many school places in the current School Net 91 was borrowed from other school nets and how to deal with the school-age children of the coming year. Some children were allocated to other districts and their parents asked for assistance from EDB. The colleagues in the Bureau had still not responded; and
- (d) EDB's response to the school places this time was relatively positive. However, he considered that the demand for schools for next year would not reach a peak. As different housing estates had been completed in Sha Tin District, the demand for schools would continue to reach the peak in two to three years. A lot of parents had not found a school place for their children, and parents might not be satisfied with the Bureau's reply. If we could make use of the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School, this would be a positive message to residents in this district so as to restore the trust of the public.

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

- (a) although some members still resisted this plan, as a whole, we had seen the efforts of ESF. He considered that the performance of ESF was better than that of the Bureau. ESF had hustled around for the students within a short period of time and responded to community needs. On the contrary, the DC had always requested for the proper handling of vacant school premises but the Bureau had failed to provide positive feedback and planning;
- (b) in the past discussions, he suggested whether to postpone the class times of the students so that they did not have to wake up too early. They should not be affected by the incident. Attending classes too early would also cause traffic congestion and affect residents while they were sleeping. He did not know why the school had not changed in this respect; and
- (c) as he believed that if ESF had another choice on Hong Kong Island or Kowloon, it would not choose Sha Tin, a remote place to them. He hoped that ESF would have closer cooperation with Sha Tin community and DC after relocating to Sha Tin.

41. The views of Mr MAK Yun-pui were summarised below:

- (a) it should be irresistible that ESF now borrowed the school premises in Sha Tin. He had recently talked to private-sector educators. The private school market in Sha Tin and Ma On Shan was very big. He doubted whether this was the reason

why ESF chose Sha Tin. He did not believe that there was no alternative for ESF to choose Sha Tin;

- (b) regarding the car-free policy, ESF did not suggest parents picking up their students by private cars. He wondered whether the policy could be implemented. Even if the private cars were not parked at the school gate, they would be parked outside the designated boundary of the school. And even if only the school buses were parked, they would certainly cause traffic congestion. He did not believe that wealthy families would agree not to pick up their students by private cars. He considered it was inadequate to deploy only a few staff members for monitoring;
- (c) there were no school places for students living in Shui Chuen O Estate, Sha Tin. In return, students from other districts moved to Sha Tin. He considered that it was putting the cart before the horse. ESF now was bound to relocate to Sha Tin on a temporary basis, and would provide a temporary library to the community. This reflected that the Government was not handling the matter properly; and
- (d) a long-term planning was necessary for dealing with vacant school premises. We had always been striving to make good use of vacant school premises, for example, by lending the school premises to some non-profit-making organisations or persons waiting for temporary housing. He did not agree that the lending of vacant school premises to schools was only for avoiding changing land use and facilitating administration. He held reservation on the lending of school premises to ESF and remained cautious.

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

- (a) he supported the movement of ESF or other international schools into traditional communities. He considered that if ESF found a school premises on Hong Kong Island, they would not choose Sha Tin. In fact, there were very few examples of closure of schools on Hong Kong Island, so it was hard for ESF to find a suitable school premises;
- (b) we were concerned about the transport problems and the problem of insufficient primary school places. He considered that the problem could be solved if EDB and Transport Department could handle the problems seriously. He considered that it was good to have a cultural shock arising from a prestigious school entering the traditional community. Before 1997, Hong Kong had developed into a prosperous international city due to the impact of different cultures. However, after 1997, Hong Kong's culture was no longer diversified and the result was not satisfactory; and
- (c) we all saw that the well-known international schools did not necessarily need to have extensive facilities. He considered that more international schools should be encouraged to enter traditional communities. Many middle management personnel from large companies who came to work in Hong Kong and many parents who did not want their children to study in traditional schools could not

afford to pay high tuition fees. The school should, of course, reduce the tuition fees accordingly. The current practice should reduce the tuition fees in international schools.

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

- (a) he understood the arrangement of temporary lending of school premises to ESF. After all, the ESF's school premises were not satisfactory, and temporary school premises were required to facilitate demolition and redevelopment of the original premises. He understood that since he was the beneficiary of the redevelopment of the school premises, his alma mater, TWGHs Wong Fut Nam College, made use of temporary school premises and therefore in-situ redevelopment was allowed. Before the redevelopment, the lifts of the school premises were not installed. Therefore, EDB approved the redevelopment. He thanked the Bureau for the support to his alma mater. After in-situ redevelopment, students could have a better learning environment;
- (b) the ESF's traffic impact assessment reports were prepared based on the objectives of their proposed car-free policy. If the car-free policy was feasible, the results of the traffic impact assessment reports were correct. If ESF did tell members today that students would not go to school by private cars and taxis, the car-free policy would have been effective. He considered that parents did not mind their children getting up early to school. His friend's child was only six years old, but he needed to wake up and go to school at 5:00 am. If parents felt that the school was of high quality, they did not mind where their children went to school. However, EDB must inform members how the Bureau could effectively provide school places for students of School Net 91 under the Year of the Dragon effect next year. He asked whether the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School premises could be used as a temporary school premises for temporary study by students in Shui Chuen O Estate so as to relieve the situation in Shui Chuen O Estate and even Shek Mun Estate Phase 2 for the time being; and
- (c) this showed that EDB lacked forward-looking planning. A lot of members complained about the inadequacy of community facilities. However, most of the pro-establishment legislators at the beginning supported the scrapping of the Bureau. If there was no scrapping of the Bureau, it did not have to wait so long for 14B District and 24D District development. Besides, he repeatedly reflected that the community facilities in his constituency were inadequate and none of the departments responded. EDB did not think of the issues of primary school in Shui Chuen O Estate in the planning stage. Some members suggested that before the completion of the new primary school premises in Shui Chuen O Estate, the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School would be used as a transitional school premises. EDB said it would consider that. He did not understand why some members did not support it.

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

- (a) all members had seen that ESF was very attentive and always showed goodwill, but EDB did not fulfill their responsibility. A lot of members mentioned that there were many matchbox-style schools in Sha Tin District. The principal of his alma mater, the SKH Holy Spirit Primary School, personally told him that he hoped his school could move to the new school premises in Shui Chuen O Estate because the school was too old and parents were not willing to choose it for their children. Residents in Sha Tin District hoped to have a new school premises and libraries, etc. However, the Bureau did not provide positive feedback but reserved the vacant school premises for temporary use. He asked whether the Bureau should reserve so many school premises;
- (b) he could not accept that the community library provided by the school only had a few thousand books for a period of only three years and that EDB had not promised how to deal with it after three years;
- (c) some members objected to the lending of the school premises of the former Ma Chung Sum Secondary School to cope with the Year of the Dragon effect next year. He did not know how the school redevelopment works could be completed within one year. Next year, there should be an increase of 400 to 500 students in Sha Tin District. However, the number would drop afterwards. If the Government spent money on building temporary school premises, it would be a waste after using for one year. He hoped that the Bureau would not wait for the occupation of estates before considering the provision of schools; and
- (d) he did not understand why this paper was not voted on and considered that members should have the opportunity to state their position on the paper.

45. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) she saw that most of the members were concerned about traffic problems and hoped that the arrangements for students to travel a long way to school would be improved. Her party had always been striving for the building of a community library in Tai Wai. She asked what arrangements would be made by the Bureau three years after lending the school and whether it could be converted into community facilities; and
- (b) we had talked about the problem of insufficient primary school places. She understood that this issue could be further discussed in the next agenda item and EDB could now make supplementary information. She urged the Bureau to reply what transitional arrangements for the school had been in place.

46. Ms Jessie WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Government had set up a Central Clearing House Mechanism to deal with vacant school premises. The school premises itself was a building designed for the purposes of a school. When the school premises were vacant, EDB had the priority to reuse the school premises for the purposes of a school. Under the

Central Clearing House Mechanism, if EDB knew there would be vacant school premises, the Bureau would review whether it was necessary to reallocate the relevant school premises for the purposes of a school or for other educational purposes such as school reprovisioning, school expansion and higher education purposes. When EDB confirmed that there was no need for the vacant school premises to be allocated for the purposes of a school or other educational purposes by EDB, it would inform the Planning Department and other relevant departments (such as the Lands Department and Housing Department) according to the Central Clearing House Mechanism to enable the Planning Department to consider other suitable long-term uses. EDB needed to reserve / retain a certain number of vacant school premises so as to meet the projected future demand for school places and make flexible arrangements in response to the related uncertainties. Therefore, vacant school premises would not be handed over to the Central Clearing House Mechanism without good reason, to avoid unavailability of school premises for use when needed;

- (b) members mentioned that they hoped the vacant school premises could be converted into community facilities. She believed that personnel from the Home Affairs Department had already relayed their views to relevant departments. The Lands Department announced online some vacant school premises without long-term use available for non-profit-making organisations to apply for use or for short-term use by the community;
- (c) the Planning Department announced earlier a list of vacant school premises sites for long-term use reviewed under the Central Clearing House Mechanism. The premises returned by EDB under the mechanism no longer belonged to EDB. At present, EDB retained only 18 vacant school premises and three of them were in Sha Tin District. Among them, the school premises of the former Shatin Tsung Tsin Secondary School and the former Ma Chung Sum Secondary School were vacant for the past one or two years and another one was the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School. The school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School were relatively small. Upon examination by EDB in early years, the Bureau considered that the school premises should be returned to the Central Clearing House Mechanism without any reallocation by EDB for the purposes of a school or for other educational purposes. The Housing Department earlier planned to use the school premises for housing purposes. Thereafter, in response to EDB's estimate that the demand for public-sector primary one school places would substantially increase for the time being and reach the peak in the 2018/19 academic year, to meet the increasing demand for school places from the transitional period to the expected peak period (2018/19 academic year) as well as cope with the changes in the demand for school places between years, the Bureau decided to recall the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School. At present, there were three time-limited schools in Hong Kong. The Bureau understood that parents might not like these types of schools. However, it was one of the flexible arrangements for the flexible increase of the number of primary school places in individual school nets. Each measure has both advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, the Bureau liaised with the schools every year about the flexible arrangements adopted. According to the earlier communications with the academic community (including primary

schools in Sha Tin District), EDB might have to use the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School for the expected peak season of 2018/19 academic year;

- (d) EDB would build a new primary school premises in Shui Chuen O Estate, Sha Tin, and the school allocation procedures have also been initiated. The results of the school allocation exercises were expected to be announced mid-year. Just now a member suggested using the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School as a transitional school premises before the completion of the new school premises in Shui Chuen O Estate. The Bureau considered it worth studying, including the need to contact the local schools. In addition, the Bureau has initiated the school allocation exercise for the new primary school premises in Shui Chuen O Estate. It was not always easy for a school sponsoring body which had successfully bid for the school, to be requested to use the vacant school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School as a transitional school premises only after the announcement of the results of the allocation exercise and then relocate after the completion of the new school premises. Therefore, if this proposal was implemented, the current allocation procedures needed to be shelved. The Bureau would launch a new school allocation exercise and require the applicant sponsoring bodies to submit a detailed proposal to explain how to implement the proposal;
- (e) if it was confirmed that the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School would be used as a transitional school premises, the time limit for use would depend on such factors as the time when the funding from the Legislative Council would be obtained for construction works of new school premises in Shui Chuen O Estate and when the works would be completed;
- (f) the Government would assist public-sector schools in the maintenance of school premises or arrange for reprovisioning. ESF is an international school. Unlike public-sector schools, ESF was required to deal with issues such as maintenance of school premises and reprovisioning. ESF originally planned to find a suitable place on Hong Kong Island for reprovisioning of Island School but was not successful and finally decided to have in-situ redevelopment. ESF sought EDB for assistance due to the need for temporary school premises for students during the period of redevelopment of school premises;
- (g) at present, EDB retained only 18 vacant school premises, and there was no suitable vacant school premises available on Hong Kong Island for use by ESF. After considering various factors, including supply and demand of school places in Sha Tin District, it was planned to provisionally lend two vacant secondary school premises in Sha Tin District (namely the school premises of the former Shatin Tsung Tsin Secondary School and former Ma Chung Sum Secondary School) to Island School. As ESF renovated two school premises, the Government should not devote too much resources to renovating the school premises when they moved out after a few years. EDB planned to reserve school premises for long-term school use after ESF had moved out of the relevant school premises, including the consideration of reprovisioning of public-sector primary schools. There was a precedent on the use of secondary school premises

for primary school purposes. One secondary school in Tuen Mun District was about to cease operation. The Bureau would use the school premises for reprovisioning of the public-sector primary schools;

- (h) the site area of secondary school premises was generally larger than that of primary schools. Using secondary school premises for reprovisioning of primary schools could increase teaching space and improve the teaching environment. However, if a place within the school premises was set aside for building a public library, this would be equivalent to reducing the usable area of the school premises by the school, and relatively reducing the improvement in the teaching environment of the schools arising from reprovisioning arrangements;
- (i) EDB considered that the measures proposed by ESF were feasible but did not underestimate the difficulty of their implementation. In the future, after the implementation of the measures, it would closely follow up with ESF on the implementation and examine the arrangements and report to the members in due course; and
- (j) the Census and Statistics Department and Planning Department regularly carried out population projections for Hong Kong and all districts. EDB used the relevant figures as a blueprint for planning. It was estimated that the six-year-old school-age population in 2018/19 in Sha Tin District would reach a peak and the number of students was estimated to be about 5 900 and would subsequently fall back and rise again to 5 900 in 2021/22. This projection had already included known development projects. According to the Planning Department's statistics, the six-year-old school-age population in 2016/17 in Sha Tin District was about 5 000. About 4 500 primary one students were actually studying in Sha Tin District. There were many variables for the supply and demand of primary one school places in Sha Tin District. The Bureau maintained close liaison with schools in Sha Tin District. A total of 24 temporary classrooms (about half of which were from School Net 91) would be set up in individual schools in preparation for additional primary one classes as required in 2017/18 and 2018/19 so as to raise the supply of primary school places in Sha Tin District.

47. Ms Pauline NG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she was grateful to have the opportunity to share her views with members on this matter. It was a good experience for her to feel the attention and seriousness of all members on the community. As long as she was still a member of the Board of Governors, ESF would attend the DC meeting for discussion again;
- (b) we were very much concerned about the car-free policy. She thanked Mr CHING Cheung-ying for reminding her and she would relay the concept to the Board of Governors and the Board would give her full support to promote this policy in all its schools. The school considered it was necessary to start with the students to make students understand that they should be accountable for the environment so that they should not consciously go to school and back home by private cars. The school started the trial plan without any coercion and the



responses were positive. If the plan was successful, it would benefit Hong Kong;

- (c) the school could add more colleagues to assist in the implementation of the car-free policy in the initial stage. Some members worried that students got up too early for classes. The school also consulted parents in this regard and the responses were positive. Students had become accustomed to getting up early. The school would also shorten the travel distance from point to point to no more than 40 minutes;
- (d) it was not a favour to members of the community to open the school library of the former Shatin Tsung Tsin Secondary School for their use. It was an arrangement made after the meeting between the school and members who felt that many people in the district hoped to make good use of the school facilities. It was actually very common for the community to use the school facilities in foreign countries. If this measure worked well, she hoped that other schools would be encouraged to follow. Regarding the types of books in the library, community liaison officers of the school would make arrangements according to the needs of the community; and
- (e) the school tried to consult members in Pok Hong Estate and Sun Chui Estate as well as nearby places, but failed to consult all members. In the future, the school would set up a community liaison group to continue to contact members.

48. Mr TANG Wing-hung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he thanked members for their comments. Regarding the transport, the school had deployed more staff to patrol traffic at Sui Wo Road out of Sha Tin Junior School of Sha Tin College in April this year and Renaissance College in June to advise parents not to take private cars to pick up students, and measures had been effective. These experiences would help the school monitor the area around Chui Tin Street in the future. He knew members worried about whether there was adequate staff to implement the car-free policy. The school would deploy more staff to patrol traffic, make advices and collect information when using two vacant school premises; and
- (b) members might worry that parents would park their cars at a place relatively far away from the school. However, the school would provide point-to-point school buses to pick up students at a place near their residence to the school in the hope of reducing the need to use private cars. In the school's plan, school buses would not pick up students at the Tai Wai Station Public Transport Interchange and the octopus footbridge to reduce the impact on traffic there.

49. Ms Rebecca YIP gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she thanked members for their opinions. When she knew that there was an opportunity for students to temporarily go to other districts to attend classes, the school hoped to try different arrangements to promote community integration. The vision of an international school was to encourage students to broaden their

horizon and reach out to the community. The school had plans to help students familiarise and integrate with Sha Tin community;

- (b) the school had an educational assistance fund and kept contacts with local students. It hoped to have more communication with students in Sha Tin District via the fund and other activities in the future;
- (c) regarding the opening hours of the school library, the opening hours on Saturdays would not be less than four hours and opening on Sundays would also be actively considered. The members' views would be forwarded to management for consideration; and
- (d) the school had scrutinized and monitored the traffic of the school premises of Island School, hoping to bring their experience to Sha Tin District.

50. Mr John STEWART responded that for the purpose of coordinating with the car-free policy and setting a good example, school staff were discouraged from driving to work and the school provided buses pick them up.

51. Mr Sunny CHIU asked whether members needed to vote on this paper.

52. The Chairman said that according to the views of EDB, there was no need to vote on this paper.

53. Mr HO Hau-cheung said that Mr WONG Yue-hon had just made a similar request. He hoped that the EWC would state its position and he considered whether it was necessary to state the position could be dealt with in the form of provisional motion.

54. Mr LI Sai-wing said that it was necessary to clarify that whether the handling procedures were properly carried out, and he suggested adjourning the meeting to provide time for the secretariat.

55. Mr Michael YUNG said that this item was to deal with the school allocation. After consulting members, the school was urged to cooperate. If the paper itself did not require a vote, he asked what the effect of a provisional motion was. EDB had lent a school premises to his alma mater, TWGHs Wong Fut Nam College without the consent of the DC in those years. Therefore, he asked whether the lending of school premises to ESF should be subject to the consent of the DC this time.

56. Ms Jessie WONG responded that in general, building new school premises would require an application for funding from the Legislative Council, including consultation with the DC; the Bureau generally did not specially consult the DC about the short-term use of vacant school premises. The plan called for the temporary lending of two vacant school premises in Sha Tin District to Island School as temporary school premises. The Bureau understood that members of the community might worry that this temporary arrangement would cause traffic problems in the surrounding areas. Therefore, before the implementation of the arrangement, the opinions of all members should be sought in order to optimise the relevant relief measures and release members' doubts. As for the paper submitted this time, it was not required to vote by the Committee in usual practice.

57. The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned for five minutes.

58. The Chairman said that he had received three provisional motions and since no members objected to the provisional motions, they were dealt with now. The provisional motions were proposed by Mr Victor LEUNG, Mr YAU Man-chun and Ms Scarlett PONG respectively.

59. Mr Victor LEUNG said that he remembered both Mr Ho Hau-cheung and Mr Thomas PANG had moved their motions on the arrangements for the use of school premises last time. His provisional motion was made further to the last motion and was clearer. He showed empathy to ESF students but showed more empathy to residents in Sha Tin District that they did not have adequate community facilities and EDB wasted relevant resources. Therefore, he proposed the provisional motion below:

“The Education and Welfare Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly urges the Government to forthwith review the allocation and use of vacant school premises in the district to plan vacant school premises in the long run and to consider converting them into facilities that suit the needs of the community such as libraries, community clinics (dental, Chinese and Western medicine clinics, etc.) so as to make good use of vacant school premises to cater for the needs of the community.”

Ms TUNG Kin-lei seconded the motion.

60. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 59.

61. Mr YAU Man-chun proposed the provisional motion below:

“The Education and Welfare Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly urges the Education Bureau to arrange the vacant school premises of the former Free Methodist Mei Lam Primary School as a temporary school premises for a new primary school set up in advance in Shui Chuen O Estate for the admission of students in the district so as to alleviate the inadequacy of school places in School Net 91.”

Mr CHING Cheung-ying seconded the motion.

62. Ms CHAN Man-kuen said she had just heard of DC Members asking the Bureau whether using the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School as a transitional school premises was appropriate and whether there was any other better way. We all understood that there was a need to pay attention to the problem of school places in Shui Chuen O Estate. She asked the Bureau whether there was more relevant information provided.

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

- (a) from her understanding, the principal of Mei Lam Primary School was upset about the inadequacy of the school space. If the Bureau rashly handed over the former school premises of one school to other school sponsoring bodies by simply listening to some comments, she asked whether it had considered that students in the district also needed a suitable school premises; and

- (b) as far as she knew, the principal had also proposed to the Bureau whether it was possible to expand its school premises. She did not know whether it was true, but the principal did tell her that the school premises was insufficient for use. Therefore, after this incident, she considered it necessary to review the relevant system again so as to ensure that students had a fair and reasonable school allocation arrangement instead of rashly using the school premises without any consultation with the district.

64. Mr CHING Cheung-ying said that given that there were only three vacant school premises in Sha Tin, namely two primary schools and one secondary school, he considered it logical to use the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School as a transitional school premises before a new primary school was set up in Shui Chuen O Estate. This would allow ESF to achieve the goal of community integration in Sha Tin.

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

- (a) the discussion issue was about the borrowing of vacant school premises in Pok Hong Estate and Sun Chui Estate respectively. However, this provisional motion referred to the vacant school premises in Mei Lam Estate. He considered that the relevant motion was not related to the issue;
- (b) he considered that this provisional motion gave the impression that if it was possible to use the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School, we would support the lending of two vacant school premises; and
- (c) the school premises were located in Pok Hong Estate and Sun Chui Estate respectively. However, prior to the meeting, the Bureau only consulted members of Sha Kok, Jat Min and Pok Hong and did not respect other DC Members. He was disappointed with EDB.

66. Ms Iris WONG considered that EDB was responsible for the problem of inadequate school places in Shui Chuen O Estate. The Bureau did not respond to the question of the school places of Shui Chuen O Estate proposed by Mr YAU Man-chun. Only when discussing the item of lending of school premises to ESF, the Bureau said that the suggestion of using the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School made by the members could be considered, thereby gaining support on the borrowing of school premises but not responding to the question raised by the DC Members. She considered that the Bureau should set up a team to study whether there were any vacant school premises or other places in Sha Tin to solve the problem of inadequate school places in Shui Chuen O Estate.

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

- (a) he considered that the two provisional motions were not very much related to this agenda and could be dealt with after finishing the agenda;
- (b) Mr YAU Man-chun now proposed a provisional motion, and moved a motion on the next agenda. He suggested that Mr YAU Man-chun should withdraw his motion on the next agenda after handling this provisional motion. He asked

whether the Chairman would deal with the next agenda, namely the motion proposed by Mr YAU Man-chun; and

- (c) he considered that the Bureau should consult the schools in the district before discussion. Some members had just mentioned that other schools would like to borrow the school premises of Mei Lam Primary School. Therefore, it was unreasonable that this provisional motion provided only that the school premises be lent to the sponsoring body of the school in Shui Chuen O Estate. He also declared his interest many years ago that SKH Holy Spirit Primary School hoped to run a primary school in Shui Chuen O Estate, but EDB did not respond. It was unreasonable that the school in Shui Chuen O Estate had not started construction. He considered that the two issues should be dealt with separately.

68. The Chairman responded that she would deal with the items already included on the agenda. She accepted to deal with the provisional motion proposed by Mr YAU Man-chun as this motion discussed the use of vacant school premises and EWC had just agreed to deal with it.

69. Mr HO Hau-cheung considered that Mr YAU Man-chun proposed this provisional motion and needed to explain to members. From the literal perspective, it was not directly related to the agenda on lending school premises to ESF. He noted that Mr YAU Man-chun submitted the motion on the next agenda late, and he subsequently asked the Chairman to deal with it on discretionary basis. The Chairman also permitted the motion to be included in the agenda. However, there was a conflict between this provisional motion and the next motion proposed by him and this provisional motion was used to overturn the motion already included in the agenda. Therefore, he considered that Mr YAU Man-chun needed to explain how the next agenda should be dealt with for members' consideration.

70. Mr MOK Kam-kwai asked why EDB did not address the demands that we had been striving for many years. For example, building a library in Tai Wai. However, it was unfair to us that the Bureau quickly promised to deal with the suggestion on using the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School made by members just now.

71. Mr Sunny CHIU said he understood that we hoped to have a library in Tai Wai but it seemed that EDB was not responsible for matters relating to the library. He considered that the problem of school places was a problem for the entire Sha Tin District. We should not consider that they were only focusing on the problem of school places in Shui Chuen O Estate. Besides, the proposal was made by members and he did not understand why we considered that accepting EDB's agreement to consider the relevant proposal would amount to agreeing the arrangement of lending school premises to ESF. Now EDB had indicated that it was not necessary to vote on this agenda. He agreed with the Chairman that this provisional motion was to discuss about vacant school premises and should be dealt with.

72. Mr TONG Hok-leung said that regarding the proposal to make use of the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School for transitional arrangement, members did not receive any information in advance and the Bureau did not have any communication with the district. We were concerned about the students in Shui Chuen O Estate. He asked why not to directly ask for the use of the school premises of the former Ma Chung Sum Secondary School, which was even more convenient geographically.

73. Mr LI Sai-wing said that there was no relevant information and data on the problem of school places in Shui Chuen O Estate at the moment, and it was difficult to make decisions. The prerequisite was that he hoped that students were not required to go to school across districts. He asked whether there were any other solution options for the members. He heard that the Bureau said that there were 200 school places available for enrolment by other students due to the renouncement of registration of these school places and he asked whether this method was indeed feasible. He worried that the situation of closure of schools would appear again and members should seriously consider the matter.

74. Mr Rick HUI said some members pointed out that there was a conflict between the provisional motion of Mr YAU Man-chun and the motion on the next agenda. However, the meaning of “conflict” was ambiguous. He considered the contents of the two motions were two separate matters and there was no contradiction. If Mr YAU Man-chun was not allowed to propose because of the relationship of the two motions, he believed there was no such provision under the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders.

75. The views of Mr WONG Ka-wing were summarised below:

- (a) he asked whether it was good that the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School was used as a transitional school premises for the school in Shui Chuen O Estate. He considered it was a bit of waste of resources if it was only used to cope with the population increase for one or two years. No one could promise that the sponsoring body of the school in Shui Chuen O Estate would definitely be willing to use the school premises as a transitional school premises; and
- (b) EDB had added classes in different schools this year and the largest number of the first category primary schools was in Sha Tin District. If students from Shui Chuen O Estate were allocated to these first category schools, he believed parents would not be willing to give up the school places. In fact, many parents were reluctant to let their children study in a new school. Building a new school could not necessarily solve the problem. After building a new school, there would be a risk of closure of schools once the demand for school places fell after the peak. Therefore, he considered that EDB should continue to add classes in other schools to cope with the future demand for school places. The key was to make the schools sustainable in operation. It was doubtful whether Mr YAU Man-chun’s proposal would ultimately be implemented. Therefore, Ms TUNG Kin-lei would propose amendments to the motion later on.

76. Mr YAU Man-chun gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) just now members seemed to consider that he would be benefited if EDB accepted that the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School was used as a transitional school premises to meet the needs of the 91 school net. The members seemed to consider that he had claimed all credit after he moved the motion. He said the students who asked for assistance from him were voters of other members. If the members did not agree that he moved the motion, they might discuss or propose a separate motion. Nowadays, more than 200 transfer students in Shui Chuen O Estate were waiting for school places and many

parents could not find a school. Now EDB said that the school premises of the former Ma Chung Sum Secondary School was a secondary school premises and it was difficult to convert it into primary school within a short period of time. Therefore, he proposed the provisional motion; and

- (b) he considered that, as long as we could help the residents, other members could propose provisional motions. He could give the position of the persons proposing the motion to other members, and most importantly, the residents could benefit therefrom. He asked why the provisional motion just now instead of his provisional motion was dealt with.

77. Ms CHAN Man-kuen said that it was simply our duty to speak at the meeting, but she considered that it was not worth promoting and should be condemned to use inappropriate expressions made by Mr YAU Man-chun in his speech just now.

78. The Chairman expected Mr YAU Man-chun to withdraw the inappropriate speech he had just made.

79. Mr HO Hau-cheung said that the two motions proposed by Mr YAU Man-chun were aimed at the problem of school places in Shui Chuen O Estate and he just hoped that he could explain how to deal with the problem. As the DC Chairman, he urged members to respect others and themselves.

80. Mr PUN Kwok-shan said that we should respect each other in the meeting so that we could make effective discussions. The situation that students in Shui Chuen O Estate had to go to school across districts was caused by EDB. At this moment, we should unanimously condemn EDB to help residents of Shui Chuen O Estate.

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

- (a) he said that after Mr YAU Man-chun had moved his motion, EDB agreed to consider using the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School as a short-term solution as it knew that students in Shui Chuen O Estate might worry about being unable to enroll in school. He did not understand why members did not support the solution. He apologised for the agitation in responding to Mr LI Sai-wing. He considered there was no problem for us to have a heated debate to express our views on the incident but ultimately we had to think about how to make the Government solve the problem;
- (b) borrowing the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School was only a short-term solution. This school premises would be withdrawn from use after the school premises in Shui Chuen O Estate had been built. At the same time, different departments could explore how to use this school premises in the future. He understood that the school premises could not be directly used for other purposes. For example, the school premises of the former Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School was used by the Vocational Training Council and the school premises of the former Ho Fai Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) in Yiu On Estate, Ma On Shan was used by the Hong Kong College of Technology. All were used by educational institutions. He did not question this

approach. However, he remembered that in 2008, the DC had discussed whether the school premises of the former Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School could be converted into a community hall but the school premises was eventually used for educational purposes after discussion; and

- (c) we could explore again if the school premises could be used for other purposes. However, the problem was that students in Shui Chuen O Estate really worried about being unable to enroll in schools. If the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School was directly borrowed and used as a primary school, and demolished in a few years, it was not good as students could not search for their roots.

82. Mr YAU Man-chun gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he apologised for the agitation in his speech because he considered it unfair. He considered that it was unfair to the residents of Shui Chuen O Estate. There were a large number of students in Shui Chuen O Estate and they would feel anxious for not finding the schools. They had no other means to seek help other than contacting the offices of the DC Members or calling EDB; and
- (b) some members said that there was a conflict between his current provisional motion and the motion on the next agenda, but he did not agree. It took at least three to four years to build the school in Shui Chuen O Estate. EDB's agreement to consider using the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School as a transitional school premises was just sufficient to meet the urgent needs and to alleviate the problem of school places in School Net 91. He hoped that we supported his provisional motion.

83. The Chairman said that he had received the amendment to the motion proposed by Ms TUNG Kin-lei and she confirmed that the amendment to the motion was not inconsistent with the original motion. She agreed to deal with it.

84. Ms TUNG Kin-lei said that her amendment did not mean that she did not care about the problem of school places in Shui Chuen O Estate. Parents of Shui Chuen O Estate had sought for her assistance. She considered that increasing the school places was a direct solution. The site of Mei Lam Primary School had been abandoned for seven years. During this period, a fire broke out. She did not believe it was possible to complete the maintenance of the school premises in one or two years. In this connection, she asked why not directly increase the number of school places in Sha Tin District. There were three school nets in Sha Tin District: School Net 88 was Tai Wai District, School Net 89 was Ma On Shan District. There were inadequate school places in School Net 91 and the other two school nets would support. Therefore, the number of school places had to be increased, and the following amendment to the motion was proposed. Mr WONG Ka-wing just said that he could give Mr YAU Man-chun the position of the seconder:

“In response to increasing population in Sha Tin District, the number of students enrolled in Primary One increases. Students in Shui Chuen O Estate and Shek Mun Estate etc. are unable to study in their home district and are allocated to farther primary schools across districts.



The Education and Welfare Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly urges the Education Bureau to allocate additional resources as soon as possible so as to assist the schools within the three school nets in Sha Tin District for addition of classes for students' admission and recruitment of additional teachers so that students in the district could study in their home district and the number of students in each class could be controlled so as to avoid affecting the quality of education. It also urges the Bureau to expedite the construction of planned school premises so as to meet the future demand for school places and avoid turmoil in schools and students in the district arising from arbitrary increase of schools and closure of schools so that the schools in Sha Tin District can maintain steady and sustainable development."

Mr WONG Ka-wing seconded the motion.

85. The Chairman asked whether Mr YAU Man-chun was willing to act as the seconder of this amendment to the motion.

86. Mr YAU Man-chun said that there was already a seconder on this amendment to the motion. He would not be the seconder again.

87. Mr WONG Ka-wing said that they were all concerned about the students in the district. He never thought of becoming a seconder. He only hoped that the motion could be more comprehensive, and be proposed for the sake of students but not for personal gain. He considered that he could even give Mr YAU Man-chun the position of the mover.

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

- (a) he asked whether "across districts" in the first paragraph of the amendment to the motion referred to students allocated to other school nets or other districts. He heard from EDB that School Nets 88, 89 and 91 were all in Sha Tin District. Therefore, he understood that "across districts" referred to across DC constituencies;
- (b) he hoped to ask EDB what addition of classes for students' admission was, number of students in the large and small classes respectively, and the number cap. EDB's supplementary information indicated that the number was increasing, which was equivalent to the additional resources being allocated by the Bureau. Besides, addition of classes for students' admission was feasible when there were vacant classrooms. He asked whether there were any actual vacant classrooms;
- (c) the amendment to the motion urged the Bureau to expedite the construction of the planned school premises. He asked the Bureau how long it would take from approval of funding by the Legislative Council to the completion of the new school. If a few years were required, then how to deal with it these years; and
- (d) the amendment to the motion was moved to meet the future demand for school places and to avoid arbitrary increase of schools. He asked whether there was any plan for the increase of schools. It would create double turmoil if building

new schools at School Net 91 without using the vacant school premises at School Nets 88 and 89 as temporary school premises. The last sentence of the amendment to the motion was the most correct one of the whole motion.

89. Mr Thomas PANG said he hoped that the Chairman would proceed to the voting process as soon as possible.

90. The Chairman said that she would proceed to the voting process. She said that some members asked for an open ballot that were supported by four members.

91. The Chairman announced that the members endorsed the motion of amendments to paragraph 84 by 19 affirmative votes and 10 abstention votes.

The 19 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 YIU Ka-chun, Mr TONG Hok-leung, Mr Victor LEUNG, Mr MOK Kam-kwai, Ms CHAN Man-kuen, Mr Thomas PANG, Ms Iris WONG, Mr WONG Yue-hon, Mr WONG Ka-wing, Ms TUNG Kin-lei, Mr PUN Kwok-shan, Mr SIU Hin-hong, Ms Scarlett PONG.

The 10 members casting abstention votes were:

Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr YAU Man-chun, Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr Michael YUNG, Mr Billy CHAN, Mr CHING Cheung-ying, Mr YIP Wing, Mr Sunny CHIU, Mr WAI Hing-cheung, Mr LAI Tsz-yan.

92. Ms Scarlett PONG withdrew her proposed provisional motion.

93. The Chairman said that movers could withdraw their motions when the motions had yet been discussed. Therefore, the withdrawal of provisional motion proposed by Ms Scarlett PONG was accepted. She hoped that the Bureau and ESF would continue to follow up and report the relevant situation in the future in relation to the views put forward by the members today.

(Post-meeting Note: EDB started the third school allocation exercise for 2017 on 9 August this year to allocate a proposed new school premises at Shui Chun O Estate in Sha Tin District for running a new subsidised primary school. The new school should use the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School for operation from 2018/19 before the completion of the new school premises to cope with the expected demand for public-sector primary school places in Sha Tin District due to the increase in student population. The school allocation exercise was underway and the allocation results were expected to be announced by the end of 2017.)

## **Motion**

Motion by Mr YAU Man-chun on Requesting the Education Bureau to Expediently Convert the Premises of Ma Chung Sum Secondary School in Pok Hong Estate for the Purposes of a Primary School

(Paper No. EW 26/2017)

94. Mr YAU Man-chun said that before today's meeting, we could not completely grasp the number of school places that School Net 91 had to borrow from other school nets. Shui Chuen O Estate had been occupied now, but EDB did not have any statistics. In the past three months, more than 200 transfer students remained unaddressed. Dozens of primary one students in School Net 91 were allocated to other districts this year. He did not understand why EDB made students and parents suffer. During the summer vacation, some students would move to Shui Chuen O Estate successively and some of them would be allocated to other districts for classes, but the Bureau did not deal with these students. This year was not a peak. However, if the number of school-age students continued to increase next year and the year after next, and classrooms had be fully utilized, he asked how the problem would be solved. Therefore, the intention of his motion was that it was hoped to use some vacant school premises for the purposes of a primary school and the school would be moved back to Shui Chuen O Estate after the completion of the new school. It was a pity that some members had different opinions from him on the previous agenda. He welcomed the amendment proposed to address the problem of students going to school across districts due to the inadequate school places in the coming two years.

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

- (a) he said that he hoped to explain why many members casted abstention votes on the previous agenda. It was not the case that members were not concerned about the issue of School Net 91. The supplementary information submitted by the Bureau made members unaware of any other issues needing our discussion at the meeting. As members did not grasp the situation, they could not state the position indeed. He also raised four issues in particular. Neither the mover nor the Bureau answered it. Therefore, he casted the abstention vote; and
- (b) Mr YAU Man-chun's motion did urge EDB to inform members of conditions of the three school nets, namely 88, 89 and 91. Under such circumstances, members were only arguing without any concrete way to solve the problem. If the school premises of the former Ma Chung Sum Secondary School could not be moved as a proposed arrangement in the motion, he considered that Mr YAU Man-chun could consider amending the wordings of his motion. He considered that if members could make concerted efforts, he did not believe he could not supervise the work of the Government.

96. Mr CHING Cheung-ying said he deeply felt that Mr YAU Man-chun had sincerely hoped to solve the problem of inadequate school places in his constituency. The response from the Bureau also provided some solutions. Taking into consideration the present situation, it was not feasible to borrow the school premises of the former Ma Chung Sum Secondary School. He personally advised Mr YAU Man-chun to include the following wordings in its original motion: "ask EDB to find a suitable primary school premises in Sha Tin and Tai Wai as soon as possible as temporary school premises for earlier operation of the new primary school in Shui Chuen O Estate". He considered this was a logical and reasonable arrangement and he could not see any room for opposition.

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

- (a) he was concerned about the issue of time, whether using the school premises of the former Mei Lam Primary School or the former Ma Chung Sum Secondary School. After the peak next year, the number of students would drop. At that time, the school of Shui Chun O Estate had been completed. He worried that if the old school premises was converted into a temporary school premises or a permanent school premises, the school premises would not meet the actual needs in terms of time. He therefore held reservation on the use of vacant school premises as a temporary school premises to solve the problem of school places; and
- (b) he said that if Mr YAU Man-chun would like to amend the wordings of the motion, he hoped that the Chairman would let him amend before discussing again.

98. The Chairman considered that Mr YAU Man-chun could respond and then deal with it after the members had expressed their views.

99. Mr PUN Kwok-shan said that members had been trying their best to help students in Shui Chun O Estate and he considered that we should bless each other. It was disappointing that EDB had always paid attention to policy work on the school places only and had failed to deal with the problems in practice. Some motions had been proposed earlier to increase the number of class and the number of students in each class, etc. which were all in good directions, but EDB had not actually taken any further step. A motion was moved and members would not receive a reply from the Bureau until the next meeting two months later. Therefore, he considered that we should grasp the opportunity just now to urge the Bureau to face the problem while the Deputy Secretary for Education of EDB had attended the meeting. He considered that the Bureau should set up a task force to address the problem of Shui Chuen O Estate and work with the industry to solve the problem.

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

- (a) he hoped to explore the process of DC in handling motions or provisional motions. The movers and the seconders proposed their motions and then lobbied other members for endorsement, thus providing a direction for the departments as a reference for implementation. In the whole process, the relevant departments needed not respond because the motion itself should only be proposed after careful consideration. If the motions were considered after the department's responses, they were putting the cart before the horse. Therefore, Mr YAU Man-chun proposed the relevant motion to solve the problem of excessive demand for school places. He considered that investigation and study should have been done beforehand and some data from EDB were collected before moving his motion. There was a specific process of converting a secondary school to primary school. It would even take time to find school premises as suggested by Mr CHING Cheung-ying. He doubted whether it could adequately address such urgent needs; and
- (b) EDB had put forward a number of strategies on this issue, of which some were feasible but some were not. Increasing the classes and increasing the number of students in each class were contingency plans and relatively effective methods.

Instead of spending time looking for school premises, he considered it would be better to think about how to optimise the work of increasing the classes and increasing the number of students in each class.

101. Mr TONG Hok-leung disagreed with members who said that he opposed the motion just now due to the debate at the meeting. He considered that the motion just proposed could not help the students in Shui Chun O Estate. Converting secondary schools into primary schools did not address the urgent need. Therefore, some members have proposed the amendment. He hoped members would understand that we were speaking for the students in Shui Chun O Estate. This motion served the same purpose and he hoped that the Bureau would arrange school places for the students as soon as possible instead of dealing with the urgent problem of students in Shui Chun O Estate until a few years later when the school was renovated. He said that a quorum seemed not to be present at the meeting, asking for a quorum call.

102. The Chairman said that Mr YAU Man-chun had submitted his motion late, but she allowed to include it in the agenda after considering our concern about the number of primary school places in Sha Tin District and the problem of school places in Shui Chun O Estate. Anyway, we concerned about the relevant issues and she hoped that members would not criticise each other at the meeting. As some members said a quorum was not present, she declared that the meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes.

103. After 15 minutes, the Chairman said that as a quorum was not present, she asked Mr YAU Man-chun whether to choose to withdraw the motion or leave it for discussion at the next meeting. If he chose to withdraw, members present needed to agree.

104. Mr YAU Man-chun said that he hoped to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

105. Mr Michael YUNG said that if Mr YAU Man-chun's motion was left for discussion at the next meeting, he asked Mr YAU Man-chun whether he could amend the wordings in his motion before the next meeting.

106. Mr Mannix MOK responded that the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders contained no stipulation in relation to the question raised by Mr Michael YUNG.

107. The Chairman responded that the motion of Mr YAU Man-chun should be proposed after careful consideration. If the motion was amended before the next meeting, members would not be clear about the reason. Of course, Mr YAU Man-chun could also choose to withdraw his motion before proposing a new motion before the next meeting.

108. Mr YAU Man-chun proposed to withdraw the motion.

109. The Chairman asked the members present whether they agreed with the withdrawal of Mr YAU Man-chun's motion. He said that no members raised any objection and Mr YAU Man-chun's motion was withdrawn. As a quorum was still not present after 15 minutes, the Chairman declared that the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm and decided to leave the questions that had not been discussed at this meeting for discussion at the next meeting. The information items and information papers would be circulated for members' consideration.

**Date of Next Meeting**

110. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 5 September 2017 (Tuesday).
111. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat  
STDC 13/15/35

August 2017