

**Sha Tin District Council**  
**Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of**  
**the Education and Welfare Committee in 2018**

**Date** : 13 September 2018 (Thursday)

**Time** : 10:00 am

**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	10:00 am	1:23 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger (Vice-Chairman)	”	10:15 am	1:23 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, SBS, MH	DC Chairman	10:00 am	1:23 pm
Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	DC Vice-Chairman	10:00 am	1:03 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	10:00 am	11:16 am
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	”	11:03 am	11:38 am
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	”	10:00 am	1:23 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	”	10:00 am	12:53 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	”	10:00 am	1:23 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	”	10:00 am	12:57 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	”	10:00 am	11:49 am
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	”	10:12 am	10:28 am
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	”	10:36 am	11:38 am
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	”	10:23 am	12:29 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	”	10:00 am	1:23 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	”	10:48 am	12:21 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	”	10:11 am	12:23 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	”	10:44 am	12:59 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	”	10:00 am	12:31 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH, JP	”	10:00 am	1:23 pm
Mr SIU Hin-hong	”	10:00 am	12:36 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	”	10:00 am	12:25 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	”	10:00 am	1:23 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	”	10:37 am	12:59 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	”	10:50 am	1:23 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	”	10:00 am	12:19 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	”	10:14 am	10:46 am
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	”	10:00 am	12:25 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	”	10:15 am	12:25 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	”	10:00 am	12:25 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	”	10:31 am	11:47 am
Mr YIP Wing	”	10:11 am	1:23 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	”	10:00 am	1:23 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	DC Member	10:00 am	1:23 pm
Mr MOK Man-lok, Mannix (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 1 / Sha Tin District Office		
<b><u>In Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>		
Ms LAU Yuk-ye, Lydia	Housing Manager (Tai Po, North District and Sha Tin 1) / Housing Department		
Ms CHIU Lo-man	Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 4 / Education Bureau		
Mr CHAN Ping-ching, Roy	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) 1 / Social Welfare Department		
Ms CHENG Siu-ling, Katy	Chief Liaison Officer / Sha Tin District Office		
Ms CHENG Yuk-kam, Brenda	Senior Liaison Officer (East) / Sha Tin District Office		
Ms NG Suk-min	Senior Liaison Officer (East) (Designate) / 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 CHAN Yee-chi, Elaine	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) 2 / Social Welfare Department		
Ms WONG Suet-ye, Catherine	Senior Social Security Officer (Sha Tin & Kwun Tong) / Social Welfare Department		
Ms YIP Sau-mei, Joyce	Chief School Development Officer (Sha Tin) / Education Bureau		
Ms VITAYATPRAPAIPHAN Nongyao	Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 2 / Education Bureau		
Ms CHIANG Lam	Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 5 / Education Bureau		
Mr CHIU Sung-ko	Engineer / Sha Tin 1 / Transport Department		
<b><u>Absent</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>		
Mr MAK Yun-pui	DC Member	(Application for leave of absence received)	
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	( " )	

#### Action

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the fifth meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee of the year.

#### **Applications for Leave of Absence**

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

Mr LI Sai-wing	Official commitment
Mr MAK Yun-pui	”
Mr MOK Kam-kwai	”

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

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 12 July 2018**

(EWC Minutes 4/2018)

4. Members unanimously confirmed the above minutes of the meeting.

**Discussion Items**

**2018-2019 Revised Work Plans and Funding Applications of Working Groups under the Committee**

(Paper No. EW 21/2018)

5. The Chairman said that according to section 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 any members needed to declare their interests regarding any joint organiser in the amended work plans or funding applications, including the Pharmaceutical Society Charitable Foundation Limited and Activist Association Limited.

6. Ms Scarlett PONG declared that she was the Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Society Charitable Foundation Limited.

7. The Chairman stated that according to the usual practice, members assuming substantive positions in relevant organisations were allowed to attend the meeting after having declared their interests, but had no right to vote in respect of related funding applications.

8. Members unanimously endorsed the above paper.

**Meeting Schedule of the Committee for 2019**

(Paper No. EW 22/2018)

9. Members unanimously endorsed the above paper.

**2018/19 Work Plan of Sha Tin District School Development Division of the Education Bureau**

(Paper No. EW 23/2018)

10. The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Education Bureau (EDB) to the meeting. She said that this was the first time that the EDB had arranged a team of staff to present its work plan at the meeting. Ms Joyce YIP, Chief School Development Officer (Sha Tin) and Ms CHIU Lo-man, Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 4 of the EDB

briefly introduced the paper.

11. The Chairman appreciated the detailed explanation by the representatives of the EDB. She asked members to note that Mr LI Sai-wing had returned to the conference room.

12. Mr Thomas PANG said that the representatives of the EDB had given a detailed introduction. The education of school children was very important in modern society. He had received this case: the parents worked in Sha Tin District, but they lived in Sai Kung. The allocated school was not satisfactory, so they did not complete the registration formalities. But later they could not find another school to accept their child. When they returned to the allocated school, they were told that all the places had been taken. They had yet to find a school for their child so far. The EDB asked the parents to approach other schools on their own. But Ms Joyce YIP had said that the EDB would provide assistance. He hoped that the EDB could help with the case after the meeting.

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

- (a) he enquired the EDB about the arrangements for “matchbox” schools in Sha Tin, which often complained about their small sizes and old facilities. The Sha Tin District Council (STDC) had also asked whether the EDB would arrange new premises for those schools, so that students could have a better learning environment. But the situation had not improved and remained unsatisfactory, such as in the case of S.K.H. Holy Spirit Primary School in Lek Yuen Estate, his alma mater, and Shatin Government Primary School. He hoped that the EDB would not ignore existing schools and paid attention to new ones only;
- (b) regarding the arrangements for the third to the sixth storeys of SAHK Ko Fook Iu Memorial School in Wo Che Estate (KFI Memorial School), the EDB said that the matter had been handed over to the Planning Department (PlanD). The STDC often discussed how to make good use of vacant school premises, but they apparently failed to consult stakeholders in Sha Tin on this arrangement; and
- (c) the EDB said that vacant premises would be handed over to schools for reprovisioning. But those premises were already dilapidated. He wondered whether it meant that schools had to be relocated from old premises to even older ones. He opined that the EDB should renovate the vacant premises before handing them over to existing schools for reprovisioning.

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

- (a) the EDB had made significant progress in its work plan, which included the sections of review, outlook and responses to concerns. He hoped that the EDB would continue to improve its quality of communication with the STDC. He asked whether the EDB could provide copies of the impromptu presentation to members after the meeting;
- (b) the EDB had made more efforts in planning. But its work in that regard still required improvement due to its inadequate data collection in the district. For example, the arrangement for the campus of Free Methodist Mei Lam Primary School (“Mei Lam School”) had been changed several times. The EDB had

eventually decided to utilise the premises only because the children of residents of the newly occupied Shui Chuen O Estate could not find school places. The EDB used a lot of resources and the public had high expectations for it. And the public utilities would need to use a lot of data in future. The EDB needed to make improvements in terms of information and data. It needed to provide members with concrete data before better discussion was possible;

- (c) he enquired about the details of Shatin Public School (a special school), including its number of students, because the school occupied a site in the town centre of Sha Tin. If the demand for its places should decline, he wondered whether the school could be integrated with other special education services in the district, so as to make good use of land resources;
- (d) he also enquired about the construction progress of the tertiary institution premises above the MTR Tai Wai Station, and asked which institution would occupy the site with an area of 100 000 square feet. The EDB said that the third to the sixth storeys of KFI Memorial School had been handed over to the PlanD a year before. He asked what the PlanD had done in the previous year. He requested that related details be provided after the meeting, if no PlanD representatives were present. He said that having no consultation or explanation of the plan was not an ideal arrangement; and
- (e) the Secretary for Education would visit the STDC later. Members would still have the opportunity to have in-depth discussion. However, Ms Joyce YIP could convey members' views in advance, so that the Secretary for Education could discuss relevant matters with members in a more effective manner during his visit. For example, no progress had been made on the issue of vacant school premises despite many years' discussion. He wondered whether the Administration could learn about local needs through the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) before entrusting such premises to other departments for planning. The current problem was that unused premises in Sha Tin were left vacant for many years. The situation needed to be improved.

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

- (a) the EDB had explained the demand for future school places in Sha Tin. But it did not mention Greenhill Villa, which was expected to accommodate around 3 000 residents who would move in between September and October 2019. Some potential owners of Greenhill Villa asked whether their children would need to complete transfer formalities again if they moved in between September and October 2019. They wondered whether they could apply for school places in Sha Tin for their children for the 2019 school year, by simply producing proofs of their identity as potential owners, instead of handling transfer formalities. For potential owners who would move in during the fourth quarter of 2019, she wondered whether their children could take part in the Primary One Allocation (POA) for school nets in Sha Tin, which would be conducted on 26 and 27 January 2019; and
- (b) regarding the school place arrangements for new housing estates, the EDB only focused on transfer cases of P2 to P6 students. She noticed and was concerned that there was no arrangement for P1 transferred students. She asked how many

schools had offered additional places in the year before and whether any remaining places would be available to the children of new estates.

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

- (a) he appreciated the presence of an EDB team for communication with the EWC. And he asked the EDB to pay close attention to the lack of school places in Shui Chuen O Estate despite its intake five or six years ago, which was hardly acceptable. He was pleased to see the integration of the English School Foundation (ESF) with Sha Tin. But the credits should apparently go to the ESF, which actively communicated with members. He advised the EDB to follow suit and make greater efforts in this regard;
- (b) he enquired about the progress in implementing the policies of all-graduate teaching force and permanent posts for contract teachers, as well as the related arrangements for primary and secondary schools. The Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union (HKPTU) was very concerned about the relevant process, although it was not mentioned in the paper. He enquired about the availability of network programmes in senior secondary schools in the district, and the number of or restrictions on related subjects students were allowed to take in school. He knew that the idea had been implemented in Tuen Mun 20 years ago, but the effect had not been satisfactory. He hoped that the EDB could provide an explanation; and
- (c) he opined that the EDB should have more supervision over the tests and exams in schools. Many middle-class families might arrange for their children to transfer to international or Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools because of their dissatisfaction with the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (DSE). There were recently many concerns about the fact that many freshmen of international programmes had occupied quite a large number of places in local universities, resulting in complicated education problems. He asked the EDB to pay attention to parents' growing dissatisfaction with the DSE. According to an HKPTU publication earlier, about half of the respondents said that students had stress problems under the current academic system. He opined that the EDB needed to deal with the issue.

17. The views of Mr Tiger WONG were summarised below:

- (a) a primary school in Kwong Yuen Estate had operated four P1 classes, but had to cancel two classes in the new semester in September, because students from Shui Chuen O Estate had transferred to Mei Lam School. He hoped that the EDB would figure out why the primary school could not retain its students, and that would help it improve its teaching quality;
- (b) as DSS schools in Sha Tin also admitted students from other districts, he asked whether the data provided by the EDB already excluded students from other districts; and
- (c) he had talked to some freshmen of universities, who said that they had seen a psychiatrist before the DSE examination. He asked whether the EDB had direct

contact with students so as to look into and improve the current teaching quality of schools.

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

- (a) she hoped that the EDB could think out of the box more often in future and improve the overall system in a more pragmatic manner. The EDB should learn a lesson from the case of Shui Chuen O Estate. And she was worried that the same problem would occur in Tai Wai. The paper indicated that the EDB would pay close attention to the issue of school places. However, with the upcoming intake of new housing estates in 2019, the residents and their children might ask STDC Members to help with finding school places. Many parents in Fo Tan already asked her for help in that regard. If students had to attend schools in other districts, it might undermine their sense of belonging to their own communities. Also, elderly citizens had to escort their grandchildren to school over a long way, which would be difficult for them and cause adverse impact on traffic. She wondered whether the EDB could make relevant decisions and arrangements earlier; and
- (b) she wondered whether the three storeys of Wo Che Lutheran School could be open for use by the community for the time being. She opined that it was not desirable for the school premises to be left vacant.

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

- (a) he was pleased to see that the EDB officials present today were relatively young, which indicated the emergence of new blood. He hoped that they could come up with more innovative ideas in future;
- (b) the EDB attached great importance to STEM education and opined that students could become lawyers, accountants or engineers in future as long as they did well in STEM subjects. However, not all students excelled in those areas. He opined that the term “gifted students” should not be abused; otherwise students failing to meet the standards would have low self-esteem. He asked what arrangements the EDB could have in place for average students. He said that even the ancient Chinese advocated “six arts”, or a variety of skills. He wondered why EDB did not adopt the same philosophy and explore students’ talents in different aspects, so that they could become not only doctors and lawyers, but also chefs and other professionals in future. Nowadays, skill-oriented trades needed more practitioners. Being successful did not necessarily mean becoming a doctor or a lawyer; and
- (c) schoolchildren had to attend schools in other districts because of the insufficient communication between schools and parents. In the old days, children could live in Kwun Tong but were allocated to a school on the Peak in North Point. In the process, however, they learned how to deal with difficulties and hardship. Nowadays, children relied on adults for all the arrangements and could not organise things on their own. Children should be educated not only academically, but also socially.

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

- (a) it was the first time for the School Development Division of the EDB to present its work plan in a comprehensive manner, which was some progress. In terms of pre-school education, the “Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines” (HKPSG) had been revised in July this year, which stipulated that 500 half-day and 500 full-day places should be provided for every 1 000 children at the age group of three to under six. The standard should have been determined upon consultation with the EDB. However, many local parents said that it was difficult to find kindergarten places and they could hardly work full time. Regarding the difference between community opinions and the new planning, he enquired about the EDB’s considerations when making relevant decisions; and
- (b) in view of the tight supply of community facilities, he had reported the problem to the STDO and had asked the Administration to open up school facilities for use by members of the community. The EDB only mentioned that Island School had hired out facilities. He wondered what and how many facilities in the 44 primary and 48 secondary schools in Sha Tin could be open for application for use by members of the community.

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

- (a) the EDB’s paper was more detailed than before, which was a good start. STEM was indeed important since the whole world tended to develop a knowledge-based economy. Schools in Hong Kong had offered technical subjects in the old days, but did not do so nowadays. He believed that technology was very important for young people. Many schools in Ma On Shan did well in STEM, and some of their students even received scientific awards abroad. He hoped that the EDB could pay attention to the development in this regard. Apart from resources, other supports and collaborative efforts were also important. For example, integrated education was well-intended for students with special needs. But government support was insufficient and additional resources were needed; and
- (b) this was the last year for local schools to admit “doubly non-permanent resident students”. He hoped that the EDB would promote small class teaching more actively. Page 16 of the presentation showed that the number of 12-year-old schoolchildren in Sha Tin would increase from 5 300 in 2018-2019 to 5 400 in 2020-2021. He wondered whether the EDB could still cope with the increase.

22. The views of Mr YIU Ka-chun were summarised below:

- (a) the EDB paper was very comprehensive. At present, two places were reserved as primary school premises, with one of them in Shui Chuen O Estate. But the primary school would not be available until 5 or 6 years after the intake, which would be unfair to the children of the residents. However, he did not see how the EDB had learned a lesson and deal with the situation in Fo Tan properly. Related estates in Fo Tan had been completed but not yet occupied. And the EDB had yet to explain the arrangements for the schools concerned. Schools nearest to Fo Tan included Stewards Pooi Kei Primary School, as well as those in City One Shatin, Sha Kok Estate, Jat Min Chuen and Pok Hong Estate. Without adequate transport



facilities, students might have to travel a long way to school and their parents might feel helpless. He hoped that the EDB could follow up the matter as soon as possible;

- (b) part of the paper was about the premises of Hong Kong and Kowloon Chiu Chow Public Association Ma Chung Sum Secondary School (“Ma Chung Sum School”) and the former Shatin Tsung Tsin Secondary School (“Tsung Tsin School”), but it only mentioned that they would be used for long-term purposes. He remembered enquiring the definition of “long-term purposes” during the earlier discussion on the arrangements for the temporary premises of Island School. He had asked whether the premises would be used by secondary schools, or else by primary schools currently with smaller campuses, as in the case of Baptist (Sha Tin Wai) Lui Ming Choi Primary School; and
- (c) he asked whether the EDB could pay attention to the lack of occasional child care services for double-income parents of small children or primary school students. He asked the EDB to consult with the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on the introduction of child care services. He also suggested arranging more cooperation between NGOs and schools, and engaging volunteers to provide them with support.

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

- (a) some members commended this year’s report. But he remembered that the reports for the previous years had been pretty similar, with nothing but just figures, which actually showed the EDB’s being out of tune with the community. This was the sixth or the seventh year that he talked about the problem of school places for Shui Chuen O Estate. Three years before, even before the estate was occupied, he had already asked the EDB whether there would be adequate school places. As far as he was aware, it was very difficult for residents in the area to find school places in the neighbouring area. The EDB claimed that there were enough school places, without taking into account the fact that Shui Chuen O was a large housing estate, with population intake already completed in phases. He wondered how the EDB could have coped with the situation if TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School (SCO Primary School) had not started operation earlier this year; and
- (b) he opined that the EDB’s policies were “number-oriented”, rather than “student-oriented” as it proudly claimed, since it had taken four or five years to complete SCO Primary School. There was more chaos than before on the first day of school this year. Students had to attend schools in other districts. They had to wait 35 minutes or four to five buses before they could board one, and the buses were full of schoolchildren. Some might point out that even a local school did not necessarily admit children from Shui Chuen O. If the EDB agreed with that, it would be out of tune with the local situation, since a school in Shui Chuen O would suffice to make things better. He opined that the EDB should learn a lesson. And he would wait and see how things would work out in Fo Tan and Shek Mun.

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

- (a) there were so many EDB representatives at this meeting, showing that the work plan covered a wide range of matters and one person might be unable to report them all. However, he hoped that the EDB could distribute copies of a presentation well ahead of a meeting next time. He said that the quality of deliberation was compromised when he was unable to refer to the figures in the presentation. He hoped that the Chairman and the Secretariat would remind government departments to distribute copies of presentations to members before the meetings in future;
- (b) children did not go to school until they were six years old. The EDB should not have been unaware of the inadequacy of primary school places until now. The EDB had been fortunate to solve the problem thanks to the Mei Lam School premises the year before. However, new housing estates in Shek Mun and Fo Tan would be occupied in the near future. School Net 91 would be overloaded. School Nets 88 and 89 would face the same situation. He wondered how the Administration could improve the teaching quality when small-class teaching had virtually become “large-class teaching”;
- (c) speaking of STEM education, he said that he had two degrees, one in computer science and the other in mathematics. And he had intended to become a teacher. He wondered how many educators could really teach such science and technology subjects, and whether they should receive on-the-job training first, as their colleagues of liberal studies did. When STEAM was popular, it was further added with art. He wondered whether religious elements would be added in the future and become “STREAM”. He opined that all these were no more than a gimmick. He suggested solving basic problems first and providing sufficient schools and teachers in Sha Tin District;
- (d) the paper mentioned the lift problem. The Administration had not checked the lifts before handing the related premises over to the EFS that day. And the lifts in the school in Pok Hong Estate were even sealed off from use. Now the paper mentioned more lifts to be installed and he was doubtful about it; and
- (e) the inadequacy of primary school premises in Sha Tin had existed for many years. There had been two schools in Sha Kok area, but eventually their premises were not used for teaching purposes. Two premises in Ma On Shan had been assigned to Hong Kong College of Technology, without the construction of any new school premises in the area. When new housing estates in Yan On and Ma On Shan were completed several years later, he wondered how the EDB could arrange school places and whether temporary premises would have to be constructed like those 30 years ago. Nowadays, even special-purpose rooms had to be used as classrooms. And small-class teaching was not possible at all. Today, the EDB still seemed to miss the core of the problem. He had seen on TV that a student living in Anderson Road had to go to school in Ping Shek Estate. He wondered how the EDB could turn a blind eye to this problem.

25. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) the paper this year, with STEM as the theme, was heading the right direction. But she asked whether more attention would be paid to liberal arts education and other disciplines, such as moral education;
- (b) the work plan failed to provide information about kindergarten premises. She wondered whether the EDB did not have such information. She said a kindergarten, redeveloped from Tai Po Kindergarten, had started a campus in her constituency but then moved away several years later. As now the facility became vacant again, she wondered whether it could serve other purposes for the community;
- (c) although there was a gap between the number of school places and that of students, it involved temporary measures such as the addition of classes and places. She asked whether the gap could be narrowed, so that it would be easier for parents to find schools for their children, especially in view of the intake of many new housing estates in future. The dilemma in Shui Chuen O could be expected in Fo Tan and Shek Mun. Students would have to attend schools in remote places. She wondered whether the Administration no longer adhered to the principle of vicinity; and
- (d) the EDB failed to respond whether it still adhered to the principle of vicinity. It was tiring for students to attend schools in remote places. Also, it was a burden for parents when the arrangements were unclear for transfer to other schools. She hoped that representatives of the EDB would submit additional information after the meeting based on members' views, and would relay related problems to their senior management.

26. Ms Joyce YIP gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Ms YIP promised to distribute copies of the presentation to members later. The chart on page 16 of presentation was not shown in the work plan, since the chart and the related data were sourced from the Census and Statistics Department and could be found on the Internet as well. Many of the matters mentioned by members involved other bureaux and departments. The EDB would forward their views to relevant departments for follow-up action;
- (b) the EDB was aware of the upcoming intake of Greenhill Villa, which was not mentioned in the work plan because it was a subsidised sale flats project developed by the Hong Kong Housing Society, while the examples in the work plan mostly involved public housing;
- (c) as for the future demand for Secondary One places, there are reassuring adequate places in the district for the time being. As regards the intake of new housing estates in Shek Mun and Fo Tan, if primary school students already enrolled needed to transfer to other schools due to removal, their parents could apply directly with their favourite schools on behalf of their children, or else use the EDB's placement service. The overall population of Primary One students was

expected to fall starting from the 2019/20 school year. The EDB would closely monitor the supply and demand of primary school places in Sha Tin District. It would also closely liaise with local schools for suitable arrangements to provide more places in a flexible manner. All the initiatives would ensure the provision of sufficient places for children eligible for the POA;

- (d) as regards other matters, such as the progress of implementing the policies of all-graduate teaching force and permanent posts for contract teachers, the mental health of students, the vacancy of kindergarten premises, and applications from tertiary institutions for the premises above the MTR Tai Wai Station, the EDB needed time to consult relevant sections before it could provide explanations and additional information later;
- (e) while the paper this year was themed on STEM, the EDB also paid attention to other needs. When deciding on the theme, the EDB often discussed with the two School Heads Associations in order to meet their needs. The EDB organised seminars and briefing sessions with other concerned departments on hot topics such as absent cases and anti-mosquito exercise; and
- (f) as for the reprovisioning of schools, the EDB made announcements and invited school sponsors to file applications whenever appropriate premises were available. Applicants needed to submit proposals to explain the future development and how to ensure the teaching quality. It was an open and fair mechanism. As regards “matchbox” schools, the EDB would pay close attention to school premises available for possible reprovisioning and would brief relevant schools upon implementation of the plan. The EDB had always had discussion with schools in need. Apart from “matchbox” schools, there were also two schools where lifts could not be installed. They might need to apply for reprovisioning as well.

27. Ms VITAYATPRAPAIPHAN Nongyao, Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 2 of the EDB gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) for the transfer of primary school children due to relocation, relevant arrangements were as follows: Before 1 September, parents of P1 schoolchildren could turn to the School Places Allocation Section for help if necessary. For P1 schoolchildren moving to Sha Tin after 1 September, their parents could directly contact schools and applied for admission. Alternatively, they could directly contact staff of the New Territories East Regional Education Office for placement assistance services. The Regional Education Office would provide the said services upon receipt of parents’ requests;
- (b) as for secondary school students, their parents could directly contact schools or staff of the New Territories East Regional Education Office for placement assistance services. The EDB would provide support;
- (c) for students with special educational needs (SENs), their parents could seek help from the EDB’s Special Education Support Section if necessary. There was a certain demand for special educational places in Sha Tin District. Some schools might have long waiting lists; and

- (d) she would provide additional information about the situation in Greenhill Villa after the meeting. The EDB regularly reviewed school places in Ma On Shan and would make early planning when necessary. For now, there were sufficient primary and secondary school places in Ma On Shan to meet the demand.

28. Ms CHIU Lo-man gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the EDB intended to make good use of vacant school premises, taking into account their sizes, locations and building conditions. The EDB also considered whether related premises complied with the teaching needs and related policies;
- (b) based on the said considerations, the third to the sixth storeys of KFI Memorial School were returned to the PlanD and other relevant departments upon notifying them via the central clearing house mechanism in September 2017, so that they could use the storeys for other long-term purposes. The PlanD should be enquired whether the said storeys could be used for community purposes. For the EDB's part, related premises had been returned and were not included into the list of vacant school premises in Sha Tin;
- (c) when the premises of Ma Chung Sum School were returned by Island School, it would be used for educational purposes, tentatively for the reprovisioning of an existing secondary or primary school, with applications to be received as per the established procedures. The EDB would fully consider the opinions of stakeholders and initiate the relevant procedures in due course;
- (d) as for "matchbox" schools, the EDB had already reached a consensus with the industry. Additional resources would be provided for them to improve their premises. The main task was to review the unique design features of the school premises before conducting expansion and improvement. The School Improvement Programme had already started during the summer vacation of 2017. In the long run, reprovisioning arrangements were necessary to solve the problem; and
- (e) vacant school premises were of a limited number after all, and they were located in different areas. All such premises across the territory would be taken into account. The EDB allocated the premises as per established procedures and "matchbox" schools could submit applications based on their own needs.

29. Ms CHIANG Lam, Senior Development Officer (Sha Tin) 5 of the EDB responded that the EDB had been liaising with S.K.H. Holy Spirit Primary School about its premises a year ago. The school had also applied for EDB resources for improvement works. During the visit to the school in the week before, staff of the EDB had learned that the school had paved floor tiles and renovated the library during the summer vacation. It had also re-planned a student activity centre as an English teaching centre. The EDB would continue to communicate with the school to provide assistance.

30. The Chairman declared the end of discussion on this agenda item.

**Questions**

Question to be Raised by Ms LAM Chung-yan on Occasional Child Care Service  
(Paper No. EW 24/2018)

31. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) she wondered how the SWD could understand the needs for full-day or occasional child care services if it did not maintain the data for the past five years. Many parents complained that there were only 70 places for child care services in Sha Tin District. They needed to apply as soon as their children were born. She asked whether care services for young children aged 0 to 2 were adequate in the district. She wondered whether the problem could be solved when 100 places were added in Shek Mun;
- (b) families in Hong Kong were under great financial pressure. Parents needed to work and they deserved more support from the Government. The SWD had mentioned a plan to train elderly to take care of young children. She wondered whether the plan was subject to any quota restriction and whether it was regularised;
- (c) there was still remaining quota for the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project. She asked whether publicity was inadequate. She believed that the number of home-based child carers was inadequate. She also wondered whether it was the same case for the related funding. Young children must be well cared for, so that their parents could go out to work with peace of mind;
- (d) she asked whether there was a more scientific way to understand the needs of the community for child care services. She understood that the supply of pre-school places was insufficient, and that care services for young children aged 0 to 2 were in short supply. The quota of 100 to 200 service places might not be enough;
- (e) the SWD had mentioned the long-term development of child care services. She asked whether the related details, if any, could be provided after the meeting; and
- (f) she raised this question because she opined that the SWD needed to fully review the supply and demand of child care services in Sha Tin District. Besides, local residents were unaware of the SWD's future plans. She hoped that the SWD would deal with the problem in a thorough and serious manner.

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

- (a) while the paper included a list of agencies of occasional child care services, it did not provide their locations, quotas, opening hours or contact number, which showed that the response was not considerate enough. The paper said that in order to meet the demand for child care centre (CCC) services in Sha Tin District, the SWD had set up a new subsidised independent CCC to provide 100 long-time full-day care places for children aged under 3. Because of no geographical restrictions, all families in need in the district could apply for places in such CCCs. He enquired about the proportion of the numbers of newborn babies to

places of CCCs, as he considered that such data was very important for planning;

- (b) in response to question (d) in the paper, the SWD said that it did not maintain information about the application number or the average waiting time for CCC places in Sha Tin District over the past five years. He wondered how the SWD could do a good job in planning when it could not assess the demand;
- (c) the paper showed that a total of 882 children benefited from Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project in 2017-2018. While it provided the number of beneficiaries, it failed to provide such information as the application number or the waiting time for each CCC. He asked which information the SWD maintained and which it did not. He opined that the Chairman asked good questions but the SWD failed to answer them seriously; and
- (d) from the related response, he could not see how determined the SWD was to increase the number of child care service places. He asked whether C&MA Shatin Nursery School was a provider of occasional child care services as the SWD mentioned. He said that he could not find the address of the school even on the Internet. The SWD said that an additional 100 places would be provided in Tai Wai and Shek Mun respectively. He enquired about the arrangement for Ma On Shan and hoped that it would not be necessary to have service places loaned by other areas.

33. Ms Elaine CHAN, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) 2 of the SWD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the SWD attached importance to the growth and development of young children. There was currently one subsidised independent CCC in Sha Tin District, with 72 service places for children aged under two. Besides, there were 44 kindergartens-cum-CCCs with a total of 2 259 service places. In response to the demand for CCC services in Sha Tin District, the SWD would set up a new subsidised independent CCC in Phase 2 of Shek Mun Estate to provide 100 full-day care services for young children aged under three. The said centre was expected to start operation in the third quarter of 2019. In further response to the local demand for related services, the SWD had proposed setting up a subsidised CCC in the Tai Wai Government Building under planning, in order to provide 100 full-day child care service places;
- (b) the SWD was conducting a detailed analysis to review adequacy and long-term development of child care services, in terms of the supply and demand, service quota, planning ratio, staffing and training, among others. The research consultant team would integrate the opinions of different industry stakeholders on the conclusions in the interim report for further studies, before making relevant recommendations in the final study. In future, the SWD would establish a service planning mechanism to reserve sites in Sha Tin for social welfare facilities, including CCCs, so as to support women fulfilling both their work and family responsibilities. She thanked members for their views; and
- (c) the SWD had completed a two-year review on the “Pilot Project on Child Care Training for Grandparents”, the effectiveness of which was recognised by training

institutions, grandparent trainees and their families. The SWD would follow up the re-launch of the Project. She promised to provide members after the meeting with additional information about providers of occasional child care services in Sha Tin District.

Question to be Raised by Mr CHAN Nok-hang on the Issuance of the Higher Old Age Living Allowance  
(Paper No. EW 25/2018)

34. The views of Mr CHAN Nok-hang were summarised below:

- (a) with effect from May this year, the SWD started issuing yellow and green forms to eligible elderly persons for application for switching from the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) to the Higher Old Age Living Allowance (HOALA). However, more than four months later, many elderly persons and/or their spouses had not yet received the payment. Therefore, he raised this question. He enquired about the handling of yellow and green forms and wondered whether many of them were still being processed. If an application was approved before 31 December 2018, the applicant could recover the difference between the HOALA and the OALA. Many elderly persons wondered whether they could still recover the difference if the SWD did not complete processing their applications in 2019; and
- (b) he asked whether the SWD could promise to complete the processing of the remaining applications by the elderly persons in Sha Tin District before 31 December 2018. He suggested that the SWD consider notifying the elderly persons of the receipt of their applications via SMS messages.

35. Mr Sunny CHIU said that many elderly persons enquired about the handling process of yellow-form applications. He asked whether the SWD could provide an accurate deadline so that members could respond to the elders. He also asked whether the SWD could inform the elders of the receipt of their applications, or whether the elders needed to call the SWD hotline for enquiry on their own.

36. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) many elderly persons in her constituency went to her office to inquire whether the SWD had received their application forms. The SWD had responded that it would not notify individual elderly persons of the receipt of their applications. She asked whether there should be a mechanism for such notification, or whether each elderly person needed to call the SWD hotline for enquiry on their own. She asked whether the SWD could provide relevant information if her office assisted elderly persons with the hotline enquiries; and
- (b) she asked how the money would be handled in case an elderly person passed away during the waiting time and whether the money would be included into his/her estate.



37. Ms Catherine WONG, Senior Social Security Officer (Sha Tin & Kwun Tong) of the SWD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the HOALA this year would be rolled out in three phases, namely “Auto-conversion”, “Postal Submission” and “New Application”. For the first phase, the SWD had issued green notification letters to eligible elderly persons on 3 April this year, and had made a lump-sum retrospective payment to them on 4 June counting from 1 May 2017. The SWD arranged the automatic conversion to the HOALA for those elderly persons. The first phase had been completed;
- (b) for the second phase, the SWD had issued a total of about 380 000 yellow notification letters to eligible elderly persons on 2 May and 1 June this year, including around 35 000 in Sha Tin District. The Old Age Living Allowance Centralised Team had been actively handling postal submissions during this phase since June and had deployed more manpower to expedite the process. As the SWD needed to handle a large number of applications, she hoped that elderly persons could wait patiently;
- (c) as at 23 August this year, the SWD had received about 84 700 postal submissions, including 9 500 from Sha Tin District. About half of the eligible elderly persons had switched to the HOALA. For applications received by the SWD before 31 December 2018, eligible applicants would receive a lump-sum retrospective payment of the HOALA (after deducting the normal OALA / OAA / DA payments already made for the corresponding period), counting from the effective date (i.e. 1 May 2017) or the date of eligibility (whichever was later), as well as the monthly payment;
- (d) she understood that elderly persons were concerned whether their applications had been sent to the SWD. However, the SWD would not consider issuing return receipts to them as members suggested, since it would further delay the process of handling the applications. If elderly persons called the SWD hotline for enquiry, they would be informed of the handling progress of their applications. However, the SWD did not encourage this, since a large number of enquiries would increase the workload of the Old Age Living Allowance Centralised Team and affect the processing time. The Director of Social Welfare had also stated on other occasions that the SWD was confident that it could complete processing of all the applications within the year; and
- (e) if it could be verified that an elderly person had been an eligible recipient of the HOALA before he/she passed away, the related payment would be included into his/her estate.

Question to be Raised by Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas on Traffic Congestion in Sui Wo Area Allegedly Caused by Over-admission of Students to Sha Tin College and Sha Tin Junior School

(Paper No. EW 26/2018)

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

- (a) the ESF Sha Tin Junior School and Sha Tin College had caused inconvenience to Sui Wo area. He thanked Ms VITAYATPRAPAIPHAN Nongyao for visiting the related places with him. Related problems mainly included two aspects. Firstly, the traffic was affected. Secondly, students mostly took minibuses, which made it difficult for residents of Scenery Garden and Sha Tin 33 at Sui Wo Road to use related services. Residents were concerned about the increasing number of students. The EDB said that the number of students had not increased. He hoped that related figures could be provided, and more ideally, a way could be available to encourage students to take shuttle buses of the college or the school more often;
- (b) he enquired about the implementation of the “zero private car policy”. He said that it would be more desirable if related data were available. Some parents escorting their children to and from the college or the school parked their private cars at the junction or the minibus stand, which was dangerous. The college and the school should discuss the matter with parents to avoid accidents; and
- (c) he hoped that Ms VITAYATPRAPAIPHAN Nongyao could provide the relevant number of vehicles in writing upon obtaining the data. Commitments of the college and the school were very important. It was true that they could only encourage but not force parents to follow the policy. However, they should tell the parents of newly enrolled students before commencement of the new school year that their children would be discharged if parents commuting by private cars. There were traffic problems with many DSS or international schools in Sha Tin District. If the practice of the ESF Sha Tin Junior School and Sha Tin College should work, the EDB would advise other schools to operate the collective shuttle service as well, which would be conducive to the entire Sha Tin District.

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

- (a) in response to his other question, the Transport Department (TD) had said that the design flow to capacity (DFC) ratio was 0.93 at the junction of Sui Wo Road and San Mei Street, and 0.66 at the roundabout of Sui Wo Road and Wong Chuk Yeung Street. In response to relevant question (c), the EDB said that Sha Tin College and Sha Tin Junior School started implementing the policy of prohibiting students commuting by private cars or taxis in the 2018/19 school year. The DFC figures should have been different after implementation of the said policy. Related road sections might be seriously congested after the intake of new housing estates in Fo Tan; and
- (b) he asked how the EDB would discuss the policy with the ESF, and when efforts would be strengthened to extend the school shuttle bus service to cover all students. The ESF’s “zero private car policy” worked well for those schools in Pok Hong Estate and Sun Chui Estate, and it claimed that only a single-digit number of warning letters had been issued. He pointed out that the EDB did not actively deal with problems arising from DSS and international schools. He had repeatedly enquired about the reserved site for the primary school in Fo Tan, but had not yet received a response from the EDB. He opined that the EDB should explain how it would deal with such problems with DSS and private schools in future.

40. Ms VITAYATPRAPAIPHAN Nongyao said that she had visited the relevant places on many occasions and understood how residents felt about the difficulty of boarding minibuses. She understood that the college and the school had tried various measures to improve the traffic condition. The EDB would continue to relay related problems to the college, the school and the TD. The ESF had submitted the number of college/school places as at the end of September.

41. Ms Joyce YIP responded that the EDB would have frequent meetings with the two principals in the following months and would raise related concerns.

42. The Chairman asked the EDB to actively deal with the relevant problems. She also asked the EDB to provide the figure that Mr Thomas PANG had requested.

Question to be Raised by Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael on the Academic Structures and Transport Arrangements for Students of DSS Schools and Private Schools in Sha Tin District

(Paper No. EW 27/2018)

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

- (a) he first asked the Secretary to help play a video clip. The paper requested the identification of DSS and private schools with more private vehicles. The video clip showed the scene at the end of school hours outside International Christian School on 20 August 2018. It could be seen in the video clip that the street leading to Shek Mun Estate was full of parked vehicles and there was even a private car running in the opposite direction of the traffic. It actually reflected how the traffic in the area near international schools was affected during the periods before and after school. He had relayed the problem repeatedly to the EDB, which, however, had not actively dealt with or responded to the problem;
- (b) he opined that it might be more desirable for the TD to display relevant data on a map. The reserve capacity (RC) was 13% at the junction of Siu Lek Yuen Road and On Ming Street, but only 5% at the junction of On Lai Street and Tai Chung Kiu Road. The RC was even lower at 2% at the junction of On Sum Street. Traffic congestion was inevitable in such cases. He asked when and how the TD's data were compiled, how many vehicles passed by the junctions and how many of the vehicles were parked at pick-up/drop-off points;
- (c) he wondered whether more private cars would be attracted when the Administration said that more pick-up/drop-off points would be arranged. The DFC at Shek Mun Interchange was 0.91, which was simply too low to accommodate vehicles, resulting in traffic congestion at the site and even impact on vehicles from Ma On Shan. Worse still, the TD's Bus and Railway Branch often diverted the vehicular flow to the freeway, without understanding the source of the problem, which could not be solved simply by widening the road;
- (d) traffic of the entire district was indeed affected by ESF Island School, Pui Kiu College, Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School (HKBUAS), International Christian School and

Renaissance College. The DFC was 0.80 at Che Kung Miu Road/Mei Tin Road/Hung Mui Kuk Road Roundabout. Follow-up actions were required when the DFC was over 0.85, according to the TD. However, there was a long traffic queue of several hundred metres at Che Kung Miu Road Roundabout every morning. He wondered whether it was reasonable. The TD staff had mentioned the traffic impact assessment (TIA) report. He suggested that the TD submit the TIA reports made at the time of establishment of the five schools aforementioned in order to provide a clearer picture;

- (e) since the EDB and the TD failed to solve the problem, he asked the Chairman whether this agenda item should be forwarded to the District Management Committee (DMC) for handling as an ad hoc issue, so that the relevant departments would actively follow up the matter; and
- (f) he hoped that the EDB would provide related information after the meeting, including the ratio between Sha Tin and non-Sha Tin students in the five schools aforementioned, and the riding habits of their students. He also asked whether and how the ESF's "zero private car policy" would be promoted and how long the related implementation would take.

44. Mr Tiger WONG said that the street leading from International Christian School to Shek Mun Estate was full of parked vehicles, which was a serious problem. Also, it was a similar case for other international schools. Parents often parked their vehicles in the vicinity well before 3:00 pm to wait for their children. The TD should discuss with the Police and the EDB how to solve this problem.

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

- (a) he wondered whether any specific information or evidence was available to show that students of the related schools or their parents had been advised to use public transport. He suggested that the EWC relay to the Police the problem of traffic congestion caused by parents parking their private cars outside several schools at the end of school hours and waiting for their children. He opined that penalties should be imposed on the owners of those waiting vehicles; and
- (b) in view of the traffic congestion in the vicinity of HKBUAS, Pui Kiu College and Sha Tin College before and after school hours, he hoped that the EDB would inform the STDC of specific measures taken by related schools to minimise the number of their students commuting by private cars.

46. The Chairman wondered if the design of a school was problematic if no pick-up/drop-off points were reserve for students commuting by private cars. Also, she asked how the problem should be addressed. Regarding the issue DSS or international schools affecting the local traffic, she said that the STDO could be asked to study the necessity of initiating joint actions by different departments. She asked the Secretariat to record her question and to include the STDO's response into the matters arising at the next meeting. The STDO could also consider whether the matter should be handled as an ad hoc issue by the DMC. Moreover, the EDB was asked to provide the relevant numbers requested by members.

47. Mr CHIU Sung-ko gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the TD was aware of the traffic congestion caused by relevant schools. It had all along been communicating with the EDB to work out a solution. The DFC value of 1 indicated a saturated traffic flow at the junction, while a value below 1 represented the availability of a reserve capacity. A signal-controlled junction was often congested during peak hours if the RC value was below 0% (representing a negative value), or its traffic flow was already saturated during peak hours for a value of 0%. The traffic was smooth if the RC was over 15%, while it was slightly congested during peak hours if the value was below 10%. Before the construction of a school, the TD would request in the TIA report that vehicles pick-up and drop-off passengers within the school boundary, so that traffic of the roads nearby would not be affected;
- (b) the TD had requested the EDB to encourage parents to use public transport or school buses. There would be traffic congestion if most students travelled to and from school by car. Besides, the concerned roads were not designed for a large number of students to board, alight from or wait for vehicles at the related pick-up/drop-off points at the same time. Students commuting by private cars should board or alight from their vehicles within the boundaries of their schools, which should also reserve sufficient space on campus for the purpose; and
- (c) the TD was aware of the traffic congestion at Che Kung Miu Road Roundabout during peak hours. It was now studying how to improve the traffic flow and road safety at the site.

48. Ms VITAYATPRAPAIPHAN Nongyao responded that upon receipt of members' views, the EDB had conducted more than 10 on-site inspections and had held meetings with relevant schools. The EDB and the schools agreed that students should commute by private cars less frequently. The schools had re-planned and increased routes of their school buses and had discussed the arrangements for school shuttle buses. The EDB had observed initial effect and would continue to follow up the matter with the schools.

### **Information Item**

Reports of Working Groups  
(Paper No. EW 28/2018)

49. Members noted the above paper.

### **Information Paper**

Number of Children Referred to Public Sector Primary and Secondary Schools in Sha Tin District Provided by the Education Bureau  
(Paper No. EW 29/2018)

50. Members noted the above paper.

**Date of Next Meeting**

51. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 10:00 am on 8 November 2018 (Thursday).

52. The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat  
STDC 13/15/35

October 2018