# Sha Tin District Council Minutes of Resumption of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee in 2020

**Date**: 13 November 2020 (Thursday)

**Time** : 2:44 pm

**Venue**: Sha Tin District Office Conference Room 441

4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	Time of joining	Time of leaving	
		the meeting	the meeting	
Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris (Chairman)	DC Member	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr LO Tak-ming (Vice-Chairman)	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	DC Chairman	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr CHAN Pui-ming	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr CHENG Chung-hang	"	2:44 pm	3:40 pm	
Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa	"	2:44 pm	3:20 pm	
Mr CHIU Chu-pong	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	"	2:47 pm	3:28 pm	
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	2:44 pm	3:20 pm	
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	2:44 pm	3:25 pm	
Mr LO Yuet-chau	"	2:44 pm	3:30 pm	
Ms LUK Tsz-tung	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr MAK Tsz-kin	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Ms WONG Man-huen	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	"	2:44 pm	3:54 pm	
Ms LIU Sin-yi, Angela (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District	Council) 5, Sha T	in District Office	

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Mr LO Hoi-wing, Jeff

Mr WONG Tsz-hei, Christopher

Engineer / Shatin 3, Transport Department

Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 2,

**Education Bureau** 

Ms CHIANG Lam, Connie Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 5,

**Education Bureau** 

Ms WONG Yee-wah, Eva Housing Manager (Tai Po, North District and Sha Tin 11),

Housing Department

Ms CHAN Yee-chi, Elaine Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin) 2,

Social Welfare Department

<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Title</u>
Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek	Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
	Sha Tin District Office
Ms CHENG Siu-ling, Katy	Chief Liaison Officer, Sha Tin District Office
Ms NG Suk-min	Senior Liaison Officer (East), Sha Tin District Office

<u>Absent</u>	<u>Title</u>	
Mr WONG Hok-lai, George	DC Vice-Chairman	(Application for leave of absence received)
Mr CHAN Wan-tung	DC Member	( ")
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	,,	( ")
Mr HUI Lap-san	,,	( ")
Mr LI Chi-wang, Raymond	,,	( ")
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	,,	( ")
Ms NG Ting-lam	,,	( ")
Mr SHAM Tsz-kit, Jimmy	,,	( ")
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	,,	( ")
Mr TSANG Kit	,,	( ")
Mr WONG Ho-fung	,,	( ")
Mr YIP Wing	,,	( ")
Mr HUI Yui-yu	,,	(No application for leave of absence received)
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	,,	( ")
Mr LIAO Pak-hong, Ricardo	"	( ")
Mr LUI Kai-wing	,,	( ")
Mr SHEK William	,,	( ")
Mr YAU Man-chun	,,	( ")
Mr YEUNG Sze-kin	"	( ")

**Action** 

<u>The Chairman</u> welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the resumption of the sixth meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee (EWC) of this year.

## **Applications for Leave of Absence**

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

Mr George WONG	Official commitment
Mr CHAN Wan-tung	,,
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	,,
Mr HUI Lap-san	,,
Mr Raymond LI	"
Mr MOK Kam-kwai	,,
Ms NG Ting-lam	,,
Mr Jimmy SHAM	,,
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	,,
Mr TSANG Kit	,,
Mr WONG Ho-fung	,,
Mr YIP Wing	Sickness

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

#### **Discussion Item**

### Traffic Congestion at Shek Mun Interchange after Class Resumption

- 4. <u>The Chairman</u> said before the meeting, International Christian School and Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School (Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School) replied by email that they were unable to send representatives to this meeting.
- 5. <u>Mr Michael YUNG</u> said members could not express their views directly to the schools as no representatives of the schools were present. He suggested adjourning the agenda item to the next meeting for discussion when representatives of the schools were present.
- 6. <u>Mr CHAN Pui-ming</u> opined that the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) should not be blamed for the adjournment of the last meeting, and the Chairman did not have to adjourn the meeting when a quorum was present. He suggested inviting the schools to the next meeting.
- 7. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:
  - (a) the last meeting was adjourned because the Government claimed that the questions submitted by members were not issues at the district level and discussions of the questions were not allowed at the meetings;
  - (b) as far as he was aware, some members individually contacted and arranged meetings with the representatives of the schools in the Sha Tin District and discussed the environment of the vicinity of the schools and transport issues. He suggested that members express their views to the schools in the same way; and
  - (c) he did not object to the adjournment of the agenda item and suggested inviting the schools to the next EWC or Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC) meeting. If the schools could only attend the TTC meeting, he suggested referring the issues to the TTC for discussion.
- 8. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:
  - (a) he said a special TTC meeting would be held on 3 December and it was expected that issues including airbus routes would be discussed, and for the meeting on 15 December, many issues including the provision of covers for walkways, the question to be raised by Mr YAU Man-chun on illegal parking at Jat Min Chuen Street would be covered. Although he did not object to referring the issues to the TTC, the TTC might not have time to address the said issues as there were many in hand already; and

- (b) he opined that the issue should be addressed in various aspects, namely the formation and implementation of school policy, the Education Bureau (EDB)'s regulation of the fulfilment of service agreement by the schools and the EDB's role in balancing the interest of different stakeholders in the district, and therefore he opined that it would be more appropriate to discuss the issue at the EWC. Besides, he suggested discussing the related issue at the full council meeting of the STDC.
- 9. The Chairman said he did not object to continuing the discussion of the issue at the EWC. He reiterated that the above suggestions were made to facilitate the attendance by schools' representatives by offering more alternatives of dates for the schools to choose from. He was glad that Mr Michael YUNG did not oppose addressing the issue at the TTC or the full council of the STDC. He suggested that the Secretariat invite schools' representatives to the next EWC, TTC or the STDC full council meeting and include the issue in the respective agenda.

### **Questions**

Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on School Places of Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School (Paper No. EW 18/2020)

- 10. <u>Mr WAI Hing-cheung</u> would like to know whether the reply to the question was written and submitted to the EWC by Ms Connie CHIANG.
- 11. <u>Ms Connie CHIANG, Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 5 of the EDB</u> said the related reply was drafted by the branch in charge of policies in the EDB and submitted to the EWC by the Shatin District School Development Section of the EDB.
- 12. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:
  - (a) he raised a similar question at the EWC four years ago, and the paper number of which was EW 8/2016. He said, apart from updating some of the figures, the EDB's reply was more or less the same as the reply last time. Therefore, he was disappointed at the EDB's reply;
  - (b) he said the question was related to some problems which arose many years ago. He suggested that new members refer to the papers of the past terms of the EWC to have a better understanding of the background of the issue;
  - (c) he said the EDB had stressed that they would review the ratio of the admission quotas for students of the Sha Tin District of Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School every year. He enquired about the EDB's past work regarding that aspect and the future plans, and what the EDB could work on;
  - (d) regarding that, as the EDB had mentioned, Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School promised that the annual ratio of admission quotas of Sha Tin residents would not exceed 15% of school places and the ratio could only be changed with the consent of both the school and the STDC. He said as the school did not send representatives to the meeting, both parties were not able to discuss the ratio. He

- suggested inviting the school to the next meeting, or members who had views on the issue should also go to the school to have a discussion there;
- (e) the EDB's reply in 2016 stated that the primary division received thousands of applications for admission to primary one annually in the past few years, 20% of which were from students of the Sha Tin District. The EDB replied this time that the primary division received around 5 000 applications for admission to primary one annually in the past five years, 30% of which were from students of the Sha Tin District. He said the related figures reflected that the number of children who wished to study in that school and parents had increased but the ratio of admission quotas for students of the Sha Tin District remained the same. Therefore, he opined that the ratio should be adjusted; and
- (f) when Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School was established in 2004, the then STDC expressed concern that the school might bring negative impact to schools that did not have enough admissions in the district, and therefore it was stipulated that the annual ratio of admission quotas for students of the Sha Tin District should not exceed 15%. He was of the view that schools should reflect on the reasons for under admission, instead of curbing the ratio of admission quotas of other schools to secure the source of students.
- 13. <u>Ms Connie CHIANG</u> said the schools would submit the number of students regularly, and the EDB would also go to the schools to count the number of students regularly. The EDB would also check the information of annual application and admission reported by schools to regulate and ensure that the ratio of admission quotas of schools met the stipulated standard.
- 14. <u>The Chairman</u> suggested sending a letter in the name of the EWC to the school to ask whether they agreed to have unofficial exchanges with members so that members could express their views and requests to the school.
- 15. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:
  - (a) he opined that student admission was a policy issue and it was more appropriate to invite the school to the resumption of an EWC meeting or an EWC special meeting, instead of conducting an unofficial exchange meeting. He suggested that the EWC send an invitation to the school to the next official meeting in writing after the meeting; and
  - (b) as far as he was aware, schools would keep statistics on students' information such as districts of residence, but most schools were unwilling to disclose the related statistics. He suggested that the EDB could request the schools to provide the statistics to facilitate discussion.
- 16. The views of Mr Wilson LI were summarised below:
  - (a) he said he contacted the school to follow up on the issue of student admission during the last term of the STDC, and the school gave a reply similar to the reply by the EDB's this time. He said if only 15% of students lived in the Sha Tin District, that meant the remaining 85% of students had to commute to schools

from other districts, which was not good for the students.

- (b) he agreed with Mr WAI Hing-cheung that individual schools should not be protected by curbing the ratio of admission quotas of other schools. He believed that such an approach could protect some schools from school closure in the short term, but these schools should actually increase their competitiveness for improvement in the long term;
- (c) according to the EDB's reply, in the past five years, this school in the Sha Tin District received 5 000 applications for admission to primary one every year, 30% of which were students of the Sha Tin District. He opined that such figures reflected that the school places reserved for the Sha Tin District students by the school seriously fell short of the demand; and
- (d) he wished to meet the school at a formal meeting to learn about the school's consideration regarding the allocation of school places.
- 17. The Chairman believed that all schools were happy to communicate with the STDC. He was of the view that the EWC, if feasible, could conduct both official and unofficial meetings with the school so that members could have the chances to exchange views with the school. He would discuss with the Secretariat after the meeting to handle the discussion of this issue by arranging a resumption of a meeting or a special meeting. He suggested that the full council of the STDC or committees could jointly invite the school to a special meeting, so that members could discuss various issues, including transport, environment and community facilities with the school at the meeting.
- 18. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:
  - (a) he said he raised a question on the transport arrangement for students at the last meeting. The committee could have discussed the transport and allocation of school places with the school if the meeting had not been adjourned;
  - (b) he agreed with Mr CHAN Pui-ming that affairs at the district level should be discussed at the meetings of the STDC. He pointed out that it was not feasible for members to attend meetings at the schools;
  - (c) he said according to the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders, the Vice-Chairman could perform the duties of the Chairman if the Chairman could not preside at an STDC meeting. Even if both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman were absent from a meeting, members could elect a member to preside at a meeting as a temporary Chairman. He opined that such meetings should be conducted in the format of an official meeting and the school should be invited;
  - (d) as the issue could not be discussed with the school at this meeting, he suggested postponing the discussion of Mr WAI Hing-cheung's question to the next meeting;
  - (e) he was of the view that schools should send representatives to the meeting and face up to members' questions. He asked Ms Connie CHIANG to follow up on

the attendance of the school at the next meeting;

- (f) he said the STDC back then was worried that the establishment of Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School in the Sha Tin District might aggravate the closure of primary schools in the district, and hence the school set a ceiling of 15% of the school places for the admission of students lived in the Sha Tin District every year; and
- (g) he said when Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School was established in the Sha Tin District, land in Shek Mun was mainly for industrial or commercial purposes, and therefore the school did not bring much traffic problem to residents. However, with the gradual completion of several housing estates, the impact on residents' daily lives and transport caused by the school became more and more obvious. He opined that the school should face up to the problem and ascertain that residents' ease of access would not be affected when admitting students from other districts.
- 19. Mr Christopher WONG, Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 2 of the EDB said the EDB had been communicating with the school for the traffic problem in the vicinity of the school and both International Christian School and Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School had also been monitoring the traffic during the period before school. Data showed that the schools had focused on the problem and implemented respective improvement schemes. He said the EDB would maintain good communication with the schools to further improve the traffic near the schools.
- 20. <u>Ms Connie CHIANG</u> said the details of the ratio of admission quotas of Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School should be discussed by members, the EDB and the school, when they were present. She agreed to invite the school to meetings for the discussion of the related issue with all parties.
- 21. The views of Mr Wilson LI were summarised below:
  - (a) he said some schools in the district refused to discuss with the stakeholders from the community. He appreciated Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School for actively communicating with different parties; and
  - (b) he would like to know the EDB's stance on the adjustment of the ratio of admission quotas of Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School.
- 22. <u>Ms Connie CHIANG</u> said the EDB had an open mind on the ratio of admission quotas of Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School and she agreed that schools could review and adjust the ratio in response to the social and environmental change.
- 23. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:
  - (a) he asked the EDB whether it would check the ratio of admission quotas of Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School every year to ensure the ratio of Sha Tin residents did not exceed 15%;

- (b) he would like to know since the establishment of Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School, how many primary schools in the Sha Tin District had closed; and
- (c) he would like to know, since the establishment of Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School, the number of primary one students who lived in Sha Tin admitted by the school.
- 24. <u>The Chairman</u> asked the EDB to prepare the related information after the meeting and replied to Mr WAI Hing-cheung's questions.
- 25. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:
  - (a) he would like to know since the establishment of Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School, whether there had ever been any shortage or surplus of primary one places;
  - (b) he said if schools admitted students who lived in other districts and did not have any related complementary measures, the school might bring other problems to the stakeholders in the district. He enquired about the data on the district of residence of the students and the data on the mode of transport students took when they commute to and from the school; and
  - (c) he said he understood the curb on the ratio of admission quotas was to avoid causing competition among the primary schools in the district. However, the population structure of the community and the district had changed, and he believed that all parties should review the related policy.
- 26. Mr Christopher WONG said according to the data provided by Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School, over 70% of their students went to school by public transport, around 25% of students took school buses, and around 5% of students took private cars to school. At present, the school arranged over 20 school buses, running 26 routes to take students to school, and all school buses picked up and dropped off students inside the school area.
- 27. Members noted the paper above.

Question to be Raised by Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny on the Collection of Tuition Fees during the Epidemic Outbreak by the Post-secondary Institutions and Private Schools in Sha Tin (Paper No. EW 19/2020)

- 28. The views of Mr Johnny CHUNG were summarised below:
  - (a) he appreciated the English Schools Foundation (ESF) and Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSU) for their detailed and clear replies to the question. He suggested that government departments could refer to the format of their replies;
  - (b) he said he was now a student of a self-financed master programme of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and declared his interests. He pointed out that some facilities were only available for students of programmes subsidised by

- the University Grants Committee (UGC). He cited the library as an example, saying that if students of self-financed programmes used the library facilities, the university must allocate part of the revenues from self-financed programmes to the account of subsidised programmes;
- (c) he said the CUHK closed the library for two weeks in March and July this year and students of self-financed programmes could not use the facilities. He opined that students' study and social experience in the school campus was affected during the epidemic; and
- (d) he said the ESF remitted the school fee for around 50% during the epidemic. However, students of self-financed programmes of tertiary institutions could not get any fee remission or rebate. He opined that it was unreasonable, and urged the EDB to address the problem and take follow-up action.
- 29. <u>Ms Connie CHIANG</u> said she would bring the views to the policy branch of the EDB and the schools, and then inform the EWC of the results in due course.
- 30. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:
  - (a) he said the ESF received around \$19 million from the Government in the 2nd tranche of Employment Support Scheme to secure the employment of 927 employees of the school;
  - (b) he asked the EDB to provide the figures of the subsidies received by the private schools in the district from the Employment Support Scheme to the EWC after the meeting. He also asked whether all schools under the ESF, including ESF schools outside the Sha Tin District, provided the same percentage of fee remission after receiving subsidies from the Employment Support Scheme; and
  - (c) he said some part-time employees of private schools might not benefit from the Employment Support Scheme during the epidemic. He asked if part-time employees faced employment or financial difficulties due to the epidemic, whether they should seek help from the EDB or Labour Department.
- 31. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:
  - (a) he agreed with Mr Johnny CHUNG's views that ESF and HSU gave a detailed reply. He said government departments normally replied to questions with the same line-to-take and he asked the EDB to note the views and make reference to the replies by the above school-sponsoring bodies;
  - (b) he said different parties faced different problems during the epidemic, and therefore he opined that the blame should not fall on any one party regarding the employment of part-time staff by the schools;
  - (c) he said he had raised questions regarding the protection for part-time employees under the Employment Support Scheme at a meeting of the Development and Housing Committee, but the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) said the questions

- fell outside the functions of the STDC. He regretted that the questions could not be discussed at meetings;
- (d) he hoped that the EDB could provide the data of the amount of subsidies received by the private schools in the Sha Tin District and the school sponsoring bodies from the Employment Support Scheme, and other information including the number of beneficiary employees and the list of the school sponsoring bodies which received subsidies; and
- (e) he hoped that the EDB could discuss with the UGC to exercise flexibility in handling the issues related to the school fees of the self-financed programme and rebate part of the school fee in view of the epidemic.

### 32. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below:

- (a) he said school operation and classes were affected in the past year due to social events and the epidemic. He asked whether any part-time teachers sought the EDB's assistance as their livelihood was affected due to the drop in the number of students or teaching hours. Besides, he asked what assistance the EDB could provide to those affected;
- (b) he suggested that the EDB and the UGC review the school fee of self-financed programmes and consider rebating the school fee of self-financed programmes to students in view of the epidemic; and
- (c) he opined that schools should increase the transparency of information so that different parties could know how many resources were invested by schools for measures including the improvement of online teaching.

### 33. The views of Mr Johnny CHUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he said the Employment Support Scheme did not cover projects under government subsidies, but some tutors in tertiary institutions taught both self-financed programmes and UGC-subsidised programmes. He asked whether the grants of the Employment Support Scheme could cover the salary that these tutors received for teaching self-financed programmes. He said if the Employment Support Scheme could cover the above item, there would be greater flexibility to have the school fee during the epidemic returned to students; and
- (b) because students had already lost different learning opportunities and space during the epidemic, such as exchange programmes, he opined that it would be unreasonable if the schools did not rebate the school fee to students and the impact was especially significant to low-income families.

#### 34. Ms Connie CHIANG gave a consolidated response as follows:

(a) regarding the grants that schools received under the Employment Support Scheme and other details, she asked the Secretariat to collate members' views and bring them to the EDB. The EDB would, upon receipt of the views, contact the

- schools for related information and report to members at the next meeting;
- (b) she said the Shatin District School Development Section had not received any request for assistance from tertiary institution students so far. The EDB would contact the UGC after the meeting to understand whether any tertiary institution students had sought their assistance; and
- (c) regarding the coverage of the Employment Support Scheme and the rebate of school fee for students of self-financed programmes, she said the EDB would obtain more information from the departments concerned after the meeting.
- 35. <u>The Chairman</u> said Mr Johnny CHUNG's questions were clear. He wished the EDB would have better preparation before meetings.
- 36. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said although the Employment Support Scheme subsidised schools to hire part-time employees to handle daily work, some days were not covered by the scheme. If a part-time employee could not go back to school for work because of class suspension during the period, he would not be covered by the Employment Support Scheme and even could not apply for Working Family Allowance as he could not meet the minimum requirement of working hours. He asked whether the Social Welfare Department (SWD) provided any subsidy or grant for working people with low income or inadequate working hours.
- 37. Ms Elaine CHAN, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin) 2 of the SWD said the SWD had rolled out the "Scheme on Relief Grants for Interest Class Instructors Hired by Organisations Subvented by the Social Welfare Department" under the "Anti-epidemic Fund" in May 2020, under which interest class instructors engaged or planned to be engaged by subvented welfare service units of SWD-subvented organisations for providing training in arts, dancing, handicraft work, sports, etc. to service users, could submit applications through the related subvented welfare service units if their income was affected due to suspension of service under the epidemic. However, other employees were not covered by the related scheme.
- 38. Mr Johnny CHUNG put forward the following proposal:

## "Background

Due to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (also known as Wuhan Pneumonia), the Education Bureau (EDB) announced the suspension of face-to-face classes of primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary institutions. Schools are only open on a limited scale because of the epidemic and it is difficult for students to use the school facilities normally. School facilities available for students' use are not proportional to the school fee paid by the students.

The Education and Welfare Committee of the Sha Tin District Council proposes the following:

- 1. demands that all tertiary institutions and private schools in the Sha Tin District review the financial status of the school and the extent of the opening of school facilities, and proportionally rebate the school fee to students;
- 2. demands that the EDB discuss issues related to school fee with the schools in the Sha Tin District;

- 3. demands that the University Grants Committee review the use of subsidy under the epidemic with the subsidised institutions in the district."
- 39. <u>The Chairman</u> asked members whether they agreed with the above proposal.
- 40. Mr Michael YUNG said Mr Johnny CHUNG only put forward a proposal, not a motion, for which the committee's approval was unnecessary. He said the proposal should be put forward in members' own names and the Chairman could request the EDB to give the EWC a written reply to the proposal.
- 41. <u>The Chairman</u> stressed that Mr Johnny CHUNG put forward a proposal, not a motion. He asked the Secretariat to explain how members' proposal would be handled by the EWC.
- 42. <u>Ms Angela LIU, Executive Officer (District Council) 5 of the STDC</u> said members' proposal would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 43. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said he agreed with Mr Johnny CHUNG's proposal, but since it was only a proposal, not a motion, it should be put forward in members' own names and approval from the EWC was not necessary. He suggested that members could add their own names to the proposal if they agreed with Mr Johnny CHUNG's proposal.
- 44. <u>Mr Johnny CHUNG</u> accepted Mr CHAN Pui-ming's suggestion and put forward the amended proposal as follows:

### Background

Due to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (also known as Wuhan Pneumonia), the Education Bureau (EDB) announced the suspension of face-to-face classes of primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary institutions. Schools are only open on a limited scale because of the epidemic and it is difficult for students to use the school facilities normally. School facilities available for students' use are not proportional to the school fee paid by the students.

Mr Johnny CHUNG, Mr Chris MAK, Mr Michael YUNG, Mr LO Tak-ming and Mr CHAN Pui-ming propose the following:

- 1. demands that all tertiary institutions and private schools in the Sha Tin District review the financial status of the school and the extent of the opening of school facilities, and proportionally rebate the school fee to students;
- 2. demands that the EDB discuss issues related to school fee with the schools in the Sha Tin District:
- 3. demands that the University Grants Committee review the use of subsidy under the epidemic with the subsidised institutions in the district."
- 45. <u>The Chairman</u> asked the EDB to give a written reply to the proposal.
- 46. Members noted the paper above.

Action

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 (Paper No. EW 20/2020)

47. <u>The Chairman</u> said the question would be addressed at the next meeting as Mr Michael YUNG suggested.

### **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 21/2020)

48. Members noted the paper above.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

- 49. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 14 January 2021 (Thursday).
- 50. The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat STDC 13/15/35

January 2021