



Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council

香 港 津 貼 中 學 議 會

General Meeting

On 29 May 2007

Chairman's Report

1. Executive Committee Meetings

- 1.1 The Executive Committee 2006-2008 (EC) took office after the election in the Annual General Meeting on 21.11.2006 and has held 6 meetings during December 2006 – May 2007.
- 1.2 Appointment of Co-opted Members, appointment of representatives to sit on different councils, and setting up of Task Groups
- 1.3 Some resolutions made in EC:
 - 1.3.1 Setting up Codes of Practice & Job Descriptions of EC members (2006-2008) and seeking understanding of member schools in the following practices:
 - Not attending ceremony / writing congratulation message for individual school in the name of an EC member
 - Releasing information on behalf of the Council only, NOT for individual area / school / person
 - Serving as supporting or co-organizing party for educational activities open to all schools with endorsement of EC
 - Not to handle any anonymous request
 - 1.3.2 Preparing Annual Budget :-
 - Expenses include honorarium for clerical assistants, rental for EC meeting venue, organization of HKSSSC AGM / GM / EGM, souvenirs, stationery & printing, postage, homepage rental, refreshment & social events and miscellaneous
 - refreshment & social events should not exceed 10% of Membership Fees
 - 1.3.3 Setting up a fixed deposit account of HK\$300,000.00
- 1.4 EC grieved the loss of 李守慧校長, who was one of the founding member of HKSSSC and had served as the Vice-chairman as well as Hon. Treasurer of the Executive Council in the past.

2. Documents sent to members / uploaded to HKSSSC Website:

- 2.1 Newsletter No. 2 (2006-07) was issued on 7.2.2007 with contents on:
 - Membership of 355 member schools
 - Co-opted E.C. members : Mr YING Yu-hing of CMA Choi Cheung Kok Secondary School, Mr LO Sai-kwong of The Methodist Church HK Wesley College and Mr Alex

CHU Kai-wing of CCC Hoh Fuk Tong College were invited as co-opted members.

- Courtesy meeting with Professor Arthur Li (SEM) and Mr Raymond H.C. Wong (the new PSEM) on 22.11.2006,
- First Aid Training Requirement for teachers,
- Follow-up work on the Report from the Committee on Teachers' Work
- Invitation to join the HKSSSC Task Groups as Consultative Members. There are a total of 8 Task Groups and 12 principals from member schools had indicated interest.
- Asking member schools to submit views in response to the consultation on "Copyright Protection in the Digital Environment"
- New proposal from HKEAA for the implementation of SBA

2.2 Letter to member schools on 7.2.2007 informing them of the delay in the submission of EMB Questionnaire for Principals on Planning and Implementation of the Three-year Senior Secondary Curriculum until further notice.

2.3 "Report of SBA Survey" with opinions from member schools on the Revised Proposal on SBA (http://www.hksssc.edu.hk/SBA_Q_Result_8Mar07.pdf). There were responses from 238 member schools, constituting a return rate of 67.04%. Results of the survey have been submitted to both the EMB and the HKEAA.

2.4 "Views on Copyright Protection in the Digital Environment" (http://www.hksssc.edu.hk/views_CIB_07.pdf) as the EC's responses to the consultation on Copyright Protection in the Digital Environment.

2.5 HKSSSC Pamphlet (2006-2008) and Members List (2006-2007)

3. Meetings with EMB / HKEAA

3.1 Courtesy meeting of EC with Professor Arthur Li (SEM) and Mr Raymond H.C. Wong (the new PSEM) on 22.11.2006 (*see Newsletter No.2 2006-07 for discussion topics*).

3.2 Meeting (together with other Councils / Associations) with HKEAA on 8.1.2007 to discuss the Revised Proposal on SBA. This has led to the SBA survey among member schools.

3.3 Meeting of EC with Mrs. Betty IP on 23.1.2007 to follow up with issues raised in the meeting on 22.11.2006: NSS, teacher workload, and schools with insufficient student intake.

3.4 Meeting with EMB on 14.2.2007 to discuss the difficulties faced by schools when responding to the EMB Questionnaire for Principals on Planning and Implementation of the Three-year Senior Secondary Curriculum. The EMB agreed to delay the deadline for submission of the responses to 26.3.2007.

3.5 Meeting (together with other Councils / Associations and representatives from tertiary

institutes) with HKEAA on 15.3.2007 to share views on the Revised Proposal on SBA after collecting survey results from various councils / associations.

- 3.6 Meeting of EC with Mr. Raymond Wong, PSEM, EMB on 3.4.2007 to discuss the EC's concerns on:
- the confusing messages on "5 years of toleration under NSS"
 - needs to resolve the physical constraints and needs of additional manpower support for the effective implementation of 334
 - the implementation of the follow-up actions by EMB on the Report of Committee on Teachers' Work (Document 2)
 - needs to handle the applications for continuing to operate a school with insufficient student intake with clear criteria and empathy
- 3.7 Meeting with EMB on 25.4.2007 to share views on the manning scale for Laboratory Technicians (LT) under NSS.
- 3.8 Meeting (together with other Councils / Associations) with EMB on 18.5.2007 to discuss issues related to "5 years of toleration under NSS".

4. Requests from member schools for follow-up actions:

- 4.1 Clarification of whether the first aid training requirement for teachers in the "Guidelines on the Outdoor Activities" is mandatory

The EC has written to our Hon. Legal Advisors asking for their opinions and has also talked to the EMB. The EC was advised that though the Guidelines are not mandatory, schools should make efforts to follow the guidelines as far as possible to ensure student safety. Both Legal Advisors pointed out that teachers are not bound by law according to the Guidelines and the recommendation by the Coroner. However, they cautioned that "*value of such documents are to be assessed carefully because, unless there are cogent reasons for not following them, negligent claims may be given rise to and grounded upon occurrence of similar / identical accident*" and that "*the guidelines will be relevant when the Court is considering the legal liability of a school*". Both Legal Advisers reminded the schools to have insurance coverage.

The EMB indicated that they may make some refinements to the contents of the "Guidelines on the Outdoor Activities" and the EC has emphasized on the needs for provision of support to facilitate schools in complying with the guidelines such as ensuring sufficient training for risk assessment and first aid training throughout the school year.

- 4.2 Clarification of the 5- year toleration period under 334

The EC has discussed the issue with EMB under various occasions since taking up office in November 2006 and has indicated the following views:

- EMB should clarify the issue as soon as possible
- Majority of our member schools consider the ideal class structure under NSS to be either 30 classes or 24 classes as revealed from the survey conducted two years ago.

- There should be no more floating class under NSS
- Schools need to have more space for split group teaching under the NSS if we want to provide a wider range of subject choices for the students
- Many schools in Hong Kong, especially those built in the 70s and 80s, are equipped with less than 30 classrooms.

4.3 Request for concessionary rate on electricity tariff for schools on HK Island

Some member schools on the HK Island have indicated that the repeated increase in electricity tariff by the Hongkong Electric Co. Ltd in the past two years has resulted in a significant increase in the expenditure on electricity. The EC has written to the Hongkong Electric Co. Ltd requesting for a concessionary rate on electricity tariff and is still waiting for a reply.

4.4 Clarification on the inclusion of a matching element in the application of QEF projects

The EMB replied that the need for contribution by school was for the purchase of hardware that would form part of the re-current asset in the school and it has been an existing practice in all QEF projects.

4.5 Clarification on the criteria and mechanism in handling the applications for continuing to operate a school with insufficient student intake

The EC has suggested to the EMB to consider setting up a central unit for handling these applications to avoid inconsistent messages.

5. HKSSSC has agreed to serve as supporting organization of the following activities:

- 5.1 「第十二屆全國中小學生繪畫書法作品比賽」 organized by 中國教育部藝術教育委員會
- 5.2 第二屆「一個學生都不能少嘉許計劃」 organized by H.K. Council of Social Service
- 5.3 第一屆香港杯外交知識競賽 organized by the EMB
- 5.4 「《尊重版權創作之源》全港 e-card 設計比賽」 organized by the Hong Kong Reprographic Rights Licensing Society
- 5.5 「支持世界閱讀日 2007 --- 悅讀大本營」 organized by the HKEdCity

6. HKSSSC sent representative to attend the following activities:

- 6.1 Forum on “Report from the Committee on Teachers’ Work” organized by HKIED
- 6.2 the opening ceremony of Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association International Conference organized by HKIED
- 6.3 the 9th Yan Chai Hospital Moral & Civic Education Award Scheme Prize-giving Ceremony organized by Yan Chai Hospital
- 6.4 the opening ceremony of 「《尊重版權創作之源》全港 e-card 設計比賽」
- 6.5 the HKEAA Annual Review Meeting on 5.3.2007

7. Work of Task Groups and Representatives

- 7.1 Meeting of 社區體育事務委員會 on “Promoting Sports Development on ALL Fronts”.

The EC indicated concerns on issues of security, insurance and maintenance when conduction sports activities in schools for the public.

- 7.2 Meeting of the Steering Committee on Review of the Additional Time-limited Capacity Enhancement Grant held on 7.12.2006. It was noted that a survey would be conducted in early 2007.
- 7.3 Meetings of SSPA Advisory Committee on 29.11.2006 and 7.3.2007.
- 7.4 Meeting of Repairs and Maintenance Task Group with the relevant parties with the decision of extending the pilot scheme to out-source services to three districts this year.
- 7.5 Meeting of Committee on Respect Our Teachers Campaign. It was noted that the ceremony would take place in the 4 districts separately.
- 7.6 Meetings of the Vocational Educational and Training Advisory Committee (VETAC) held on 5.12.2006 and 9.3.2007. It was noted that VTC would offer alternative courses for students upon the implementation of NSS school structure.
- 7.7 Meetings of JSEA Committee in November 2006 and January 2007. It was noted that the Committee would be dismissed after 2009 and the EMB would develop a new S4 allocation system.
- 7.8 Meeting of Board of Control for Subsidized Schools Provident Fund on 24.2.2007.
- 7.9 Meeting of the Steering Committee on Review of IMC.
- 7.10 Meeting of the Selection Board of 「教育統籌局優良顧客服務獎勵計劃」
- 7.11 Meeting of Copyright Task Group to discuss the consultation paper on Copyright Protection in the Digital Environment. The task group has forwarded a letter of views on the issue to the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau on 18.4.2007.
- 7.12 Meetings of Special School Education Working Group

-- The End --