

Report from Representative in

"Steering Committee on the Implementation of 3+3"

by Hui Wai Tin

9th Nov. 2004

1. There are three levels of meeting:

1.1 Steering Committee on the Implementation of 3+3: *Chaired by Mr. Chris Wardlaw*

Term of Reference:

The Steering Committee is set up to steer the general direction in the implementation of 3+3 consistent with the directions set out in the RASIH Report and consider further information provided by EMB. It serves as a formative consultative platform and gives advice on issues related to the implementation of 3+3.

Eight meetings have been held:

**31/10/03, 26/11/03, 8/1/04, 27/2/04, 21/5/04, 22/6/04, 9/9/04,
final meeting: 6/10/04 (chaired by Mrs. Fanny Law)**

1.2 Joint Working Group (JWG) of School Councils & Associations on Senior Secondary Education: *Chaired by Mr. George Tam (Dr. Anissa Chan in the last academic year)*

Scheduled to meet before or after the meetings of Steering Committee in order to gather opinions and unify the viewpoints

Nine meetings have been held:

**15/9/03, 4/11/03, 28/11/03, 9/1/04, 25/2/04, 16/6/04, 6/9/04,,
4/10/04, 18/10/04**

1.3 Informal Meeting with School Representatives on Concerns Relating to Funding for Implementation of Proposed "3+3" in Secondary School: *Chaired by Mr. Cheng Man-yiu*

Topics to be discussed: staff entitlement calculation, class size, number of approved class and the transition from "5+2" to "3+3"

Four meetings had been held (and task was assumed finished):

30/3/04, 27/4/04, 18/5/04, 11/6/04

2 Several reports have been made in the EC meetings:

5/11/03 (2193b) "It was **DECIDED** that the Council would make the following requests:

1. The consultation process should be a formative one.
2. The Steering Committee should have its terms of reference, and the agenda and agreed notes of meetings should be prepared.
3. The guiding principles of restructuring classes and the staff establishment.
4. Schools should be allowed to maintain a parallel class structures from SS1 to SS3.
5. A sample of the full examination paper should be ready one year before 'Year Zero'.
6. The printed version of the three-year curriculum textbooks (SS1 to SS3) should be ready in January of the first year of implementation.
7. The first batch of students going to take the SS1 in its first year of implementation should be informed so when they are in Primary 6."

7/12/03 (2201b) about School-based Assessment by Curriculum and Assessment Task Group

15/1/04 (2206c),

- " -- EMB must provide the joint working group with agenda items and their supporting documents for discussion at the pre-meeting of the JWG one week before the Steering Committee meeting. If the joint working group finds the provided information unacceptably insufficient or the agenda not appropriate for discussion at the Steering Committee meeting, the group may refuse to attend the Steering Committee meeting.
- Relevant documents, if restricted, should be tabled at the Steering Committee meeting. Non-restricted documents should be allowed to be brought back to the EC for discussion.
- EMB should outline the successive stages of the preparation for "3+3" from now till Year 0 for the Steering Committee members to

discuss.

- The Steering Committee members should have the right to obtain information on "3+3" from relevant EMB sections."

18/3/04 (2227b)

a. "...the Joint Working Group had questioned positions held by the Steering Committee (e.g. '4+X' or '3+X', exit point after SS2, SBA for all subjects and mandatory Liberal Studies) and had expressed its following concerns:

- ◆ A separate group should be formed to study class restructuring.
- ◆ The final modes of calculating subject grants and the staff establishment should be no worse than the existing modes.
- ◆ There should be tolerance of resulting surplus teachers during the transitional period.
- ◆ The exemplars of public examination papers should be available before implementation of the new curriculum."

23/6/04 (2254b)

"...The EC **SUGGESTED** that the following views should be reflected at the meeting. The points were as follows:

1. The class size from Junior Secondary 1 to Senior Secondary 3 should be 35.
2. Schools should not be required to lay off teachers because of the transition to the '3+3' structure.
3. The split class calculation mechanism for teacher entitlement should be maintained in order to ensure diversification of the secondary curriculum to meet diversified students' needs."

3 On 13/7/04, the following message was sent to all members of the Steering Committee and the Informal Meeting:

In view of the influence caused by the proposed uniformity of "Class: Teacher Ratio" in the future 3+3 system, the Executive Committee (EC) of Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council (HKSSSC) expressed high concern of the induced negative impact in the curriculum development and staff allocation in the future school running. The followings are the viewpoints of the EC:

1. We agree that the additional teachers in
 - School librarian
 - Teacher of Chinese
 - Teachers for remedial teaching, counseling and extra-curricular

activities

- Non-graduate teacher(s) [ECR5] that received by most aided secondary schools can be amalgamated into the new standard ratio.

2. We strongly propose to maintain the system of allocation of split-class teaching based on the nature and the development of respective subjects in all grades. The reasons are
 - (1) It encourages and supports diversity of subject choices to students which is a direction in alignment with the aim of curriculum reform;
 - (2) It sets as a guideline for the staff allocation and the class size in split-class teaching;
 - (3) It reduces the possible conflict between the reduction of teachers' teaching periods and the increase of subject choice for students.
3. We strongly request the proposal 2 should be placed inside the consultative document for the senior secondary school reform.
4. Furthermore, for the advance of education environment, the class size should be uniform and decreased in all grades in secondary school study. Other than the proposal that the class size of senior secondary class should be 35, we strongly propose that the class size of junior secondary class should be 35. In fact, the reduction of class size in junior secondary school should be ahead of the senior secondary school reform.

END OF THE REPORT