

Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council

Chairman's Report 2003-2004

(Presented at the Annual General Meeting on 19 November 2004 by CHU Fu Yau)

Council Leaflet

A leaflet giving the information of the Council was produced and given out to member schools and the public.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) held nine meetings (once every month).

Beginning 1-9-2004 the EC lost the service and expertise of the following members who moved to a new pasture, through retirement or changing working positions:

Dr. Anissa Chan Wong Lai-kuen (Chairperson)
Mr. Wu Kee-huen (Hon. Treasurer)
Dr. John Tan Kang (Asst. Hon. Sec. - EC)
Mr. Wu Man-ying (Area 2 Rep. - Kln West)

EC decided that as the AGM would be held soon, no re-election would be conducted and their duties be taken up by the existing EC members with the following arrangement:

<u>Post</u>	<u>Duties taken up by</u>
Chairman	Mr. Chu Fu-yau (Vice-chairman)
Asst. Hon. Sec. - EC	Mrs. Gigi Chan Hsu Show-chee (Hon. Sec)
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. Hui Wai-tin (Area 4 Rep. - NT South)
Area 2 Rep. - Kln West	Mr. Stephen Hui Chin-yim (Ex-officio - Immediate Past Chairman)

Task Groups

Eight Task Groups were formed, headed by an EC member, with group members co-opted from member school heads:

<u>Task Group</u>	<u>Convenor</u>
Copyright	Mr. William Yip Kam-yuen
Curriculum & Assessment	Mr. Patirck Lai Shu-ho
General Affairs	Mr. Wu Kee-huen
Principals' Professional Development	Mr. Hui Wai-tin
School Finance & Legal Affairs	Mr. Stephen Hui Chin-yim
School Repairs & Maintenance	Dr. Sun Pong Yak-ling
SSPA & Language Policy	Ms. Yau Oi-yuen
Teachers' Professional Development	Mr. Wu Kee-huen

Various issues within their terms of reference were followed up by respective groups. Standpoints were formulated and then endorsed by EC and, for most important issues, endorsed by all members. Reports were then released to member schools and sent to the government bureaus and organizations concerned.

Other ad hoc task groups were formed to deal with matters falling outside the armpit of these groups.

The following are the resolutions of the EC on certain issues taken up by the Task Groups:

(1) Teachers' Salary

HKSSSC's position on the issue of budget cut would consist of the following:

1. Teachers' salaries in aided schools are based on contracts agreed upon by teachers and their employers. The Council is in no position, nor has the mandate, to speak on behalf of its member schools on the issue of possible adjustment or de-linking of teachers' salaries from the civil service pay scale.
2. Apart from the salary issue, the Council is willing to discuss with the EMB other possible means to resolve difficulties in the education sector related to the budget cut.
3. Any solutions suggested should not bring about fundamental changes to the long established salary structure for the sake of solving temporary financial difficulties, or irreversibly decrease the attractiveness of the teaching profession to young people, or bring about irreversible damage to the quality of education. (17/12/2003)

On the proposed Teacher salary block grant, the EC summarized the following points as HKSSSC's position on the issue:

1. HKSSSC is very concerned about this issue.
2. The proposal has long-term negative impact on the merits of the existing system.
3. Any new policy should address the highlighted problems (i.e. partial instead of full financial flexibility as enjoyed by DSS schools, damage of teachers' morale, stability of teaching force and students' learning environment became vulnerable to economic forces from the market, professional image and status of teachers tarnished by schools 'snatching' teachers from one another, lack of financial incentive to the Teachers' Competency Framework)
4. Consultation among principals and teachers is necessary. (11/5/2004)

(2) Copyright

Guidelines for Copying and Distribution of Works in an Electronic Environment by Non-profit Making Educational Establishments had been released by Intellectual Rights Department. The Department preferred guidelines but the industry sector wanted a license scheme. The issue was still under discussion.

(3) Curriculum and Assessment

On "3+3": 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 before 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.

(4) Guiding Principles for Setting School-based Assessment (SBA)

1. The primary aim of having SBA is to facilitate students' learning and not merely for the purpose of making assessment. The professional judgment of teachers should be respected in any moderation

procedures. It is strongly emphasized that there should be a balance among validity, reliability and practicability of SBA.

2. SBA need not be applied to all subjects due to the limited time and space of both the students and teachers.
3. The proposed weighting (20-30%) of SBA is considered acceptable basing on the existing TAS experience and practice.
4. SBA may spread over SS2 and SS3 depending on individual KLAS, but overloading on teachers' and students' work in SBA in either SS2 or SS3 should not be overlooked.
5. The centrally-administered examination results, the moderated SBA results and the overall results should be separately shown or reflected in the public examination reports/certificates.
6. Suggested learning hours / teaching hours for SBA should be included in individual KLAS' curriculum guide.
7. Since SBA is a new initiative to many people, adequate and quality training to curriculum developers and teachers, especially to those who would prepare the assessment and curriculum guide, should be provided.

(5) SSPA and MOI

HKSSSC's position on SSPA to be put forward at the meeting [with Mr. Michael Tien] would be as follows:

1. A scaling mechanism is needed, and the languages and Mathematics assessments would be the tools for scaling.
2. The number of bands is between 3 and 5.
3. The percentage of DP allocation will be increased to 30.
4. No special order of preference should be indicated if parents are allowed two school choices in applying for DP.
5. Our EC would not support a long-term SSPA mechanism with no banding and no scaling. (21/4/2004)

(6) Teachers' Professional Development

A survey would later be conducted on the language proficiency requirement of teachers (15/1/2003). The draft of the survey on Language Proficiency Requirement was prepared. It was DECIDED that this survey would be conducted later (13/3/2003).

(7) Principals' Professional Development Task Group

1. The "Advanced Course in Principalship (Shanghai, December 2003)" had been cancelled since the number of applicants did not meet the

minimum requirement: there were only 4 applicants in the first round application in May 2003.

2. In representing HKSSSC, the group participated in the organization of "The 1st Hong Kong School Principals' Conference 2004". This conference was jointly organized by the Hong Kong Institute of Education, The Subsidized Primary Schools Council and our Council. The Conference had been held on 19th March 2004. With over a thousand participants and the positive feedback received, the conference was a success. Moreover, the educational issues mentioned in the conference had aroused the concern of both EMB and Education Commission.
3. Dr. Ng Yeung Ming and Mr. Hui Wai Tin, the member and convenor of the group respectively, attended a discussion meeting on linkage with mainland's schools (與內地締結計劃集思會) which was organized by EMB on 20th August 2003.

In October 2003, the Council had nominated two schools to participate in The Scheme on Linkage with Mainland Schools (與內地學校締結計劃). These two schools were CCC Tam Lee Lai Fun Memorial Secondary School and C&MA Sun Kei Secondary School.

4. In October 2003, as a member of the organizing committee of the greeting of our first Chinese astronaut, the Council had been allocated tickets for the greeting activity. The allocation and distribution of the tickets to the member schools was executed effectively.
5. On 25th June 2004, the group had organized an educational visit to Zhuhai. The visit included the tour and interflow with Beijing Normal University and Jinan University. There were 22 participants.
6. In representing HKSSSC, the group participated in the organization of "滬港中學校長高峰論壇". This forum was jointly organized by Shanghai Education Society, HKU, Hong Kong Grant Schools' Council and our Council. The forum will be held on 11th and 13th December 2004 in HKU.

(8) 直資學校政策

1. 政府有責任貫徹教育政策，確保全體學生接受有質素保證的九年免費強逼教育，透過公平、公正而完善的監管制度去達成多元化課程的教育(多

元化是指課程、教學模式、而非資助模式)。

2. 鑑於直資學校和津貼學校同樣接受政府資助，在監管及問責方面，理應得到相同的對待，尤其是在教學語言政策和收生制度方面，二者不應有所差別。
3. 鑑於學生人數下降及教育經費收縮，政府不應再增建學校，只宜鼓勵現有津貼學校轉為直資模式，提供多元化課程，以免加劇學位的供求失衡的情況，浪費公帑。
4. 政府應檢討讓直資高中收取初中學生的政策，因為這種做法不但加劇初中學位的供求失衡，更有違開辦直資高中的原意。此外，直資學校應集中拓展高中多元化課程，以應所需。

Council's Representatives

The Council has sent EC members as representatives to sit on some 14 Advisory Committees/Boards/Steering Committees. They present our Council's view and stand for the Council's interests in the respective committees and boards.

The hottest issue at hand must be the reform of the Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Higher Education. Therefore the Report from our Representative (Mr. Hui Wai-tin) on the "Steering Committee on the Implementation of 3 + 3" in its intact form is attached for members' reference.

Newsletters and Communication Through Area Representatives

All matters dealt with by EC and the EC's or Council's stand/response to relevant issues affecting member schools were communicated to member schools either by regular newsletters or through the Area Representatives.

Finance

The accumulated funds were saved for rainy days and for organizing periodical large events such as the coming 35th Anniversary, conferences and projects.

Charges (\$100 per meeting) were paid to the school (Buddhist Tai Hung College) for allowing us to hold EC meetings there.

Honoraria for the secretarial service of the EC meetings (\$500 per month)

and for clerical support for the Chairman (\$10,000 per annum), and for other EC members were provided.

As the amount of work of the Council had been and would be increasing all the time, EC decided that \$200 of the membership fee paid by each school would be reserved for the provision of clerical support. The EC agreed that \$70,000 per annum would be reserved for clerical support for the work of all EC members.

Entertainment Vote: A sum of money (5% of the membership fee) was reserved for entertainment. It was decided that members' view would be sought on whether there would be any changes to this practice.

Council Website

It was agreed to use ".edu.hk" as a domain name of the web address, with a cost of about \$200 per year. The server would be temporarily located at Yu Chun Keung Memorial College No.2. Materials posted in the homepage would be mainly in English (Chinese if the primary source is in Chinese). An annual honorarium of \$2,500 would be given to the school for this service.

Activities in Partnership with Other Organizations

1. 推廣基本法活動
2. 明報學生記者計劃
3. Community Chest – Flag-selling & Casual Wear Day
4. “中華狀元紅”比賽
5. 校長/學生到內地交流、參觀、考察
6. 接待國內教育專業團體及交流
7. 反賭博大聯盟
8. 公民及德育獎勵計劃

Vote of Thanks

Thanks should go to all EC members who have offered their time and money in running the activities of the Council, to those who have joined the Task Groups and sub-committees, to member schools that provide us with places to hold meetings, to the clerical staff of those members who have offered help. I must also thank all the members for their support rendered to the Council.