**1st Meeting of the CDC-HKEAA Committee on Literature in English**

**(2013-2015)**

**Date of meeting:** 25 October 2013 (Friday)

**Time:** 5:00 – 7:00 pm

**Venue:** Rm W426, KTESC

**No. of participants:** 12

**Agenda items:**

1. Welcoming and introducing the members
2. Election of Chairperson (2013-2015)
3. Terms of reference, roles and functions of the CDC-HKEAA Committee on Literature in English (2013-2015)
4. The review of the curriculum and assessment for Literature in English

* Background and procedure of the short-term review
* Finalised recommendations of the short-term review and their progress
* Sample paper for the 2016 HKDSE examination
* Background and procedure of the medium-term review

1. Presentation on major findings and observations from the 2013 HKDSE Examination for Literature in English
2. Discussion on issues that need further deliberation in the medium-term review
3. A.O.B.

**Gist of the meeting notes:**

1. Welcoming and introducing the members

* The Secretary welcomed and introduced members of the Committee.

1. Election of Chairperson (2013-2015)

* Ms Meimei CHAN was elected the Chairperson of the Committee.

1. Terms of reference, roles and functions of the CDC-HKEAA Committee on Literature in English (2013-2015)

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| * The Secretary explained the terms of reference, roles and functions of the Committee with reference to the *Curriculum Development Council Handbook 2013*. |

1. The review of the curriculum and assessment for Literature in English

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| 4.1 | Mrs Rosana CHONG briefed members on the background, process and schedule of the short-term review of the New Academic Structure (NAS) launched by the EDB, the CDC and the HKEAA. |
| 4.2 | The Secretary reported on the finalised recommendations on curriculum and assessment and the progress in delivering the support measures. |
| 4.3 | Mrs Rosana CHONG reported on the structure, engagement, process and schedule of the medium-term review. The meeting schedule in 2013/14 s.y. and possible follow-up issues for discussion were presented. |

1. Presentation on major findings and observations from the 2013 HKDSE Examination for Literature in English

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| 5.1 | The examination involved a small candidature of 417. A vast majority of candidates (411) chose Set A. |
| 5.2 | 82% and 24% of candidates attained Level 3 or above and Level 5 or above respectively. |

1. Discussion on issues that need further deliberation in the medium-term review

Key issues raised/discussed

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| 6.1 | HKDSE Examination papers   * The sample paper incorporating the short-term review recommendations on revising the design of the HKDSE papers (i.e. the naming of the papers, reduction in examination time and choice of questions) was disseminated in the briefing session conducted by the HKEAA on 9 October 2013 for teachers’ comments. |
| 6.2 | SBA level descriptors   * Based on the finalised recommendations in the short-term review, SBA would be implemented starting from the 2019 HKDSE Examination, with an optional school trial in the 2018 HKDSE Examination. Members considered teachers’ involvement in the drafting of the SBA level descriptors very important. |
| 6.3 | Review of the set texts |
|  | * Only one genre should be replaced at a time so as not to overload teachers. The first genre to be replaced could be Plays. * Set texts would be kept on the list for at least three years before being replaced. * One member suggested introducing new genres such as graphic novels to widen students’ exposure to the variety of literary texts and including literary texts written by local writers to add an element of local culture and literature. * Members discussed the readiness of teachers in teaching new genres and students’ choice of new genres in their portfolios. They also discussed the constraints concerning the availability of a quality anthology containing literary work offering both local and international perspectives and relevant learning and teaching resources for teachers. * A member pointed out that the suggested texts could be used as unseen poems in the HKDSE Examination and in students’ portfolios, provided that they were written in English and not translated from other languages. * The Chairperson explained that the current list of set texts was considered conservative as it was largely based on the prior experience from the HKCEE and HKAL. |
| 6.4 | Promoting the subject   * One member felt that students and parents were reluctant to take the elective because of the relatively subjective assessment. Members also pointed out that fewer students chose the elective because they were allowed to take only two to three electives for the HKDSE Examination. * However, it was reported that students expressed very positive responses in the two focus group meetings conducted by CDI in August 2013. They found the subject challenging but very inspiring. * Suggestion on promoting the subject to students included: * encouraging cross-disciplinary study between literature and other subjects. For example, the history of the Holocaust could be paired up with related literary texts. * considering texts that appealed to male readers; and * developing junior secondary students’ reading skills through the use of literary texts such as graphic novels. |

1. Recommendations/actions to be taken

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| 7.1 | Regarding the SBA level descriptors, members expressed agreement on:   * the HKEAA’s plan to collect teachers’ views on the drafting of the level descriptors for the SBA in the workshops to be organised in December 2013; * the HKEAA’s drafting of the level descriptors for discussion in the next Committee meeting; and * conducting a school survey to collect teachers’ comments. |
| 7.2 | Regarding the review of the set texts, members agreed on the following actions:   * Members would forward to the Secretary suggested texts and anthologies for discussion in the next Committee meeting; * A review of relevant international syllabuses would be conducted to ensure the proposed replacement text(s) meet the international standard; and * Views from different stakeholders (e.g. teachers, students and tertiary academics) would be collected through various channels such as school surveys and focus group meetings. |

**Date of the next meeting:** 20/21 January 2013 (Monday or Tuesday)