

CDC Committee on English Language Education 2011 - 2013  
Gist of the First Meeting

Date: 29 November 2011  
Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.  
Venue: Conference Room, 53/F Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

**1. Terms of reference, roles and functions of the CDC Committee on English Language Education**

- The retiring Chairperson introduced and welcomed all the members to the first meeting of the CDC Committee on English Language Education (2011-13).
- Members' attention was drawn to the terms of reference, roles and functions, and working procedures of the CDC Committee on English Language Education in the *Curriculum Development Council Handbook 2011*.

**2. Election of Chairperson (2011-13)**

- Ms Enian TSANG was elected the new Chairperson unanimously.

**3. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2011**

- The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without any amendments.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes**

- The Secretary reported on the issues identified from the past Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) papers by the English Language Education Section in addressing members' concerns over the level of difficulty of the TSA assessment items at primary level at the meeting on 23 June 2011 and the details of the meeting held between the English Language Education Section and the HKEAA on 8 August 2011 to discuss possible improvements to the development of the TSA. The follow-up actions to be taken by HKEAA were reported to members.
- Members were invited to express their views on the TSA and the following were noted:
  - students had become more patient in reading texts of longer length after the implementation of the TSA
  - teachers gave students a lot of practices on TSA in order to familiarise them with various question types
  - the words that appeared in the reading texts were not difficult but the unfamiliar contexts or sentence patterns could impede students' comprehension
- It was agreed that the questions in the TSA should neither be too challenging nor too straight-forward.
- It was suggested that some questions that required students to apply different reading and learning strategies should be included in the TSA in order to prepare them for secondary education.

**5. Report on the SBA streamlining arrangements for English Language and Literature in English**

- The HKEAA Officer updated members on the proposed School-based Assessment (SBA) streamlining arrangements for Literature in English:
  - components of the portfolio would be reduced from two required tasks to one
  - one mark would be required to be submitted in the period between December and March in Secondary Six
  - the earliest year of the implementation of the proposed changes to the SBA would be 2014 HKDSE
- The HKEAA Officer informed members of the timeline of the streamlining process:
  - formulation of the streamlining proposals (May – August 2011)
  - presentation of the proposals to Principals' Liaison Meeting, SBA Advisory Group, CDC-HKEAA Committee for discussion (September – October 2011)

- conducting briefing sessions for school leaders (14 October 2011)
  - sharing the proposals with teachers at SBA subject conferences (October – November 2011)
  - consultation with schools about the proposals (November – December 2011)
  - endorsement sought from the Public Examinations Board (January – February 2012)
  - informing schools of the finalised arrangements (February 2012)
- It was pointed out that although the streamlining arrangements aimed to address teachers and students' concerns over the workload issue and counter too much overlapping of SBA administration within/across subjects, they should not lead to a fundamental change in the design principles of the curriculum and assessment framework.
  - On the issue why there were no SBA streamlining arrangements for English Language, it was explained that the SBA arrangements for the subject had been modified and streamlined a number of times since its first implementation in the 2007 HKCEE.
  - It was suggested that the HKEAA should take the initiative to explain the rationale for not streamlining the SBA arrangements for English Language to teachers to avoid causing any misunderstanding.
  - In response to the enquiry as to whether schools should ask students to redo the SBA presentation if technical failures occurred, it was pointed out that schools should report the problem to the HKEAA and avoid asking students to repeat the presentation.
  - It was suggested that the mode of recording for SBA required by the HKEAA (e.g. whether audio recordings instead of video clips could be submitted) should be clearly stated for teachers' reference.
  - In response to an enquiry as to whether students should be asked to read three texts only as only three scores would be submitted for HKDSE, teachers were advised to exercise their professional judgement in deciding on the number of English texts to be read by students and to maintain a balance between learning and assessment.

## **6. A.O.B**

- The Vice-chairperson informed members that an evaluation study on the implementation of the secondary English Language Education KLA was being conducted and CDI was planning to conduct a review on the Basic Education Curriculum Guide - Building on Strengths (Primary 1 - Secondary 3) (CDC, 2002). She would keep members informed of the progress.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.