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PSI JOINT EDUCATION TRUST (JET)

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE (JSC)

HELD AT THE TRUST OFFICES

4TH FLOOR, FIELD NORTH BUILDING, 23 DE BEER STREET, BRAAMFONTEIN

ON MONDAY 18 JULY 1994

AT 09H00 TO 12H10

CHAIRPERSON : MR AM ROSHOLT

PRESENT : MR MC OODOWD

MR A ESSOP

MR LM TAUNYANE

MS C TINDALL

DR EP NDABA

MR BD WHITTAKER

IN ATTENDANCE : DR NC TAYLOR

MR J DU PREEZ

MS M CHAKA

MS P VINJEVOLD

MR G BLOCH

MR J DIPHOFA

MS A BOND

APOLOGIES : MS R OMAR

MR A LAMPRECHT

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and noted the above apologies.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Joint Standard Committee (JSC) meeting of 16 May 1994 were confirmed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1. Signatorios

It was agreed that the Finance and Admin Manager be authorised to serve as one of the Trusfs signatories.

Minutes of the

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3.4.

Joint Standing Committee Page 2 18 July 1994

3.2.

Report by Secretariat

The Finance and Admin Manager took members through the Administrative Report contained in the agenda. The Secretariat has reoccupied its offices on the 4th floor of Field North building after these were damaged by fire in April 1994. With the exception of the database

system (which has been put out for tender), and the General Ledger (which is still being captured) the systems and functions of the Secretariat are in operation. The insurance claim is

also being completed and Trustees will be informed of developments in due course.

The Secretariat is expected to run at full capacity after the implementation of the database system.

Report back on SEP

The Acting Director and Mr Mashwahle Diphofa reported on the meeting with the Science Education Project. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss concerns raised by trustees about the project at the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting of 14 June 1994, where their proposal was tabled. The concerns largely related to the Project's financial position and the

outcomes of its many years of operation.

In attendance were SEP's Executive Director, Dr DM Triegaardt and his deputy, Mr Magnate Ntombela. SEP has initiated discussions with MEC's for Education in three provinces: North

West; Northern Cape; and KwaZulu-Natal. The purpose of the talks is to inform the respective MECs about the work of SEP and to explore possible ways of working together. No concrete agreements have been reached yet, but the talks are continuing.

The project's request for funding has been declined by Kagiso Trust. They thus do not have

any other funding in addition to the grants from IDT and The Chairman's fund, as tabled at

the BOT meeting of 14 June 1994.

With respect to impact evaluation, the project has not done much about it mainly because their

past funding partners did not ask them to. However, with financial support from the IDT, they

are in the process of contracting a Canadian Science Educator to conduct an evaluation of the

project. JET is invited to help shape the brief for the evaluation. a

Resolution of the JSC

The JSC agreed to approve the recommendation that JET fund the project in the amount of R 2m to cover the operations of two regions and a portion of the national office's expenses,

on condition that an evaluation is conducted to track the impact of the project on the classroom

practices of teachers. A further R 200 000 should be budgeted for the evaluation

Report back on READ

The Acting Director reported that he had written to READ communicating the decision of the

BOT meeting of 14 June 1994. The decision was to decline the proposal from the organisation

in the format it was presented and to encourage them to revise it so that it focuses on the

training of teachers to use existing materials rather than developing new materials. The organisation has accepted the decision and will be submitting a revised proposal.

Members of the JSC recommended that the Secretariat work closely with READ as they

Minutes of the
Joint Standing Committee Page 3 18 July 1994
refocus their proposal on the training component.

4. THE FUTURE OF THE JOINT EDUCATION TRUST

4.1.

Policy Document and Financial Projections

The Acting Director introduced the documents contained in the agenda. The documents are a sequel to a series of discussions Within JET on the desirability of establishing the Trusts

impact in its areas of focus and exploring possibilities of opening up new focus areas. Using

projections of JET's financial commitments, the documents seek to silhouette the Trusts funding strategy, achievements and potential against the country's state of education and development. .

The education and training held in South Africa is characterised by fragmentation of efforts,

underprovision in such key areas as ABE, and a mismatch between what is being offered and what is required to drive a competitive economy and a democratic society. The JETs intervention strategy therefore seeks to promote mechanisms of systemic accountability and

quality assurance among grantees.

In the field of ABE, the Trust supports over 61 projects. In addition, there are four major

initiatives which are designed to facilitate coherence in the field. These are: ABE research

currently undertaken by the Universities of Natal, Cape Town and the Western Cape; the Natal ABE Support Agency which provides technical support to projects; an Accredited Teacher Training Programme run jointly by USWE and PENTECH; and a three-level adult learners examination system being piloted by the IEB. JET is also engaging with members of

the RDP Ministry and other stakeholders on the launching of a national RDP ABE programme.

In the area of Teacher Development, the Trust supports over 56 programmes directed towards

the in-service training of teachers and other school personnel. Grantees are encouraged to

establish certification arrangements for their clients, to give attention to issues of outcome

quality, and link up with national policy developments around career pathing and accreditation

of teacher qualifications. Support is also given to teacher training in Early Childhood Education,

and projects offering Vocational Education/Training and Technology Education. Grantees in the latter category include PROTEC, ORT-STEP, and CEFSA Career Colleges.

The Trust also supports approximately 37 projects targeted at the out-of-school and out-of-

work youth. Priorities in this field are: careful monitoring; capacity building; encouraging

partnerships in service delivery; identifying those areas of the microenterprise sector with

growth potential; identifying those entrepreneurial skills necessary for success in the micro-

enterprise sector; identifying the kind of follow-up post-training support required; tracking

graduates; and investigating accreditation possibilities.

JETs contribution to the above work is crucial in that it promotes mechanisms of systemic

accountability and quality assurance, and brings an informed perspective to bear on the work

of projects on account of the composition of its Board of Trustees. Furthermore, most of the

Trustees are themselves involved in crucial policy development forums such as the NETF.

With regard to financial resources, projections show that if all existing grantees are supported

until the end of 1996, the Trust will be committed to a total amount of about R 314m.

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However, if all existing grantees are supported for only three years, then the Trust will be committed to a total amount of about R 242m. These projections do not include administration costs, projected at R 11m over the five year period. In view of this scenario, JET should consider:

- slowing down the intake of new projects. This would ensure that sufficient funds are available for adopting new priorities if they arise. It will also enable the Secretariat to monitor existing grantees more closely;
- holding to the principle of supporting projects for three years only, but longer term support to those which are crucial to the mission of the Trust; and
- limiting annual budget increases of projects to 10% unless there is justification for a higher increase.

Discussion by JSC

Members accepted the report. However, after some considerable discussion it was agreed that the principle of supporting some projects beyond the initial three year period on the grounds that they are crucial to the mission of the Trust should be revisited to avoid an ambiguous taxonomy. In addition, it was strongly felt that the document should be beefed up to convey the impact of JET in the field more prominently. In particular, there should be more attention to the uniqueness of JET's contribution in this regard. This should be enriched by a succinct exposition of how the Trust's support has enabled a sample of projects to better their operations. Grantees could be invited to submit such narratives.

External Assessments

4.2.1 External Evaluation of JET

The JSC disapproved of the idea that JET could have an external evaluation to glean more information on the quality of its impact. It was strongly felt that such an exercise was unlikely to provide any helpful perspective to the concerns of the Trust.

4.2.2 Appointment of Evaluation Panel

The JSC approved the recommendation that an Evaluation Panel be appointed to help the Secretariat think through evaluations of projects. The appointment will be along the same lines as those used with regard to the Trust's existing panels of External Assessors. A formal proposal will be put to the full meeting of the Board in August.

Publicity

It was agreed that the Trust needed a publicity strategy. The Secretariat should seriously consider suggestions made earlier at the BOT meeting of 12 April 1994. One of the suggestions was that the Secretariat engage Murray and Roberts PRO to help them think through and plan a publicity strategy.

The JSC considered the recommendations contained in Schedule 1 of the agenda, and the following decisions were made:

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5.1

Projects for First Year of Funding

Adult Basic Education

mm No. : Progress Literacy Programme - 488

The project plans to pilot literacy programmes in Kntlehong and areas surrounding Soweto. The initial target is 45 learners.

Funding required:

1994/5 - R 111 150

RESOLUTION

It is agrwd to decline the proposal on the grounds that the project has been poorly conceived.

They should be advised to seek guidance from PROLI'Ps Outreach Department.

Mm! No.2: Robertson Advice Centre - 836

The centre runs a literacy programme for learners in the Robertson area of North Eastern Cape. Materials and tutor training were offered by the Maryland Literacy Programme. There are 10 facilitators and 50 learners.

Funding required:

1994/5 - R 56 498

RESOLUTION

It is agreed to fund the project in the amount of R 66 498 in 1994/5. The additional R10 000

in the budget should be allocated to staff development.

Prom! No.3: Ekukhanyeni Community Counselling Centre - 1124

The centre plans to run a literacy programme with guidance and support of PROLIT. A management committee has already been formed, and they plan to recruit 6 tutors and 120 learners. 5

Funding required:

1994 - R 151 160

1995/6 - R 207 618

RESOLUTION

It is agreed to fund the project in the amount of R 151 160 in 1994 on condition that Section

18A status is pursued.

Prom No,4: Inkqubela Resource Centre - 1270

The centre's projects include Student Education Support, Health Awareness, Literacy, and a Small Library. The literacy tutors were trained by URDEP. 60 learners are currently registered.

Funding required:

1994/5 - R 197 950

Minutes of the
Joint Standing Committee Plge 6 18 July 1994
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RESOLUTION

It is agreed to fund the project in the amount of R 103 350 to cover the literacy programme, library, and 50% of administration costs.

mm: Ithabeleng Literacy School - 1312

The school runs a literacy programme for domestic workers in Bloemfontein. There are 179 learners and 16 tutors.

Funding required:

1994/5 - R 41 060 (shortfall)

RESOLUTION

It is agreed to fund the project in the amount of R 41 060 to cover the shortfall on their 1994/5 budget.

Teaching Quality

Prom! No.6: Centre for the Advancement of Science and Maths Education -728

The Centre plans to run a materials development programme with 41 Maths, Science and Biology teachers.

Funding required:

1994/5 - R 136 312

RESOLUTION

It is agreed to decline the proposal on the grounds that the project falls outside the priority

foci of the Trust.

M: Education Africa - 1144

The project plans to twin St Stithians College (Johannesburg) with Penryn College (Lowveld), whereby three teachers from the former will work alongside those at the latter institution and fine tune their teaching skills in the process.

Funding required:

1994/5 - R 100 000

1995/6 - R 100 000

RESOLUTION

It is agreed to decline the project on the grounds that it represents a highly expensive teacher

development model.

Proposal No.8: Lsedi Educate Association - 1285

The Association runs training programmes for educate workers, teachers and parents in the central-eastern OFS districts of Tweespruit, Westminster, Marseilles, Ladybrand, Excelsior and Dewetsdorp.

Funding required:

1994/5 - R 199 850

1995/6 - R 141 480

1996/7 - R 219 590

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.. Minutes of the

Joint Standing Committee Page 7 18 July 1994

RESOLUTION

It is agrwd to fund the project in the amount of R185 450 in 1994/5. The grant does not cover the R 14 400 for vehicle depreciation.

5.3. Youth Development

m2: The Bugrado Project - 1181

The organisation plans to set up centres for youth and women in crisis in the PWV. The Centres will offer programmes which seek to assist youth and women in coping with crisis and change.

Funding required:

1994/5 - R157 200

RESOLUTION

It is agrwd to decline the proposal on the grounds that the project falls outside the pn' ority

foci of the Trust.

mm No,10: Training and Employment Foundation - 1264

TEF's programmes include a series of 2-week courses in capacity building and personality development in which prospective job-seekers are prepared for the working world; and a recruitment consulting service that aims to place trainees. The Foundation targets 480 trainees a year.

Funding required:

1994/5 - 24 courses at R 18 000 each

RESOLUTION

It is agreed to decline the proposal on the grounds that the project is poorly conceived.

Mm! No,11: Overberg Community Service Project - 1317

OCSPRO runs basic computer courses in the rural villages of Overberg. There are plans to train at schools, and also to reach workers in e. g supermarkets. They are linked to the Youth Development Forum and run some youth programmes as well.

Funding required:

1994/5 - R 90 978

RESOLUTION

It is agreed to fund the project in the amount of R 90 978 in 1994/5

B. Projects for Second Year of Funding

5.4 Teaching Quality

mm No.12: Community and Family centre - 491

The project runs creche-training and child-care educate program in areas of rural Natal. These include some 12 pre-natal programmes; education of 20 Childminders and 20 parents on baby care; parent training at pre-schools; and home-centred and

Minutes of the
Joint Standing Committee Page 8 18 July 1994
home-based play group programmes.

Funding required:

1994/5 - R 180 437

In 1993, JET granted the project an amount of R 23 537.

RESOLUTION

It is agreed to fund the project in the amount of R 180 437 in 194/5

6. The Schedule representing the summary of projects accepted at the BOT meeting of 14 June 1994 was

tabled and accepted.

7. CLOSURE

The Chairman brought the meeting to a close at 12H10