

CDC-HKEAA Committee on Physics and Combined Science (Physics Part)
(2013-2015)

Gist of Third Meeting (10 Nov 2014)

Date: 10 November 2014 (Monday)

Venue: E246, East Block, EDB Education Services Centre

Time: 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Present:

Prof HUI Pak-ming (Chairman)

Prof CHAN Kwok-sum

Dr NG Pun-hon

Mr LAW Man-wai

Mr HONG Chung-yin

Ms YAU Wing-yee

Mr LEUNG Ngai-chung

Mr YING Pui-chi, Bosco

Mr SZETO Yuk-tong

Mr HO Yau-sing, Willie

Mr WONG Kim-wah

Mr CHOI Chit-kai

Dr LAU Yiu-hon (recording minutes)

Absent (with apologies):

Dr LO Wai-chau, Edward

Dr KWOK Ping-wai

Gist

1. The minutes of the last meeting on 16 June 2014 were confirmed without any amendments.
2. Mr. CHOI reported the recommendations and justifications for Physics and CS(Phy) in NAS Medium-term Review presented to the senior management on 25 September 2014. Members in attendance agreed that no further trimming would be done on the curriculum content at medium term. They also agreed to keep the SBA arrangement and public examination papers unchanged. No further comment/suggestion was made by members about the Physics and CS(Phy) curricula.
3. The current issues related to the implementation of the SS Physics Curriculum and CS(Phy) curriculum were discussed. Some members were concerned about the weak mathematics skills of students studying the subjects. Weaknesses in trigonometry, graph plotting, proportion, error treatment, etc. were found to pose problems to some students when they attempt to solve Physics problems. The following strategies were suggested by some members to tackle the problem: (a)

Better coordination of the teaching sequence of mathematics and physics curriculum; (b) Organization of S3 to S4 bridging programmes on mathematics for physics students; and (c) Teaching basic mathematic skills on ad hoc base to help students solve physics problems whenever necessary. Members also shared the view that to increase the number of students sitting for the HKDSE Physics Papers, more girls should be encouraged to enroll in the physics curriculum. To do so, the Science (S1-S3) Curriculum ought to be revamped to motivate and arouse the interest of girls in learning Physics.

4. Mr. CHOI briefed members about the current situation of Combined Science (CS) in schools. Members were encouraged to help promote this subject in their schools. Members reported that, for some students, studying two distinct half-X science subjects in CS was more difficult than attempting only one full-X science subject although the total content of two half-X in CS was comparable to the content of a full-X science subject. Some members shared the view that many schools no longer offer CS in future due to the effect of class reduction in recent years.
5. The PD programmes planned for the 2014/15 s.y. was tabled and explained to the members. Members were briefed about the future direction of PD programmes organised for teachers. Members were invited to propose new activities and PD programmes conducive to learning and teaching.
6. Mr. CHOI briefed members about the work progress on updating of the Science Education KLA Guide. Members were invited to form an ad hoc working group to solicit and write-up a number of exemplars related to the Physics and/or science education in the due course.
7. Mr CHOI thanked members for assistance in reviewing textbooks from publishers. Revised printed textbook writing guidelines and e-textbook writing guidelines were given to members for information. Members were encouraged to continue to offer support to EDB in reviewing textbooks from publishers in coming quarters of the school year.
8. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.