



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 8, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 3 June 2021

Note: (DT) signifies a decision taken at Decision Time.

The meeting opened at 12.00 pm.

1. First Minister's Questions: Questions were answered by the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).

2. Education: The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-00204—That the Parliament recognises the difficult circumstances that children, young people, students and parents have faced over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic; commends the extraordinary work done by university, college, school and childcare staff over the last year to maintain education and childcare; recognises that the pandemic has nevertheless had an impact on the health, wellbeing and education of many children and young people across Scotland, particularly the most disadvantaged; agrees that work to address these impacts, and remove the barriers to learning that too many still face, should be at the heart of Scotland's COVID-19 recovery efforts, and welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to implement ambitious plans to support the education system during its first 100 days.

Oliver Mundell moved amendment S6M-00204.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-00204 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Education), leave out from “and parents have faced” to end and insert “, parents, families and carers have faced over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic; commends the extraordinary work done by university, college, school, nursery and childcare staff over the last year to maintain education and childcare; notes, by way of contrast, the absence of meaningful and timely support from the

Scottish Government and its education agencies and the pressure and anxiety that this has caused; recognises that there were significant challenges in Scottish education before the pandemic as a result of the First Minister's broken promise to make education the number one priority, and calls on the Scottish Government to act with more urgency to reverse damaging cuts to teacher numbers, to bring all classrooms up to an acceptable standard and reduce class sizes, to put in place catch-up plans, including a tutoring scheme to make up for lost learning, to address the shortfall in college funding and to set out plans to enable in-person, small group learning at universities in order to prevent a generation of young people being lost to COVID-19."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 64, Abstentions 28).

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-00204.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-00204 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Education), leave out from “, and welcomes” to end and insert “; recognises the need for an ambitious plan of National Recovery in the education system; calls on the Scottish Government to establish a National Tutoring scheme and a ‘resit’ guarantee, which offers young people impacted by the cancellation of exams in 2020 and 2021 the opportunity of a funded college place to take their qualifications again, and further calls on the Scottish Government to introduce a ‘no detriment’ policy for further and higher education access and institute an urgent review of the SQA.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 61, Abstentions 7).

Ross Greer moved amendment S6M-00204.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-00204 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Education), leave out from “and welcomes” to end and insert “but regrets the additional stress and anxiety felt by students, teachers, parents and carers as a result of the 2021 Alternative Certification Model; believes that this could have largely been avoided had the SQA taken on board the conclusions of the Priestley review into the 2020 Alternative Certification Model, and more effectively prepared for the impact of COVID-19 in 2020-21; further believes that the 2021 appeals process should adopt a no-detriment policy and that provision should be made for appeals based on exceptional individual circumstances; notes with regret the repeated underperformance of the SQA, and expresses its lack of confidence in the body's ability to fulfil its duties.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 59, Against 60, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 68, Against 32, Abstentions 20).

3. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 2 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.24 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
3 June 2021

Appendix
(Note: this Appendix does not form part of the Minutes)

Subordinate Legislation

Made Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 3 June 2021 and is subject to the made affirmative procedure—

Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 26) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/227)
laid under paragraph 6(3) of schedule 19 of the Coronavirus Act 2020

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 3 June 2021 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

HMICS Thematic Inspection of Hate Crime HMICS/2021/02 laid under section 79(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

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