



Ministry of Education
To Educate! To Transform! To Liberate!

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PRESS RELEASE

February 23, 2010

The Ministry of Education announces the appointment of a Task Force for Identifying Alternative Student discipline Approaches. The task force responsibilities shall be to identify, recommend and devise a plan for the introduction of alternatives to corporal punishment for achieving discipline in our schools and developing self-disciplined citizens.

The Task Force is comprised of a wide representation of stakeholders in education including Parents, Ministry of Education, General Managers, Principals, the Belize National Teachers' Union (BNTU), the National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC), and the National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN).

In carrying out its work the Task Force will identify those activities and initiatives that can be commenced immediately and before the completion of its entire scope of work. To jump start the process, the Ministry of Education will be putting to the Task Force some ideas that could commence immediately and for which the Ministry of Education is able to identify support and resources. At the completion of its work, the Task Force shall submit to the Minister of Education a report that shall include the following:

1. Recommendations on best policies, practices, approaches and strategies for alternative forms of student discipline that are aligned with the Quality Schools Framework and Initiative
2. A Plan of Action outlining the implementation of such practices, approaches and policies.

The membership of the Task Force includes:

Ministry of Education

1. Mrs. Dativa Martinez, Director Education Support Services
2. Ms. Arlette Sheppard, Counselor-Cayo District Education Center
3. Mrs. Carolyn Codd, Health & Family Life Education Coordinator, Quality Assurance and Development Services

Parents

4. Dr. Olda Hoare
5. Ms. Carmela Vega
6. Ms. Meredith August

Principals

7. Mr. Roquelino Mendez, President-Cayo Association of Principals of Primary Schools
8. Delcia Chan, Principal, Salvation Army School
9. Cruzita Castillo, Principal, Hattieville Government School

Belize National Teachers' Union

10. Mr. Jaime Panti, President-BNTU
11. Mrs. Endeavora Jorgenson, Secretary-BNTU and Principal of Corozal Community College

Association of General Managers of Primary Schools

12. Rev. Leslie Gillett, Seventh Day Adventist Schools
13. Dr. Wilma Wright, Assemblies of God Schools
14. Ms. Maria Elena Zabaneh, Roman Catholic Bishop's Commission

NCFC & NOPCAN

15. Mrs. Pearl Stuart, Executive Director-NCFC
16. Mr. Denbigh Yorke, Executive Director-NOPCAN

Others

17. Ms. Denise Robateau, UNICEF
18. Mr. Mel Auil, Chief Executive Officer, Kolbe Foundation
19. Ms. Maxine McKay