PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 4
Answered on 9th October, 2024
First Meeting 2024-2025 Session - Second Sitting

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY

MS. BARBARA CONOLLY, NP, JP, MP – DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF GEORGE TOWN SOUTH

TO

THE HON. JULIANA O'CONNOR-CONNOLLY, PREMIER AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION & LANDS *AND* FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Premier update the House on the current temporary arrangements for students and teachers of the 'Cayman Islands Further Education Centre' (CIFEC) and the expected date for completing the permanent premises for CIFEC?

ANSWER:

Current Temporary Provision

The students and teachers of the Cayman Islands Further Education Centre (CIFEC), are currently housed in temporary facilities at the Family Life Centre. This accommodation is currently in place until November 30, 2024.

The temporary accommodation provides for 16 teaching spaces, on-site meal provision, bus drop-off and pick up, and services include security provision and janitorial provision as is normally provided to government schools. The technology provision has been set-up and supported by the Department of Education Services (DES) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) team.

CIFEC and the John Gray High School (JGHS), have worked out the logistics to facilitate the use of technical spaces to accommodate the teaching for the following subjects from 2 pm to 4 pm:

- Motor Vehicle
- Family and Resource Management
- Technical Drawing
- Construction

Delivery of these subjects has been initially focused on the theoretical elements to allow the school to settle into its new temporary location, before transitioning to the practical elements of the course which will commence by mid-October.

DES through the School Improvement team, is in daily contact with the CIFEC administration and visits the site often to ensure teaching and learning is taking place, and regular communications channels function with the Director and Deputy Director of CIFEC to quickly remediate any issues that are flagged up, whether through the Facilities Unit, Business Services Unit, or any other team in DES.

Anticipated completion of permanent location

The project team managing the project for the remediation of the George Hicks Campus for the occupation of the site for the CIFEC staff and students on behalf of the Ministry of Education, have advised that the work under the contract has been completed and snag list items are being addressed at this time.

The dates for handover of the site to DES have been adjusted from an initial June 2024 handover which was communicated earlier this year. In the absence of the handover, DES was given permission to undertake trade and artisan works on the site from May 2024, at which time, the scope of additional work needed to be completed by DES was assessed. Subsequently, work commenced on some of the additional elements that were needed for full occupancy.

While the full scope of the additional work that is required to be undertaken once the BCU inspections are complete is not yet known, this scope will provide a more definitive timeline for completion. With information ascertained to date, it is anticipated with the known scope that remediation work will be completed by November 2024, however, with the identification of the additional works that are required after BCU inspections, the completion date will be reassessed and early notification provided if there is a change in the timeline.