

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 21 MARCH 2006

AMALGAMATION OF ST COLUMBA'S AND ST MATTHEW'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Education Committee of progress in the amalgamation of St Columba's and St Matthew's Primary schools.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Education Committee agreed at its meeting on 11 December 2001 that the PPP project entitled "Building Learning Communities" would include a new school campus building next to the current St Joseph's Academy and that the primary school would be formed from the amalgamation of the existing St Columba's and St Matthew's Primary Schools. It was agreed that the new school campus will also incorporate the facilities for St Joseph's Academy and for nursery facilities within the amalgamated primary school.

3. CURRENT PROGRESS

- 3.1 An Interim School Board has been formed for the amalgamated school. This Board consists of all of the members of the existing school boards of St Columba's and St Matthew's Primary Schools. The Interim School Board held its first meeting on Monday 27 February 2006. The two main items of business for the board are:

- Determining the name of the amalgamated school; and subsequently
- Participation in the selection of the Head Teacher for the amalgamated school.

- 3.2 In terms of determining the name of the amalgamated school, the board has agreed to proceed as follows. Informal consultation on potential names will be carried out via the Head Teachers and parent members of the board. At its next meeting on 24 April 2006, the Board will decide on a list of names to be issued for formal consultation; this formal consultation will also provide an opportunity for alternative names to be suggested. The consultation will take place during May 2006 and will involve the following groups:

- Pupils of both existing schools
- Parents
- Staff
- The wider community via local churches
- The Bishop of Galloway Diocese

It is intended to consult with as wide a range of interested parties as possible. The Board will then consider the results of the consultation and report its recommendation to the Education Committee in due course.

- 3.3** Pupils will be closely involved in determining the name of the amalgamated school. They will also be engaged in determining the colours, uniform and badge for the amalgamated school.
- 3.4** The Head Teachers and staff in each existing primary school are now engaged in working towards the amalgamated school. This involves work on merging the curriculum, consideration of learning and teaching, planning for joint pupil events, planning for joint staff events and planning for joint parent events.

4. COMMUNITY PLAN/POLICY/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** NIL

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The Scottish Parliament is currently considering legislation which will remove School Boards and replace these with Parent Forum and Parent Councils. Further to this legislation, the relevant parent bodies will be put in place for the amalgamated school.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** It is recommended that members of the Education Committee:
- (i)** note the progress on the amalgamation of St Columba's and St Matthew's Primary Schools
 - (ii)** request the Executive Director to bring forward proposals for the naming of the amalgamated school following consultation
 - (iii)** otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

9 March 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact John McCarney, Head of Service: Schools Support (01563) 576126

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