

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2001 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell (Chair), Brian McNeil, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Lilian MacLean, Drew McIntyre, David Macrae, Alex Walsh, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Julie Faulds, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie; Church Representatives: John Paterson, John McHugh; and Teacher Representative Iain Harvey.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Graham Short, Head of Schools; Allan MacDougall, Head of Resource Support; Fred Wildridge, Education Central Services; Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager; Euan Couperwhite, Financial Services Manager (Educational and Social Services); Kenneth MacKinlay, Principal Quality Development Officer; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; Graham Kerr, Public Relations; Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer and Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Douglas Osler, Her Majesty's Senior Chief Inspector of Schools.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Willie Coffey, John Weir, Iain Linton, Robert McDill and Matthew Sullivan, Church Representative and Alasdair MacQueen, Parent Representative.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS**(i) Her Majesty's Inspectorate**

On behalf of the Committee the Chair welcomed Douglas Osler, Her Majesty's Senior Chief Inspector of Schools, who was visiting East Ayrshire today and his visit coincided with the meeting of the Education Committee. It was noted that this was the first Education Committee meeting that Mr Osler had ever attended .

(ii) Launch of New Community School, Cumnock Academy

The Chair reported that he had been delighted to welcome the Minister for Education, Europe and External Affairs, Jack McConnell to Cumnock Academy on Friday for the launch of the New Community School. His visit to the school had been an excellent opportunity for him to visit areas of good practice and meet staff and pupils who had been excellent ambassadors during his visit. It was noted that the school would benefit from £200,000 per year for the next 3 financial years. Congratulations to all involved were extended in this significant event.

(iii) ICT Strategy for Schools

The Chair was pleased to report that all primary, secondary and special schools were now connected to e-mail and the Internet. This was the part of the excellent developments being made through the department's ICT strategy for schools.

(iv) Bett Exhibition

Congratulations were extended to Primary 7 pupils at Barshare Primary School who had been invited to take part in an on-line question and answer session at the BETT exhibition in London. This was a major national conference and Barshare was one of a few schools in Britain to be involved in this.

(v) Special Educational Needs - Donation of Funds

It was reported that Pre-3 children with special educational needs had benefited from some specialised play equipment thanks to Marks & Spencer staff charity committee who had donated £300 recently.

(vi) Achievers International Programme

The Chair was pleased to welcome to Council HQ, staff and pupils from Carmel High School, Indiana who had been visiting James Hamilton Academy through the Achievers International Programme. The Chair was very supportive of the links being established through this initiative.

(vii) New Opportunity Fund - Outcome of Bid for Funding

It was reported that East Ayrshire had been successful in its bid to the New Opportunities Fund to facilitate community access to lifelong learning. Over £110,000 had been allocated over the next 3 years for a project based in Shortlees which would encourage more adults into learning with a particular focus on improving access to learning opportunities through the use of ICT.

(viii) European Year of Languages

The Chair advised that this year was European Year of Languages and a wide range of activities was taking place throughout the year in schools and adult education classes. As part of the celebrations, Council staff had been given a challenge to learn a language for 2001. Classes were being run in Council HQ during lunchtime and it is understood a large number of staff had already signed up.

(ix) Hospital Education Service, Crosshouse Hospital

It was reported that the Hospital Education Service at Crosshouse Hospital was benefiting from 2 Personal computers donated by Tiny Computers. It was noted that recently, Carol Vorderman had won £125,000 on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire", a figure which was matched by Tiny Computers. Two hundred and fifty computers, bought through the donation, were being donated to children's wards around the UK.

(x) Young People's Health Congress

Good luck and best wishes were extended to the 3 students from Doon Academy who would participate in the Young People's Health Congress on 2 March in the Scottish Parliament.

(xi) Community Education Learning Initiative

It was noted that members of the local community in Logan were involved in an exciting new venture being run at Logan Primary School. In partnership with Community Education, the school was offering a range of courses to parents and the wider community. These courses included Computing Skills, French, and what a parent can do to help their child in learning and development. The Chair hoped that these courses were only the start of many in this excellent initiative.

(xii) Strathclyde Police Community Safety Quiz

Congratulations were extended to the pupils of Annanhill Primary School who had won the recent Strathclyde Police Community Safety Quiz. The pupils scored 98 out of a possible 100. Well done!

(xiii) Scottish Youth Parliament

It was reported that through her involvement in the Scottish Youth Parliament, Lorraine Kerr, from Dalrymple, had been given the opportunity to speak in the Westminster Hall Debating Chamber on "Her Town". Lorraine had been supported by her local youth worker and had been involved in a local peer education project.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 29 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which had outlined some forthcoming events in the educational calendar.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - EDUCATION TO 15 DECEMBER 2000 (PERIOD 9)

3. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 25 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for educational services for the period ended 15 December 2000 (Period 9).

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - COMMUNITY EDUCATION STEWARDS - TRADING SERVICES TO 15 DECEMBER 2000 (PERIOD 9)

4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 26 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Community Education Stewards - Trading Services for the period ended 15 December 2000 (Period 9).

GAELIC EDUCATION

5. There was submitted a report dated 21 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for an approach to the development of Gaelic education in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposals outlined in the report be approved as a basis for the development of Gaelic education in the authority;

- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services initiate consultation with parents and other interested parties on the development of secondary educational provision in Gaelic;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services initiate discussions with the Director of Finance on the assimilation of Gaelic into the main budget;
- (iv) that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide a future report to the Education Committee on the results of these discussions; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ALTERNATIVES TO EXCLUSION UPDATE

6. There was submitted a report dated 18 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which informed the Committee of the progress being made in relation to alternatives to exclusions from school.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the approach taken on the management of exclusion within the authority;
- (ii) that the establishment of a strategic working group involving appropriate teacher representation to plan further development in alternatives to exclusion be approved;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a further report on alternatives to exclusion to the Education Committee at the relevant points of development; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES (Item 18, Page 324, 99/00)

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 29 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which informed the Committee of the first year's operation of the pilot Educational Maintenance Allowance scheme in East Ayrshire.

DESTINATIONS OF SCHOOL LEAVERS

8. There was submitted a report dated 8 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which described the recent trends in the destinations of school leavers.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be remitted to the Best Value Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS, GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOLS EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1998

9. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of additional funds allocated from

the Scottish Executive for improvement to schools and outlined the action plans by the Department.

It was agreed to note the allocation of additional resources of £406,195 to the Education Committee budget in 2000/2001.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 1999/2000 AND PART-YEAR 2000/2001

10. There was submitted a report dated 17 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of absence rates for education employees within the Department of Educational and Social Services in the financial year 1999/2000 and in the two quarters to date in 2000/2001.

It was reported and noted:-

- (i) that additional information in graph form would be distributed to Members of the Education Committee at the conclusion of the meeting; and
- (ii) that the heading "year end" at Appendix A of the report should read 1999/2000.

It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

RESERVATION OF PLACES AT FENWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL AND STEWARTON ACADEMY - AMENDMENTS TO PLACING REQUEST LEGISLATION

11. There was submitted a report dated 29 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the reservation of places for pupils at Fenwick Primary School and Stewarton Academy in the academic year 2001/2002.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the implications of amendments to placing request legislation in respect of reserved places;
- (ii) that, in respect of Fenwick Primary School and Stewarton Academy places be reserved for P1 and S1 for the academic year 2001/2002 in order to accommodate pupils who might move into the catchment area for both schools;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services monitor and review the situation regarding the reservation of places under the amended legislation; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

THE IMAGE OF MANUFACTURING - AN EDUCATION FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PILOT PROJECT

12. There was submitted a report dated 12 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the involvement of East Ayrshire in a feasibility study and pilot project which was designed to raise the profile and restore the public image of manufacturing industry as a suitable career choice for young people.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the feasibility study and pilot project which was being undertaken in selected East Ayrshire Secondary Schools;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a report to the Education Committee in due course; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE OF SCHOOL PUPILS 1997/1998 TO 1999/2000

13. There was submitted and noted a report dated 15 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which informed the Committee of the main contents of the Scottish Executive's report "Attendance and Absence in Scottish Schools 1997/98 to 1999/2000".

MANAGING WITH INFORMATION

14. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the implications for schools in East Ayrshire which arose from the publication by the Scottish Executive of a report on Making more Effective Use of ICT in Management and Administration.

Councillor McIntyre left the meeting during consideration of this item.

PROPOSED SCHOOL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2002/2003

15. There was submitted a report dated 22 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to consult with educational establishments, School Boards, the Chamber of Commerce and the JCC on the proposals.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be issued for consultation;
- (ii) that arrangements be made to consult with the Churches regarding the proposal for the fixed Spring holidays;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a further report outlining the results of the consultation process; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McIntyre re-joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES IN EDUCATION

16. There was submitted a report dated 21 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the use of National Priorities in Education to guide establishment-based and service planning.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the use of the National Priorities as the basis for planning at authority and establishment level within the Department of Educational and Social Services be approved;

- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services re-prioritise the existing strategic plan for the Education Department to accord with National Priorities;
- (iii) that Officers of the Department of Educational and Social Services initiate consultations on how the National Priorities would be delivered at local level;
- (iv) to refer the report to the Policy and Resources Committee for its consideration;
- (v) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit future reports to the Education Committee on how the aspects of provision that are based on the report might be implemented; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SUPPORTING BEHAVIOUR INITIATIVES IN SCHOOLS

- 17.** There was submitted a report dated 21 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for developments within the departmental strategy for supporting schools with behaviour management.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the appointment of an additional Outdoor Education Instructor to the Outdoor Learning Service, initially on a temporary basis;
- (ii) to refer the proposal to appoint an Outdoor Education Instructor to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee;
- (iii) that the conversion of a main grade Psychologist post to Senior Psychologist be approved; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

AWARDING OF TENDERS

- 18.** There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 January 2001 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been awarded and which had shown the actual cost of contracts exclusive of professional fees.

CONTRACT	SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTORS	AMOUNT
Electrical Upgrades to Kirkstyle and Bellfield Primary Schools	Gibson & Wight Ltd, Kilmarnock	£73,741.64
CCTV Installation at Crosshouse Nursery and Crosshouse Primary School	ADT Fire & Security Plc, Uddingston	£53,264.48
Reinstatement of Audiology Unit at Crosshouse Nursery School and Alteration to form Dining and Gym Block at Crosshouse Primary School	Forbes and Whiteford Ltd, Kilmarnock	£180,178.53

Replacement of Asbestos Ceilings at Block A, Grange Academy, Phase 2	Enviraz (Scotland) Ltd, Glasgow	£28,910.70
Grange Academy, Kilmarnock - Structural and PE Upgrade	Forbes & Whiteford Ltd, Kilmarnock	£80,036.09
Hillbank Nursery School, Kilmarnock - Re-roofing and Internal Alterations	Braedale Roofing Ltd, Wishaw	£35,520.01
Re-roofing of Loanhead Primary School, Kilmarnock	Meikle Construction, Lanark	£112,437.90
On-site Services Management Information System Contract - Phase 1	Devapp Ltd, Glasgow	£28,679.00

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

19. The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - ONSITE SERVICES UNIT TO 15 DECEMBER 2000 (PERIOD 9)

20. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 22 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Onsite Services Business Unit for the period ended 15 December 2000 (Period 9).

ONSITE SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN

21. There was submitted a report dated 30 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval of the Onsite Services Business Plan for 2001/2002.

It was agreed to approve the Business Plan detailed in the Appendix to the report for 2001/2002 for Onsite Services which had been established as a Business Unit within the Department of Educational and Social Services.

The meeting terminated at 1115 hours.

**TO RETURN TO PREVIOUS PAGE
PLEASE PRESS THE BACK BUTTON
AT THE TOP LEFT OF THE PAGE**