

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2000 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Willie Coffey, Drew McIntyre, Alex Walsh, Alan Campbell, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Julie Faulds, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie; Church Representatives: John Paterson and Matthew Sullivan; Teacher Representative Iain Harvey and Parent Representative Alasdair MacQueen.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Bruce and Graham Short, Depute Directors of Education; Euan Couperwhite, Financial Services Manager; David Morgan, Public Relations Officer; Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Janie Allen, Principal Officer (Pre-Fives); Anne Jackson, Principal Education Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer and Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Robert Stevenson, John Weir, David Macrae and Iain Linton.

CHAIR: Councillor John Knapp, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed Matthew Sullivan, Church Representative to his first meeting of the Education Committee of the new Council.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT EDUCATION TO 14 JANUARY 2000 (PERIOD 10)

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 28 February 2000 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Education on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Education Department for the period ended 14 January 2000 (Period 10).

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - COMMUNITY EDUCATION STEWARDS - TRADING SERVICES TO 14 JANUARY 2000 (PERIOD 10)

3. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 28 February 2000 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Education 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 14 January 2000 (Period 10).

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 February 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Corporate Services which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted in respect of the Education Service:-

CONTRACT	SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
Onthank Primary School - Fabric Upgrade and Internal Decoration	East Ayrshire Council, Kilmarnock	£29,727.15
Replacement of Ceilings at Kilmarnock Academy, Kilmarnock	Carymar Construction Services	£39,232.83

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2000/2001

5. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the proposals for expenditure in the Education Capital Programme for 2000/2001 and which sought approval to progress with the programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Capital Programme for the Education Service for the year 2000/2001 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education continue to monitor closely the Capital Programme throughout the year, reporting periodically to the Education Committee.

Councillor Walsh and John Paterson joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING GRANTS 2000/2001 (Item 6, Page 4516)

6. There was submitted a report dated 1 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of issues relating to footwear and clothing grants and which proposed a recommended level of grant for 2000/2001.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that footwear and clothing grants continue to be available to eligible pupils attending schools managed by East Ayrshire Council or to a school to which they had been directed by East Ayrshire Council;
- (ii) that the level of grant for footwear and clothing for 2000/2001 remain at £50; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education make the appropriate arrangements to publicise widely within East Ayrshire the availability of footwear and clothing grants and to continue to monitor the uptake of grants and report periodically to the Education Committee.

HIGHER SCHOOL AND FURTHER EDUCATION BURSARIES (Item 3, Page 4515, 96/99)

7. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought agreement to the proposed allowances and contribution scales in respect of Higher School and Further Education Bursaries for 2000/2001.

It was agreed that the allowances and contribution scales for 2000/2001 as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report for Higher School and Further Education Bursaries be maintained at the current rate.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

8.1 AUCHINLECK AREA COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICE

There was submitted a report dated 21 February 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the termination of use of the Auchinleck Area Community Education Office and which recommended that the property be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare the Auchinleck Area Community Education Office surplus to the requirements of the Education Department; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the matter to the Director of Development Services (Property Unit) for disposal.

8.2 SHORTLEES COMMUNITY EDUCATION SUB-OFFICE, CAPRINGTON AVENUE, KILMARNOCK

There was submitted a report dated 23 February 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the termination of use of the Shortlees Community Education Sub-Office, Caprington Avenue, Kilmarnock and which recommended that the property be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare the Shortlees Community Education Sub-Office surplus to the requirements of the Education Department; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the matter to the Director of Development Services (Property Unit) for disposal.

8.3 FORMER CLASSROOM HUT AT MOUNT CARMEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was submitted a report dated 23 February 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised that the former Classroom Hut at Mount Carmel Primary School was no longer occupied and which recommended that the property be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare the former Classroom Hut at Mount Carmel Primary School surplus to the requirements of the Education Department;
- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the matter to the Director of Development Services (Property Unit) for disposal; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education would keep Councillor W Coffey fully informed of the disposal arrangements for the former Classroom Hut at Mount Carmel Primary School.

EASTER/SUMMER PLAYSCHMES AT CROSSHOUSE COMMUNICATION CENTRE

9. There was submitted a report dated 14 February 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a proposal to establish an Easter and Summer Playscheme for families of children with severe communication difficulties.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Playschemes planned for Easter and Summer of 2000 as detailed in the report be approved; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CHARGES FOR SCHOOL MEALS

10. There was submitted a report dated 16 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding proposed charges for school meals for implementation from 24 April 2000.

Councillor Knapp, seconded by Councillor McIntyre moved to approve the value of a set meal for pupils and staff and the free meals equivalent values be set at £1.29 with effect from Monday 24 April 2000.

Councillor MacLean, seconded by Councillor W Coffey moved against the increase and that savings be found elsewhere.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 4.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS (Item 14, Page 3826)

11.1 Declaration of Interest

Councillor W Coffey declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application submitted by Scottish Council for Education & Technology.

11.2 Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 1 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of proposals for awards in respect of Education Voluntary Sector Grants for the year 2000/2001.

A revised version of page nine of the report was tabled as a result of the request for grant assistance from the organisation Childcare Support Grants North being omitted from the original report.

The Committee made the following decisions:-

- (i) Applications Approved

NAME OF ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
National Youth Orchestra	£100
Scottish Council for Education & Technology	£100
Caledonian Award	£300
Bellfield Out-of-School Care	£1,300
Childcare Support - South	£3,100

East Ayrshire Federation of Community Associations	£750
Avonlea Youth Centre	£4,153
Onthank Out-of-School Care	£17,000
Childline Scotland Bullying Helpline	£300
WEA Scotland	£1,000
Youthlink Scotland	£1,000
Link Education and Disability (LEAD) Scotland	£200
Before and After School Care, Shortlees (BASICS)	£27,000
Scottish Council for Research and Education	£400
Outdoors Opportunities	£1,300
Community Learning Scotland	£500
Youth Link Ayrshire	£100
Glasgow Gaelic Drama Association	£100
Scottish Opera for All	£100
Childcare Support Grant (North)	£2,500

- (ii) that no grant awards be made in respect of the following applications:-

Name of Organisation

Sounds of Progress

West of Scotland Playscheme Advisory Forum;

Ethnic Minorities Law Centre;

Hopscotch Theatre Company;

Centre for Studies in Inclusive Education;

West of Scotland SEN Sports Association;

Scottish Childminding Association; and

Scottish Youth Theatre.

- (iii) that the Director of Education report future progress on out-of-school care projects; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

RESERVATION OF PLACES AT STEWARTON ACADEMY - AMENDMENTS TO PLACING REQUEST LEGISLATION (Item 12, Page 91, 99/02)

12. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding the reservation of places at Stewarton Academy in 2000/2001.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the implications of amendments to placing request legislation in respect of reserved places;

- (ii) that, in respect of Stewarton Academy, eight places be reserved for S1 for the academic year 2000/2001 in order to accommodate pupils coming into the catchment area for that school; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education monitor and review the situation regarding the reservation of places under the amended legislation.

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION SERVICE (Item 12, Page 1676, 96/99)

13. There was submitted a report dated 29 February 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval for a Strategic Plan for the Education Department for 2000-2003.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Strategic Plan for the Education Department 2000-2003; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE: THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES

14. There was submitted a report dated 18 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the award of funding under the Excellence Fund - Centres of Excellence to a consortium of Local Authorities with the purpose of raising attainment and increasing the numbers following courses in modern languages at the post-16 stage in secondary schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the opportunity which now existed for the Authority to be involved in the development of a Centre of Excellence for foreign languages teaching;
- (ii) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Education Committee on the progress of the Project; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

THE EXCELLENCE FUND FOR SCHOOLS: YEAR 2 (Item 11.1, Page 4168, 96/99)

15. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the most recent developments in the Excellence Fund Core Programmes and which sought approval for an implementation framework for Year 2.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the report as a basis for the use of the Excellence Fund in Year 2; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

A NEW STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT (Item 4, Page 881, 96/99)

16. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the results of a consultation exercise on the possible revision of the Education Department Statement of Commitment.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the new Statement of Commitment:
"East Ayrshire Council, Department of Education: Developing Excellence in Education and improving opportunities for all through Quality, Equality, Access and Partnership"; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

REGULATING CARE AND THE SOCIAL SERVICES WORKFORCE - CONSULTATION PAPER

- 17.** There was submitted a joint report dated 9 March 2000 (circulated) by the Directors of Social Work and of Education which sought approval of the draft comments on the consultation paper published by the Scottish Executive entitled "Regulating Care and the Social Services Workforce".

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education take account of any views expressed by Elected Members in relation to the draft comments made to the Scottish Executive in respect of the document "Regulating Care and the Social Services Workforce"; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EARLY YEARS EXPANSION PROGRAMME

- 18.** There was submitted a report dated 6 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the proposed plan to expand the provision of pre-school education in East Ayrshire to create places for children in the ante pre-school year (3 year olds) and which sought approval for the establishment of three pilot projects for wrap-a-round care in Local Authority establishments.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the expansion of pre-school education in those areas identified at paragraph 3.2 of the report;
- (ii) that the pilot projects for wrap-a-round care in Drongan Nursery, Muirkirk Nursery and Shortlees Nursery be approved;
- (iii) that the charging policy for wrap-a-round care and the charge of £2 per hour for wrap-a-round care for the year 2000/2001 be approved;
- (iv) that the Director of Education monitor the three pilot projects between April and December 2000;
- (v) that the Director of Education report on the finding of the three pilot projects in January 2001; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

19.1 FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR NURSERY AGED CHILDREN IN DAME HELEN'S NURSERY SCHOOL, DALMELLINGTON

There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding Dame Helen's Nursery School, Dalmellington.

It was agreed to adopt the proposal:-

- (i) to redesignate Dame Helen's Nursery School as a Nursery Class located within Dalmellington Primary School;
- (ii) that the report be issued as a consultative document and made available to all interested parties including School Boards;
- (iii) that all interested parties be asked to make written representation on the proposals to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU no later than Friday 14 April 2000; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education report the results of the consultation exercise to a future meeting of the Education Committee.

19.2 FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR NURSERY AGED CHILDREN IN MUIRKIRK NURSERY SCHOOL, MUIRKIRK

There was submitted a report dated 19 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding Muirkirk Nursery School.

It was agreed to adopt the proposal:-

- (i) to redesignate Muirkirk Nursery School as a Nursery Class attached to Muirkirk Primary School;
- (ii) that the report be issued as a consultative document and made available to all interested parties including School Boards;
- (iii) that all interested parties be asked to make written representation on the proposals to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU no later than Friday 14 April 2000; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education report the results of the consultation exercise to a future meeting of the Education Committee.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 20.** 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.

SITE SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN

- 21.** There was submitted a report dated 29 February 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which requested approval of the Site Services Business Plan for 2000/2001.

It was agreed to approve the Business Plan detailed in the report for 2000/2001 for on-site services now established as a Business Unit within the Department of Education.

**SITE SERVICES BUSINESS UNIT - IMPLEMENTATION OF REPLACEMENT
CLEANING EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME (Item 16, Page 650)**

22. There was submitted a report dated 9 March 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the implementation of the Replacement Cleaning Equipment Programme as established and approved at the Special Ad Hoc Commercial Strategy Review Committee on 31 August 1998.

It was agreed to note the implementation of the replacement plan in line with the Site Services Business Plan.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT SITE SERVICES UNIT TO 14
JANUARY 2000 (PERIOD 10)**

23. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 29 February 2000 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Education on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the Site Services Unit to 14 January 2000 (Period 10).

CHAIR'S REMARKS

(i) Mount Carmel Primary School

Congratulations were extended to Charlene Gray, a pupil at Mount Carmel Primary School who was awarded a Child of Achievement Award at the national presentations in London. She has shown considerable determination and personal courage to deal with the effects of her illness. She greatly deserved her national award.

(ii) Auchinleck Primary School

It was noted that the new building had been completed and would be open for business on 27 March 2000. The building provides a rich educational environment fit for the 21st century. The new school building is up-to-date in ICT provision and is, environmentally, up to modern standards.

The Director of Education would be issuing an invitation to all Members to visit the School.

(iii) Appointment of Head Teacher, Littlemill Primary School

Congratulations were extended to Linda Walker who had been recently appointed as Head Teacher of Littlemill Primary School. Linda is presently Depute Head Teacher at Shortlees Primary School.

(iv) Kilmarnock Academy

It was noted that Kilmarnock Academy this week had been awarded £34,961 from the New Opportunities Fund to introduce breakfast and after school provision.

(v) First Muirkirk Music Festival

The first Muirkirk Music Festival proved a great success last Friday. Twelve schools, 580 pupils and 150 adults had taken part from across East Ayrshire and participated in the day event which featured music, singing, dance and recitations. Thanks were

extended to staff and pupils along with representatives of the community who had a role in the successful event.

(vi) The Millennium Dome

It was noted that the recent visit to the Dome had been an outstanding success. 87 young students were involved from all secondary schools in East Ayrshire. They were accompanied by 12 members of staff. Their three performances on Saturday 4 March 2000 were quite outstanding. On all three occasions, they played to a full house (550-600 people) and members of the public were coming to congratulate the authority on their performance of the specially composed work 'A String O Blethers' by Goff Richard. In addition, the pupil's art work was on display and was greatly appreciated.

The meeting terminated at 1054 hours.