

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER 1999 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

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

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Blake and Graham Short, Depute Directors of Education; Euan Couperwhite, Financial Services Manager; Frank Green, Principal Officer (Budgets); Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer, Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer (Education).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Willie Coffey, Alan Campbell and Eric Jackson.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

(i) National Training Award - Public/Private Sector Partnership

The Chair reported that a public/private sector partnership involving the Education Department had won a prestigious National Training Award. The award, presented to Rathbone CI recognised the high quality of training being provided for young people who were experiencing difficulties at school. The new and innovative project called "Choices" had proved highly successful in offering vocational training and work-related experiences for young people. East Ayrshire had been the only authority in Scotland to gain an award at the National Award ceremony.

(ii) Enterprise Education - Conference

It was noted that a successful major conference on enterprise education attended by 130 representatives from education, business in East Ayrshire and beyond had been held in Rugby Park recently. It was also noted that pupils involved in the enterprise project from Muirkirk Primary School had been invited to make a presentation to a national conference for business representation to be held on 4 December 1999 in Gleneagles. Congratulations were offered to these young entrepreneurs.

(iii) Open Day - Fenwick Primary School

The Chair and Vice-Chair were pleased to attend an open day at Fenwick Primary School on 24 November 1999 to mark the school's 25th anniversary. To commemorate this event, the school had been presented with a trophy, to be awarded, on an annual basis, to a pupil to recognise appropriately their contribution of working in and supporting development in the local community.

(iv) Onthank Primary School - Gaelic Class

The Chair advised that Onthank Primary School's Gaelic Class would participate in a parental video on Gaelic medium education. The Chair was pleased that the Gaelic education being provided in Onthank Primary School was being recognised in this very positive way.

(v) Shortlees Nursery School

Congratulations were extended to Shortlees Nursery School which had been chosen through Asda's Millennium project to be the beneficiary of 10 workers for a day and £250 for plants to develop a garden in the nursery's outdoor play area. This project was being taken in partnership with the East Ayrshire Woodlands Project.

(vi) Grange Academy - School Boards Forum

The Chair advised that an encouraging number of parent representatives from school boards had gathered together recently in Grange Academy for a meeting of the School Boards Forum.

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - MINUTES

2. There was submitted and approved as a correct record and in respect of any recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the Education Sub-Committee of 11 November 1999 (circulated) as detailed in the Appendix to these Minutes.

TEACHER REPRESENTATION ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

3. There was submitted a joint report dated 15 November 1999 (circulated) by the Directors of Corporate Services and of Education which advised of the election of a representative from Teachers within East Ayrshire to sit as a member of the Education Committee.

It was agreed to note the outcome of the election process and that the Committee had welcomed Iain Harvey as a member of the Committee.

CHURCH - DENOMINATIONAL REPRESENTATION ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Item 2, Page 87, 99/02)

4. There was submitted a joint report dated 22 November 1999 (circulated) by the Directors of Education and of Corporate Services which advised the Committee of the current position regarding the proposed appointment of a third Church/denominational representative to serve on the Education Committee.

It was agreed that it be remitted to the Directors of Education and of Corporate Services to obtain further information from both nominees in order that the Education Committee may make an informed choice in the selection of the third Church Representative to serve on the Education Committee and report back.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT EDUCATION TO 24 SEPTEMBER 1999 (PERIOD 6)

5. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 8 November 1999 (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 24 September 1999 (Period 6).

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT COMMUNITY EDUCATION STEWARDS - TRADING SERVICES TO 24 SEPTEMBER 1999 (PERIOD 6)

6. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 11 November 1999 (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 Community Education Stewards - Trading Services for the period ended 24 September 1999 (Period 6).

John Paterson joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CATCHMENT AREA OF ANNANHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL AND CROSSHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION (Item 10.2, Page 394, 99/02)

7. There was submitted a report dated 22 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the results of the consultation on the proposed amendments to the catchment area of Annanhill Primary School and Crosshouse Primary School.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposal to amend the catchment areas of Annanhill Primary School and Crosshouse Primary School should not proceed; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education monitor the situation and report back to the Education Committee should the rolls of the schools in the area give cause for concern.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SECONDARY TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN RESIDING IN THE DELINEATED AREA OF KILMAURS PRIMARY SCHOOL: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION (Item 10.1, Page 393, 99/02)

8. There was submitted a report dated 22 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the results of the consultation on the proposed amendments to the secondary transfer arrangements for children residing in the delineated area of Kilmaurs Primary School.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposal to amend the secondary transfer arrangements for children living in the delineated area of Kilmaurs Primary School should not proceed at present;
- (ii) that a small monitoring and review group be established by the Director of Education to monitor the future roll projection and related accommodation issues at Stewarton Academy;
- (iii) that the monitoring group provide progress reports for the Director of Education and Chair and Vice-Chair of the Education Committee; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education report to the Education Committee as required on the future roll of Stewarton Academy and related accommodation issues.

DRUGS EDUCATION - FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

9. There was submitted a report dated 11 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the policy developments related to drugs education in East Ayrshire Schools and of strategies designed to move from policy to practice to support young people in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the policy and strategies for drugs education outlined in the report and that appropriate arrangements be made to publicise the strategies detailed;
- (ii) that the Director of Education monitor the impact of the strategies which were being developed to support young people;
- (iii) that the Director of Education submit a report on progress in due course;
- (iv) that the Director of Education make arrangements for further information on this initiative to be issued to Members of the Committee; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

STAFFING STRUCTURE FOR NURSERY SCHOOLS

10. There was submitted a report dated 9 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the proposed staffing structure for Nursery Schools and which sought approval for its implementation.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the revised staffing structure for Nursery Schools detailed in paragraph 4 of the report be approved and the specific arrangements in respect of teaching posts;
- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the report to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee in respect of the staffing aspects within its remit; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXPANSION OF EARLY YEARS SERVICES

11. There was submitted a report dated 9 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the proposed expansion of Bellsbank Family Centre and the development of Outreach Crèche provision at Hillbank Nursery and Family Centre and which sought approval for the implementation of these developments.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the expansion of Bellsbank Family Centre and Hillbank Family Centre be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the report to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee in respect of the staffing aspects within its remit; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 1998/99 AND PART YEAR 1999/2000

12. There was submitted a report dated 16 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education on absence rates for employees in the Education Department in financial year 1998/99 and in the quarters to date in 1999/2000.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the absence rates contained in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 1998/99

13. There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results for the Statutory Performance Indicators which related to the Department of Education for 1998/99.

EAST AYRSHIRE'S 'DAY IN THE DOME'

14. There was submitted a report dated 11 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education on participation in the McDonald's Our Town Story Initiative and the presentation in the Millennium Dome, Greenwich on Saturday 4 March 2000.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that those pupils participating in the visit to the Millennium Dome be invited to an appropriate meeting of the Education Committee to report on their experiences.
- (ii) to note this innovative Millennium Project involving pupils from across East Ayrshire; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education report on future developments.

REFOCUS OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE - UPDATE

15. There was submitted a report dated 16 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of the consultation with Trades Unions with regard to the implementation of the refocus of the Community Education Service in East Ayrshire and which sought approval to implement the restructuring of the Service by December 1999.

Councillor Macrae left the meeting at this point.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the monitoring and evaluation exercise for Community Education employees be undertaken and a report submitted to the Director of Education in March 2000;
- (ii) that the implementation of the restructuring and refocusing of the Community Education Service be progressed and implemented by December 1999; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**EAST AYRSHIRE FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

16. There was submitted a report dated 8 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the proposed partnership agreement between East Ayrshire Council Education Department and East Ayrshire Federation of Community Associations.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to adopt the partnership agreement;
- (ii) that the Director of Education develop individual community contracts with local community associations;
- (iii) to note the developing work of the Federation and commend their work; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

17. There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Corporate Services on details of a tender which had been awarded in respect of the Education Service, viz:-

CONTRACT	SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
Replacement of Boiler Plant, Lainshaw Primary School, Kilwinning Road, Stewarton	East Ayrshire Council	£85,863.56

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

18. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Scheduled 7A of the Act.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - SITE SERVICES UNIT TO 24
SEPTEMBER 1999 (PERIOD 6)**

19. Councillor Macrae re-joined the meeting at this point.

There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 11 November 1999 (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 Site Services Unit for the period ended 24 September 1999 (Period 6).

The meeting terminated at 1110 hours.