

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2000 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Brian McNeil, Stephanie Young, Robert Stevenson, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, David Macrae, Alex Walsh, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Julie Faulds, Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie; Church Representatives, John Paterson and John McHugh and Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey and Parent Representative, Alisdair McQueen.

**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; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Euan Couperwhite, Financial Services Manager; Bill Cochrane, Senior Accountant; Frank Green, Principal Officer (Budgets); Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; John Wilson, Links Officer in the Arts and Education; Kenneth McKinlay, Principal Quality Development Officer and Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Brian Reeves, Willie Coffey, Iain Linton, Alan Campbell and Provost Jimmy Boyd.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS****(i) Death of Duncan Bicket, Head Teacher, Lainshaw Primary School**

The Chair reported with very great sadness of the sudden and premature death of Duncan Bicket, Head Teacher at Lainshaw Primary School. Duncan had only a short period of time - 18 months - in which to lead the educational community in Lainshaw. He did that most effectively. Those in the school, in the immediate community and beyond, had commented on many occasions on the progress being made within the school under Duncan's leadership. Parents spoke in positive terms of his skills as a Head Teacher.

His leadership had always been fair, determined and sprinkled with a good sense of humour.

The large number of people who attended his funeral last weekend was public testimony to the high esteem in which Duncan had been held. We have lost a fine colleague and an excellent Head Teacher.

**(ii) Appointment of Head Teachers**

The Chair reported that Elizabeth Harvey had been appointed as Head Teacher at Newmilns Primary School and that Linda McPhee had been appointed as Head Teacher at Woodstock School.

Congratulations and best wishes were offered on their appointments.

**(iii) Award from Humane Society**

The Chair reported that Danny Harkins, a Primary 6 pupil at Catrine Primary School had recently received an award from the Humane Society for saving a boy from drowning.

**(iv) Art Exhibition - Dick Institute**

The Chair invited members of the Committee to attend the opening of an Art Exhibition of the works of pupils in East Ayrshire schools on Friday 4 February 2000 at 1800 hours in the Dick Institute. These exhibits would be going as the authority's representation to the Dome early in March. Members were encouraged to visit the Dick Institute to see for themselves the range of talents held by our young people.

**(v) Grange Academy**

Congratulations were extended to Grange Academy, the winners of the Andrew Nisbet Speech Making Competition held recently in the Dower House. Auchinleck Academy were runners-up.

**(vi) Curlings Cool Festival**

It was noted on the morning of 15 December 1999, that around 300 primary 7 pupils from East Ayrshire Schools took part in Scotland's first ever Curlings Cool Festival at the Galleon. It was hoped to extend the coaching sessions to more primary schools.

**(vii) American Football**

It was noted that ten East Ayrshire teachers were now qualified to coach American Football. It was hoped that a mini-league will be set up in the near future.

**(viii) Cumnock Academy**

It was reported that pupils and parents from Cumnock Academy had attended a video launch at the University of Strathclyde in the middle of January which celebrated the success of the 1999 Summer Academy graduates.

**(ix) East Ayrshire Band and Choir**

The Chair advised that an invitation would be received by members to the concerts given by the East Ayrshire Band and Choir on 24 and 25 February 2000. It was anticipated Members would turn out in large numbers to support the young pupils who would be playing the world premier of a piece of music specially composed for them.

**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 20 January 2000 (circulated) as detailed in the Appendix to these Minutes.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT EDUCATION TO 17  
DECEMBER 1999 (PERIOD 9)**

3. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 17 January 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 17 December 1999 (Period 9).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT COMMUNITY EDUCATION  
STEWARDS - TRADING SERVICES TO 17 DECEMBER 1999 (PERIOD 9)**

4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 17 January 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 17 December 1999 (Period 9).

**AWARDING OF CONTRACTS**

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 24 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Corporate Services which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted in relation to the Education Service:-

<b>CONTRACT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Electrical Re-wire to Dunlop Primary School, Dunlop	£50,248.94
James Hamilton Academy, Kilmarnock - Installation of Gas Isolation Valve	£28,325.91

**PARENT REPRESENTATION ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Item 2, Page  
87, 99/02)**

6. It was reported that following the Education Committee's approval on 3 June 1999 to appoint a Parent Representative to serve on the Education Committee, arrangements had been made to write to all Chairs of School Boards within East Ayrshire requesting the submission of nominations by the deadline of 12 Noon on 24 December 1999, by which time one nomination had been received on behalf of Alisdair McQueen, Vice-Chair of Crosshouse Primary School Board to serve as Parent Representative.

It was agreed that Alisdair McQueen, Vice-Chair of Crosshouse Primary School Board be appointed to serve as the Parent Representative on the Education Committee.

The Chair then welcomed Alisdair McQueen as the Parent Representative and invited him to participate as a member of the Committee.

**CHURCH/DENOMINATIONAL REPRESENTATION ON THE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE (Item 4, Page 517, 99/02)**

7. There was submitted a joint report dated 27 January 2000 (circulated) by the Directors of Education and of Corporate Services which advised the Education Committee of the receipt of supporting information from the nominees for the vacancy for the third Church Representative on the Education Committee, namely Mr Hugh Stirling, The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints and Rev Matthew Sullivan, Cumnock Congregational Church.

Councillor Smith seconded by Councillor Ross moved that Rev Matthew Sullivan be appointed to serve as the third Church/Denominational Representative on the Education Committee.

Councillor Weir seconded by Councillor Young moved as an amendment that Hugh Stirling be appointed to serve as the third Church/Denominational Representative on the Education Committee.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 5.

### **THE CHILDREN ACT 1989 - REGISTRATION OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE WORKING FAMILY TAX CREDIT**

8. There was submitted a report dated 19 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the conflicting position of the Inland Revenue and registering authority regarding the need for normal exempt persons having to become registered as childminders to enable access to the new Working Families Tax Credit.

It was agreed that consideration of this item be continued to a future meeting of the Education Committee.

### **ANTI-DRUGS INITIATIVE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS (Item 9, Page 519)**

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 14 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of an anti-drugs initiative in Primary Schools within East Ayrshire.

### **EXPANSION OF SUMMER ACADEMY AT STRATHCLYDE AND GREATER OPPORTUNITY OF ACCESS AND LEARNING WITH SCHOOLS**

10. There was submitted a report dated 18 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the new opportunity for students in Primary and Secondary Schools in East Ayrshire to access experience in higher and further education.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education be authorised to participate fully in the Greater Opportunity of Access and Learning within Schools (GOALS) programme;
- (ii) that a report be submitted by the Director of Education in due course regarding pupil involvement in the programme; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **PROPOSED SCHOOL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2001/2002**

11. There was submitted a report dated 13 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval to consult with Educational Establishments, School Boards, the Chamber of Commerce and the JCC on the proposals for school holidays during the session 2001/2002.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposals contained in the report be issued for consultation;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a report outlining the results of the consultation process; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**"CELEBRATE 2000"**

12. There was submitted a report dated 20 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of events, projects and initiatives organised by the Education Department as part of "Celebrate 2000".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the events, projects and initiatives already organised as part of "Celebrate 2000"; and
- (ii) that the Education Committee be kept informed of future developments.

**STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT (Item 6, Page 392, 99/02)**

13. There was submitted a report dated 17 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the latest development in the management of quality within the Education Department and which sought approval for the publication of a standards and quality report.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the publication of a standards and quality report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**STANDARDS IN SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS ETC BILL (Item 6, Page 392)**

14. There was submitted a report dated 26 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the publication of a new Education Bill scheduled for enactment by Summer 2000.

It was reported and noted that paragraph 3.1, lines 3 and 4 of the report 'performance resources' and 'numerical resources' should read 'performance measures' and 'numerical measures'.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education submit a further report describing the terms of the Act that would result from the Standards in Scotland's School Etc Bill;
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

15. 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 Schedule 7A of the Act.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT SITE SERVICES UNIT TO 17 DECEMBER 1999 (PERIOD 9)**

16. It was reported and noted that at paragraph 2.5 of the report 'deficit' should read 'surplus'.

There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 17 January 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 Site Services Unit for the period ended 17 December 1999 (Period 9).

The meeting terminated at 1108 hours.