

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 1997 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling, Councillors John Knapp, David Fulton, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Eric Ross, David Sneller, George Smith, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson and Church Representatives, John McHugh, William McConnell and Matthew Sullivan; Parent Representative, Shelagh McKerrall and Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education; Jennifer Wallace, Depute Director of Education; Tom Williams, Principal Psychologist; Graham Short, Head of Quality Development; Ian Arnott, Chief Accountant; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Frank Green, Principal Budget Officer; Janie Allen, Principal Officer (Pre-5 Services); Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer and Lesley Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Douglas Reid, Daniel Coffey and Jimmy Carmichael.

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. In welcoming members to the first meeting of the Education Committee for 1997, the Chair highlighted a number of points of good news for the information of Committee members which had emerged in recent weeks, viz:-

- (i) **New Year's Honours List**

The award of an MBE had been made to Jean Stevenson from Grange Academy whose skills and dedication were well known to those who had worked with her and had benefited from her care and attention over the years. The Chair stated that he had been particularly pleased that the commitment that Mrs Stevenson had made to her work as Special Needs Auxiliary had been marked in this way.

- (ii) **Debating Championships**

Two pupils from Grange Academy (Kirsteen MacLeod and Jocelyn Nelson) had debated their way into the final of the World Schools Debating Championships which were due to be held in Bermuda in February. The Committee wished them every success in this prestigious event.

(iii) **Local Government Quality Awards (Item 9, Page 1365)**

The Chair advised that Hillside School, Cumnock had made its way through to the final of the Scottish Local Government Quality Awards. The final heat of the competition had been held on 15 January 1997 and, it was noted that the result would be announced on 27 February 1997 at the Awards Ceremony. The Committee wished the school every success.

(iv) **Appointment of Head Teacher - Auchinleck Academy**

Colin McLean, previously Depute Head Teacher at Auchinleck Academy, had been appointed Head Teacher at Auchinleck Academy and had now taken up his responsibilities. The Committee wished Mr McLean well in this appointment.

(v) **National Music Making**

It was noted that the Concert Band at Stewarton Academy had won its way through to the National Finals of the Boosey and Hawkes Music Competition due to be held in the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester on the weekend of 22 and 23 March 1997. The band had won the gold medal on six consecutive occasions. The Committee wished the pupils well.

(vi) **European Equality Awards**

It was noted that St Conval's High, Cumnock had been runners-up in the recent European Commission Equality Awards. They had been recognised for promoting equal opportunities in Education with their "Talking Newspaper".

### **MINUTES OF COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

2. There were submitted and approved as a correct record and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the Community Sub-Committee of the Education Committee of 17 December 1996 (circulated) as detailed in the Appendix to these Minutes.

### **BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE PERIOD TO 6 DECEMBER 1996 (PERIOD 9)**

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the current budgetary control position of the Education Department for the period ended 6 December 1996 (Period 9).

### **AWARDING OF TENDER - EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 December 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which provided details of a tender which had been awarded in respect of the Education Department, viz:-

<b><u>Contract</u></b>	<b><u>Successful Contractor</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Heating Improvement Works, Kirkstyle Primary School, Kilmarnock	East Ayrshire Council Commercial Operations	£79,309.14

#### **DRUGS EDUCATION INITIATIVE - DOON ACADEMY**

5. There was submitted a report dated 24 December 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a successful bid to the Scotland Against Drugs Campaign by Doon Academy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the initiative being pursued by staff and pupils at Doon Academy be noted;
- (ii) that the successful application which had been made to the Scotland Against Drugs Campaign be noted; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education submit information on any further developments to the Education Committee.

#### **YOUTH CONFERENCE IN EAST AYRSHIRE**

6. There was submitted a report dated 24 December 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of proposals to hold a Youth Conference within East Ayrshire and which sought support for the initiative.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the development of an East Ayrshire Youth Conference scheduled for April 1997 be approved;
- (ii) that the progress which had been made in respect of the Young Quality Scot Initiative and the development of local youth forums be noted; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education monitor progress and report to a future meeting of the Committee

#### **PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION INITIATIVE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION**

7. There was submitted a report dated 24 December 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the proposal by the Government to implement the Pre-School Education Initiative nationwide.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education proceed on the points for early action required by local authorities, viz:-
  - (a) the provision of a list of East Ayrshire Council nursery schools and classes;
  - (b) the completion of a profile of education provision for family centres;

- (c) the maintenance of inspection of establishments registered under the Children Act 1989 and the provision to such centres of the latest copy of the inspection report;
  - (d) the nomination of one particular contact officer for pre-school initiative issues.
- (ii) that the Director of Education closely monitor the development of preparations for the implementation of the Pre-School Voucher Scheme and report progress to a future meeting of the Education Committee; and
  - (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

It was also noted that the Director of Education would be arranging a seminar for members of the Committee regarding the implementation of the Pre-School Voucher Scheme in East Ayrshire Council when details of the proposed scheme became available from the Scottish Office.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO PLACING REQUEST LEGISLATION (Item 2, Page 1376)**

8. There was submitted a report dated 6 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of schools affected by amendments to the placing request legislation and which sought to quantify the number of schools and places involved.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the implications of the amendment to Section 28A of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 regarding placing requests legislation be noted;
- (ii) that the proposed review of the numbers of places be brought to the Education Committee each year for its consideration;
- (iii) that, in respect of Stewarton Academy, 10 places be reserved for academic year 1997/98 in order to accommodate pupils who may move into the catchment area for that school; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education monitor and review the situation regarding the reservation of places under the amended legislation.

#### **TACKLING UNDERACHIEVEMENT IN THE EDUCATION SERVICE**

9. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of initiatives being undertaken within the remit of the psychological service to help in the identification of underachievement amongst young people in East Ayrshire and the strategies which were being implemented to help tackle the problem.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education provide regular updates to the Education Committee on the progress of the initiatives outlined in the report;
- (ii) that the report be submitted to the Scottish Office as East Ayrshire Council's bid for Challenge Fund monies to target this issue; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES - CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - DALRYMPLE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

10. There was submitted a report dated 10 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which provided details of a consultative document which outlined a proposed amendment to transfer Dalrymple Primary School pupils to Doon Academy, Dalmellington, for secondary education.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Taylor moved:-

- (i) to adopt the proposal that
  - (a) pupils from Dalrymple Primary School be associated with Doon Academy, Dalmellington on transfer to secondary school. This proposal to be effective for new admissions for the school session 1997/98, beginning with the present P7 pupils and continuing thereafter with each P7 class;
  - (b) pupils from Dalrymple Primary School already in attendance at Carrick Academy should be able to continue to attend Carrick Academy with the continued provision of transport to the school;
  - (c) pupils from Dalrymple Primary School already in attendance at Carrick Academy should be given the opportunity to attend Doon Academy provided places were available and at the appropriate stage with transport being provided in line with the Council's policy.
- (ii) that the report be issued as a consultative document and made available to interested parties;
- (iii) that all interested parties, including the relevant School Board(s) be asked to make written representation to the Director of Education, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU, no later than 27 February 1997; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee; and
- (v) that, in relation to the table at paragraph 3 of the report, an additional column be incorporated within the table which would illustrate the effect of the proposed amendment to the arrangements for transfer of children from Dalrymple Primary School who were due to transfer to Doon Academy.

Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor McCredie moved as an amendment that the consultation process be delayed to enable further discussion to take place between East and South Ayrshire Councils.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 15 votes to 3.

**"EXAMINATION RESULTS IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS 1994-96"**

11. There was submitted a report dated 9 December 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the contents of the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (SOEID) report "Examination Results in Scottish Schools 1994-96" which was published in November 1996.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support the provision of high quality information to parents and the community and the use of more sophisticated methods of data analysis in support of tackling underachievement; and
- (ii) to record the Education Committee's opposition to the publication of data in forms which could give rise to misleading comparisons being made between schools.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT 1997-2000**

12. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the contents of the Department of Education's draft Strategic Plan and which sought support for its implementation.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the content of the Director of Education's strategic plan for the Education Service be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Education arrange informal discussions with the staff representatives of the Teachers JCC on the content and layout of the document;
- (iii) that the Director of Education make arrangements to disseminate and implement the plan; and
- (iv) that progress reports regarding the implementation of the plan be submitted to the Education Committee.

The meeting terminated at 1130 hours.