

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 1998 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, Daniel Coffey, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, Eric Ross, David Sneller, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson; Church Representatives, John McHugh, William McConnell and Matthew Sullivan; Teacher Representatives, Iain Harvey and Parent Representative, Shelagh McKerrell.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Graham Short, Depute Director of Education; Mary Docherty, Quality Development Officer; Anne Ross, Quality Development Officer; Ian Arnott, Chief Accountant; Ken Hathaway, Principal Client Services; John McHarg, Maintenance Manager; David Mitchell, Acting Head of Legal Services; Frank Green, Principal Officer (Budgets); Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer and Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Douglas Reid and David Fulton.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. In welcoming Members to the first meeting of the year of the Education Committee, the Chair highlighted a number of recent events in the Education Service for the information of Committee members:-

(i) Gaelic Medium Class, Onthank Primary School

It was noted that on Wednesday 21 January 1998, Brian Wilson MP would officially open the Gaelic Medium Class in Onthank Primary School. The Chair expressed his delight that the Minister would be present at the opening of the first Gaelic medium class in Ayrshire, and which was seen as an important event to which the Minister had given priority in his very busy schedule.

(ii) Community Education Service – Presentation

The Chair advised that following the Education Committee a presentation on the Community Education Service would be held to seek the views of Elected Members on the Service. He advised that the Service was currently under review and the main aim of the review would be to build on the strength of the Service and identify opportunities for improvement.

(iii) Woodstock School, Head Teacher

The Chair advised that Norah Craig, Head Teacher of Woodstock School was delighted to visit London before Christmas to pick a new mini-bus for Woodstock

School from the Variety Club of Great Britain. It was noted that the school contributed £6,500 to the bus and that this money had been donated by various local organisations and individuals.

(iv) Stewarton Academy

It was reported that a team of four boys from Stewarton Academy had come top of a portfolio investment game run by the Scotsman and Merrill Lynch, the Global Investment Bank. It was noted that this challenge required the pupils to speculate in the European markets.

(v) “We Are All Equal” Calendar Competition

The Chair stated that he was pleased to present prizes recently to the winners of the “We are all Equal” Calendar Competition. Also, the winning entries which related to multi-racial and multi-cultural images had been included in the West of Scotland Community Relations Calendar for 1998 which had been produced as part of the 1997 European Year Against Racism. It was noted that there would be appropriate representation at the presentation on 30 January 1998 in Glasgow City Chambers.

(vi) East Ayrshire Schools Band and Choir

It was noted that the first performances of East Ayrshire Schools Band and Choir would be held on Thursday 26 February 1998 within Cumnock Academy and Friday 27 February 1998 within the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock. The Chair stated that he was sure that these performances would follow the same high standard as similar events which had been held in the past.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

2. There was submitted and approved both as a correct record and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as detailed in Appendices I to III of these Minutes.

2.1 CHAIR’S SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 12 DECEMBER 1997 (Appendix I)

2.1.1 Galston Primary/Galston Nursery Schools

Arising from consideration of the above Minutes it was reported and noted that a public meeting would be held in Loudoun Academy on 20 January 1998 regarding the formal consultation on the relocation and replacement of Galston Primary School incorporating Galston Nursery School.

2.2 COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 16 DECEMBER 1997 (Appendix II)

2.2.1 Review of Provision in Special Educational Needs

Arising from consideration of the above Minutes, it was noted that the Director of Education would ensure there would be full consultation with the Teachers Trade Unions following the establishment of the Member/Officer Working Group to review the provision in Special Educational Needs.

2.3 BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 18 DECEMBER 1997 (Appendix III)

2.3.1 Free School Meals and Footwear and Clothing Grants 1997/98

Arising from consideration of the above Minutes, it was agreed that the issues outlined in the ADLO document as intimated by Councillor Nicoll regarding the deal for lone parents would be taken on board during the monitoring of the uptake of free school meals and footwear and clothing grants.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT (PERIOD 8)

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 10 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance for the period ended 7 November 1997 (Period 8).

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councillor McCredie, seconded by Councillor Nicoll moved that items 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4 and 16.5 be considered as the next item of business of the Agenda.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Taylor moved as an amendment that the business proceed in the order as specified on the Agenda.

On a division by a show of hands, the amendment was carried by 12 votes to 6.

AWARDING OF TENDERS

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which advised of a tender which had been awarded in respect of the Education Department, viz:-

CONTRACT	SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
CCTV Installation at James Hamilton Academy and St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock	Modern Security Systems Ltd, Glasgow	£79,239.09

COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE: COMMUNITY WORK TEAM – EDUCATIONAL RESPONSE TO UNEMPLOYMENT

5. There was submitted a report dated 22 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a response by the Department of Education to the major social issue of unemployment under East Ayrshire Council's strategic approach to regeneration and which coincided with Central Government's legislative changes within Welfare to Work and the New Deal.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to acknowledge and support the strategic approach to the major social issue of unemployment as outlined in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**CLOSE TO THE MARK: THE SCOTTISH INITIATIVE ON ATTENDANCE,
ABSENCE AND ATTAINMENT**

6. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the contents of a recent report entitled "Close to the Mark" which had been issued by the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (SOEID) and which sought approval for the implementation of some of the report's main findings.

Members were advised that a summary of the recent report entitled "Close to the Mark" which had been issued by the SOEID was available to Members who wished a copy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the use of the SOEID document "Close to the Mark" as a means of supporting schools and improving attendance rates be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Education write to the Scottish Office commending the model used in the document "Close to the Mark" which had combined an issue of strategic importance with practical school-based, real examples; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ANTI-BULLYING STRATEGY

7. There was submitted a report dated 15 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the position with regard to the Department of Education's Anti-Bullying Strategy and which sought approval for future developments.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the measures outlined in paragraph 4.1-4.4 of the report be approved as part of the Education Department's Anti-Bullying Strategy;
- (ii) that the Director of Education advise all Head Teachers that the points detailed at Section 3.2 of the report be included in School Anti-Bullying Policies; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

INTERNATIONAL LINKS: STATUS REPORT (Item 2, Page 2772)

8. There was submitted a report dated 17 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the current status on international links within East Ayrshire Schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the submission of the report to the next meeting of the Civic Ceremonial Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee be approved;
- (ii) that the Education Department's commitment to co-operate with the Civic Ceremonial Sub-Committee's initiatives in relation to Town Twinning arrangements be affirmed; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE OF SCHOOL PUPILS 1994/95 TO 1996/97

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 15 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the main content of the Scottish Office Education and Industry (SOEID) report entitled "Attendance and Absence in Scottish Schools 1994/95 to 1996/97".

EATING FOR HEALTH – A DIET ACTION PLAN FOR SCOTLAND: HEALTHY EATING POLICY – AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ACTION PLAN

10. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval of the Department of Education's policy on healthy eating produced as a result of the Council's response to the Diet Action Plan for Scotland.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Action Plan detailed at Appendix I of the report be approved as the response by East Ayrshire Council to the Diet Action Plan for Scotland subject to incorporating a reference to the provision of a breakfast service in establishments in the Plan;
- (ii) that the Director of Education circulate the Action Plan to Heads of Establishments; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

It was also agreed that the Director of Education submit a further report to the Business Sub-Committee of the Education Committee in due course in relation to how best to take the Action Plan forward.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: CONNECTING THE LEARNING SOCIETY

11. There was submitted a report dated 16 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the Government's recent proposals contained in a Consultation Paper entitled 'Connecting the Learning Society – The National Grid for Learning'.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that participation in the National Grid for Learning comprising the advanced technologies of the internet, the world-wide web, E-mail, fax and video conferencing be approved; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Arising from a query regarding what steps were being taken to ensure IT software compliance for the year 2000 and on the associated costs for this, it was reported and noted that a report regarding this matter had been requested for submission to the Policy and Resources Committee on 29 January 1998.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY

12. There was submitted a report dated 17 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which requested the Committee to consider the policy document 'Information and Communication Technologies: The Way Forward' and which

requested approval to proceed with the three year Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) targets.

A paper which briefly outlined the expected ICT skills of pupils by the year 2000 had been circulated for Members' information.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the content of the strategy document entitled 'Information and Communication Technology – The Way Forward' be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Education circulate the strategy document widely within the Education Department;
- (iii) that the three year Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) targets be endorsed;
- (iv) that the Director of Education identify funding, when available, to meet the ICT Targets detailed within the strategy document; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

It was reported and noted that an analysis of the computer hardware within educational establishments was available on a school by school basis for Members' information, if required.

EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD: THE PRE-SCHOOL YEARS – A CONSULTATION PAPER (Item 6, Page 2882)

13. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the Authority's proposed response to the Consultation Document entitled "Education in Early Childhood: The Pre-School Years" and which requested views from Members which would be taken into account.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the response by the Department of Education on the questions relating to the Consultation Document detailed at paragraph 2 of the report be noted;
- (ii) that a detailed response, taking account of the views expressed by Members following a Pre-Five Seminar on the full consultation document be submitted to the Scottish Office by 6 February 1998;
- (iii) that the Pre-Five Seminar would be open to all Members of the Education Committee and all other Elected Members who wished to attend; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

It was noted that the Director of Education would submit a further report to the Community Sub-Committee of the Education Committee regarding this matter.

HIGHER STILL – UPDATE (Item 6, Page 1364)

14. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the progress which had been made in planning for the implementation of Higher Still and which sought approval for future developments.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposals for future development of Higher Still for East Ayrshire detailed in the report be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit further reports on the progress being made towards the delivery of Higher Still; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 1996/97 AND PART YEAR 1997/98

- 15.** There was submitted a report dated 30 December 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the absence rates of the employees in the Education Department in the financial year 1996/97 and in the two quarters to date in 1997/98 and which made recommendations on the absence management system to be adopted by the Department.

The Chair advised that the report would be submitted to an informal meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) and thereafter to a meeting of a formal Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) in due course.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the absence rates detailed in the report be noted;
- (ii) that the departmental procedure contained in Section 4 of the report be discussed with Heads of Establishments and Services who monitor and implement the policy;
- (iii) that a report of absence rates and absence management be submitted to the Education Committee on an annual basis;
- (iv) that the Director of Education make the necessary arrangements to discuss the reports with representatives of the JCC Teachers; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

16.1 AUCHINLECK PRIMARY/AUCHINLECK NURSERY SCHOOLS (Item 2, Page 2720)

There was submitted a report dated 6 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of the consultation on the proposal to provide a new school building for Auchinleck Primary School to incorporate nursery provision which would replace the existing Auchinleck Nursery School and that the new building would be located at a site at Dalsalloch, Auchinleck.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that Auchinleck Primary School and Auchinleck Nursery School be relocated in a new building on a site at Dalsalloch, Auchinleck with effect from the completion of the new building in January 2000 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (ii) that the existing building occupied by Auchinleck Primary School and Auchinleck Nursery School be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department; and

- (iii) that the Director of Education be instructed to refer the property to the Head of Property for disposal at the appropriate time.

16.2 DALMELLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL (Item 14.4, Page 2711)

There was submitted a report dated 5 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of the consultation on the proposal to relocate Dalmellington Primary School into surplus capacity within Doon Academy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that Dalmellington Primary School be relocated within Doon Academy after the completion of necessary adaptation works with effect from the beginning of session 1998/99 (ie August 1998) or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (ii) that Dalmellington Primary School building be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education be instructed to refer the property to the Head of Property for disposal at the appropriate time.

16.3 ST XAVIER'S PRIMARY/PATNA PRIMARY SCHOOLS (Item 14.3, Page 2711)

There was submitted a report dated 8 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of the consultation on the proposal to relocate St Xavier's Primary School, Dunaskin, Waterside into surplus capacity within Patna Primary School.

It was agreed that the recommendations contained in the report by the Director of Education be not agreed and that no action be taken on this proposal.

16.4 ST CONVAL'S HIGH SCHOOL, CUMNOCK (Item 14.2, Page 2710)

There was submitted a report dated 6 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of the consultation of the future educational provision for secondary aged denominational pupils in the area served by St Conval's High School, Cumnock.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Taylor moved:-

- (i) that St Conval's High School become an outreach of St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock through the merger process, and that the School be managed by the Head Teacher of St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock;
- (ii) that the pupils presently attending St Conval's High School move to the main campus of St Joseph's Academy to be educated at stages S5 to S6 while remaining in an outreach of St Joseph's Academy to be established in the existing St Conval's building for stages S1 to S4;
- (iii) that the Head Teacher of St Joseph's Academy, on an annual basis take maximum opportunity to make a measure of provision for the education of fifth and sixth year pupils available in the Cumnock area thus reducing the need for senior pupils to travel;
- (iv) that the Director of Education be instructed to seek the consent of the Secretary of State to this decision; and

- (v) that the Director of Education report the decision of the Secretary of State to the Education Committee in due course.

John McHugh, Church Representative, seconded by Iain Harvey, Teacher Representative moved as an amendment that the educational provision for pupils of St Conval's High School be enhanced by increasing the curricular options on offer through the harmonisation of local Secondary School timetables.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 7.

16.5 CUMNOCK NURSERY/GREENMILL PRIMARY SCHOOLS, CUMNOCK (Item 14.5, Page 2712)

There was submitted a report dated 8 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of the consultation on the proposal to relocate Cumnock Nursery School into surplus accommodation within Greenmill Primary School, Cumnock.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that detailed consideration of the results of the consultation on the proposal to relocate Cumnock Nursery School into surplus accommodation within Greenmill Primary School be continued until a further detailed consideration of traffic management and complementary issues had been undertaken;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a further comprehensive report to the Education Committee on the outcome of the consultation which would include a report on the consideration of key issues which had arisen during the consultation period, with particular reference to traffic management and related issues; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1205 hours.