

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 1999 AT 1000
HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON
ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Alan Campbell, John Knapp, Daniel Coffey, David Macrae, George Turnbull, Eric Ross, David Sneller, George Smith, Robert Taylor, Eric Jackson 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; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Euan Couperwhite, Accountant; Ken Hathaway, Principal Client Services; Hugh Carswell, Service Officer, Social Work; John McHarg, Maintenance Manager; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer and Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, David Fulton, Ann Hay, Kim Nicoll, John Patterson and Matthew Sullivan, Church Representatives and Andrew Torrance, Parent Representative.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

**ADDITIONAL ITEM
PROCUREMENT OF TENDERS BY NEGOTIATION**

1. The Committee agreed to the consideration of an additional item at the end of the Agenda, under Exclusion of Press and public, as an early decision was required.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

2.1 St Sophia's Primary School

It was reported that Mrs Agnes Starrs had been appointed to the post of Head Teacher at St Sophia's Primary School. It was noted Mrs Starrs, presently the Depute Head Teacher at Mount Carmel Primary School, would assume her new appointment in the near future.

2.2 Grange Academy

Congratulations were extended to pupils from Grange Academy who had teamed up with Caledonian Paper plc to put together a presentation for the Annual Exhibition and Awards of the Engineering Education Scheme Scotland on 9 February 1999.

2.3 Woodstock School, "Success Stories in Scottish Education"

The Chair extended good luck wishes to pupils from Woodstock School who were participating in "Success Stories in Scottish Education" which was a conference for parents/teachers and professionals in Scottish Education, jointly organised by the Scottish Parent Teachers Council and Association of Directors of Education in Scotland.

2.4 Crossroads Primary School

Congratulations were extended to Emma Frater a P7 pupil from Crossroads Primary School who had become a world line dancing champion. It was noted Emma had travelled throughout the world competing in dancing competitions and had taken first place in her class in the world championships held in Texas recently.

2.5 Presentation of Prizes

The Chair expressed his delight in presenting prizes to pupils from Stewarton and Doon Academies, Muirkirk, Patna, Lainshaw and Crossroads Primary Schools and the Bilingual Support Service who had been winners of the 1999 Equal Opportunities calendar competition.

2.6 Loudoun Academy

Congratulations were extended to a group of 20 pupils from Loudoun Academy who had won a competition with their suggestion of ten items to be included in a time capsule which reflected life in the last decade of this century. The successful entry had included items such as wool from Dolly the sheep; the Spice Girls CD; and a programme for the match at which Kilmarnock FC won the Scottish Cup.

2.7 Youth Information Project, Cumnock and Park School, Kilmarnock

Congratulations were extended to the young people from the Youth Information Project in Cumnock and Park School in Kilmarnock who would visit the Glasgow City Chambers on 3 February 1999 to receive their prizes for their entry to the West of Scotland Community Relations Council poetry calendar competition.

2.8 James Hamilton Academy, Burns Supper

The Chair reported that he had thoroughly enjoyed the James Hamilton Academy Burns Supper he had attended last night. He stated it had been very pleasing to know that Robert Burns was well represented in our schools and educational establishments, through the various events which had been organised to celebrate the birthday of this famous poet.

2.9 Kilmarnock Academy Centenary Celebration

It was noted a civic reception would be held on 9 February 1999 to mark the centenary of Kilmarnock Academy. The date of this reception would mark 100 years from the date of the official opening of Kilmarnock Academy Old Building.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

3. There were 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 and II of these Minutes.

3.1 JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (TEACHERS) - 16 DECEMBER 1998 - (Appendix I)

3.2 EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE - 14 JANUARY 1999 - (Appendix II)

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - EDUCATION TO 4
DECEMBER 1998 (PERIOD 9)**

4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 11 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and of Education which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Education Department for the period ended 4 December 1998 (Period 9).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - COMMUNITY EDUCATION
STEWARDS - TRADING SERVICES TO 4 DECEMBER 1998 (PERIOD 9)**

5. There was submitted a joint report dated 7 January 1999 (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 4 December 1998 (Period 9).

It was reported and noted that in paragraph 2.4 of the report under the headings budget expenditure to 4 December 1998 and actual expenditure to 4 December 1998 the figure of £24,472 should be inserted against administration costs.

It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

GALSTON NURSERY SCHOOL (Item 6, Page 4001)

6. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of progress made in respect of the asbestos removal at Galston Nursery School.

It was reported and noted that a petition had been received from Galston parents requesting the reinstatement of the Nursery School.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to reinstate Galston Nursery School;
- (ii) that the reinstatement of the Nursery School take place as soon as possible;
- (iii) that the Director of Education report the outcome in respect of the arbitration of costs to a future meeting of the Education Committee; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education report general progress on the reinstatement of the Nursery School to a future meeting of the Education Committee.

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1998/99 - UPDATE (Item 5, Page 4001)

7. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of progress being made on the Education Capital Programme and which sought approval for amendments to the programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the amendments detailed in the Capital Programme shown at Appendix I of the report for 1998/99 be approved; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education continue to monitor closely the Capital Programme throughout the year, reporting periodically to the Education Committee.

VACATION OF CHAIR

8. Councillor Farrell vacated the Chair in favour of Councillor Taylor, Vice-Chair and then left the meeting.

SCHOOL SECURITY STRATEGY

9. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of current progress in the implementation of the School Security Strategy.

Arising from a query from Councillor Ross regarding the proposed fencing works at Cumnock Academy, it was agreed that the Director of Education would report directly to Councillor Ross regarding the precise location of the works.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress which had been made in respect of the implementation of the School Security Strategy;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a progress report to a future meeting of the Education Committee; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education investigate the feasibility of introducing photographic ID badges within schools in East Ayrshire.

JANITORS HOUSES

10. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of issues relating to the management and maintenance of janitorial housing.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education proceed with negotiations with the Director of Housing and Head of Legal Services to transfer Education Housing Stock to the Housing Department;
- (ii) that the Director of Education undertake discussions with the Acting Director of Commercial Operations and appropriate Trades Union representatives;
- (iii) that a further report be submitted by the Director of Education to the Education Committee regarding the outcome of the negotiations in respect of this matter; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Jackson left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

THE EXCELLENCE FUND FOR SCHOOLS

11.1 CORE PROGRAMME

Councillor Jackson re-joined the meeting at this point.

There was submitted a report dated 14 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the Excellence Fund for Schools and which sought approval for an implementation plan supporting this initiative.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the report as a basis for the management and implementation of the Excellence Fund for Schools in East Ayrshire;
- (ii) to approve the Director of Education's submission of a detailed plan to the Scottish Office indicating how the Excellence Fund would be implemented in East Ayrshire;
- (iii) to approve, subject to final overall budget agreement by the Council, the implementation of the projects associated with the Excellence Fund in financial year 1999/2000 and subsequent years; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

11.2 EDUCATION ACTION PLANS

There was submitted a report dated 11 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the Excellence Fund Special Programme for Education Action Plans through which funding would be provided to Education authorities to raise standards in schools facing major challenge.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education identify those schools in the authority facing major challenges relating to the Primary Criteria as detailed in Paragraph 3.2 of the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Education give notice of the authority's intention to bid for funding by 31 January 1999;
- (iii) that a further report be submitted to the Education Committee on the outcome of any submission; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

11.3 SPECIALIST PROVISION IN SCHOOLS

There was submitted a report dated 14 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a consultation exercise relating to the Excellence Fund Special Programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the report as a basis for a response to the Scottish Office Consultation Exercise;
- (ii) that further reports be submitted to the Education Committee by the Director of Education as further details of the Special Programme of the Excellence Fund emerge; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Item 17, Page 4005)

- 12.** There was submitted a joint report dated 15 January 1999 (circulated) by the Directors of Education and of Social Work which advised of the Government's initiative to develop New Community Schools and which sought approval to make application to the Scottish Office for funding to create two Community School Projects in East Ayrshire.

It was reported and noted that the recent bid in the present financial year submitted by the Council to the Scottish Office to support pilot work in Hillhead Primary School,

Kilmarnock had been successful and that funding totalling £15,000 would be made available.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that officers develop the submission of an application to the Scottish Office for 6 February 1999, for funding to support two Community School Pilot Projects in East Ayrshire;
- (ii) that the selection of the Cumnock and Kilmarnock areas involving five Secondary Schools and the associated primaries for the first phase of the pilot project be approved;
- (iii) that officers ensure that the development of new Community Schools takes cognisance of other national initiatives, for example, the Children's Service Plan, the National Childcare Strategy and the Social Inclusion Bid;
- (iv) that the early establishment of the Steering Groups with representation from all interested parties including Trades Union and Elected Members be approved; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Sneller left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

PROPOSED SCHOOL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2000/2001

- 13.** There was submitted a report dated 13 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which requested the Committee to consider proposals for School Holidays during the session 2000/2001 and which sought approval to consult with educational establishments, school boards, Chamber of Commerce and the JCC on the proposals.

It was agreed:-

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

STANDARDS AND TARGETS: ATTAINMENT UNDER THE 5-14 PROGRAMME

- 14.** Councillor Coffey left the meeting at this point.

There was submitted a report dated 14 January 1999 (circulated) which advised of the progress which had been made under the target setting initiative for the 5-14 programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that future reports on progress within the 5-14 programme and attendance initiative of target setting;
- (ii) that the use of information associated with the Standards and Targets initiative as part of the Council's approach to Best Value be approved; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

INTERNATIONAL LINKS: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

15. Councillor Cree left the meeting at this point.

There was submitted and noted a report dated 14 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a European Work Experience Project and the outcome from a teacher exchange.

Councillor Turnbull left the meeting during consideration of this item.

PREMATURE RETIREMENT FOR TEACHERS (Item 3, Page 4174)

16. There was submitted a report dated 17 December 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education which proposed the introduction of a Premature Retirement Scheme for Teachers in light of the amendments to the Scottish Teachers Superannuation Scheme from 1 September 1997.

Councillor Cree rejoined the meeting at this point.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposal for Premature Retirement for Teachers be approved, viz:-
- premature retirement with no enhancement should only be considered for teachers aged 55 and over;
 - premature retirement with up to 2 years enhancement should only be considered for teachers in surplus subjects and who were aged 55 and over;
 - premature retirement with up to 4 years enhancement should only be considered in a rationalisation exercise for those aged 55 and over; and
 - premature retirement with up to 6 years enhancement should only be considered in very special circumstances for those aged 58 and over.
- (ii) to recommend to Council that the policy for the Premature Retirement for Teachers be implemented within the exigencies of the Council; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

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REPORTING ON SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS

17. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised on the latest developments in the Standards and Targets initiative and which sought approval for a programme of development to take account of Scottish Office guidance.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the system of reporting as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report be noted;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a report to the Scottish Office based on the experiences gained in relation to the initiative on reporting on School Performance against Targets for improvement in standard and higher grade attainment; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF HIGHER STILL: FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND
MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

18. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the latest developments in the Higher Still Programme and which sought approval for the next stages of implementation.

Councillor Campbell left the meeting at this point.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the arrangements for local consultation in relation to the rephasing of Higher Still be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a Higher Still Rephasing Return to the Scottish Office that had been produced as a result of the arrangements detailed in paragraph 3 the report;
- (iii) that the arrangements which had been made nationally for the rephasing of Higher Still be noted; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

AWARDING OF TENDERS

19. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which provided, for information, details of lowest satisfactory tenders which had been awarded to date.

CONTRACT	SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
Re-roofing of Art Department at St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock	Braedale Roofing Ltd, Wishaw	£26,173.56
Proposed CCTV Installation and Associated Works at Shortlees Primary School, Kilmarnock	UA Comms Ltd, Kilmarnock	£53,932.98
Alterations to Toilets at Galston Primary School, Galston	CT & CF, Lugton	£62,978.72
Proposed Traffic Management Scheme at Catrine Primary School, Catrine	East Ayrshire Council Roads & Transportation Department, Kilmarnock	£25,086.60
Replacement of Existing Floor Coverings at Grange Academy, Kilmarnock	T Cumming & Son, Galston	£21,484.42
Replacement of Boiler Plant at Cumnock Academy, Cumnock	Gibson Wight Ltd, Kilmarnock	£88,103.40
Refurbishment of Crosshouse Primary School, Crosshouse	Meikle Construction, Lanark	£37,634.06
Refurbishment of Home Economics Classrooms at Grange and Cumnock Academies	CT & CF, Lugton	£70,068.87

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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

PROCUREMENT OF TENDERS BY NEGOTIATION

21. There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Support Services and of Education dated 27 January 1999 (circulated) which sought authority to procure by single contractor negotiation re-roofing contracts at Grange Academy and Loudoun Academy.

It was agreed that the procedure to procure contracts by single contractor negotiation be approved.

The meeting terminated at 1215 hours.