

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2000 AT 1000 HOURS IN  
THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,  
KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Brian Reeves, Willie Coffey, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, David Macrae, Iain Linton, Alex Walsh, Alan Campbell, John Knapp, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Julie Faulds and Elaine Dinwoodie.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Kate McVey, Solicitor to the Council; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Bruce and Graham Short, Depute Directors of Education; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager; Euan Couperwhite, Financial Services Manager; Kenneth McKinlay, Principal Quality Development Officer; Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Julie Armstrong Senior Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer and Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Brian McNeil, Stephanie Young, Finlay MacLean and Eric Ross and John McHugh and Matthew Sullivan, Church Representatives; Iain Harvey, Teacher Representative and Alisdair MacQueen, Parent Representative.

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS****(i) Songs of Praise**

Congratulations were extended to pupils Alison O'Donnell, Suzanne Smillie, Billy Whalen and Wendy Whiteford from Doon Academy who had been chosen as part of the Dalmellington Band to perform in a special edition of Songs of Praise to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100th birthday at Glamis Castle on 18 June 2000.

**(ii) Cairnhill Primary School**

Congratulations and best wishes were extended to Cairnhill Primary School on celebrating their 40th Anniversary and for being selected as a winner in the Education Extra Awards 2000. W H Smith had made a commitment to support ten of the most innovative literacy based projects, and they were extremely impressed by the school's commitment to improve academic standards. The prize of £200 worth of gift vouchers would be presented in due course.

**(iii) "Choices for Life"**

The Chair advised that on Thursday 11 May 2000 over 1,500 Primary 7 pupils, teachers and adult helpers attended "CHOICES FOR LIFE" in the SECC, Glasgow. This event had been organised by Strathclyde Police, and was the biggest anti-drugs event for young people in Britain.

**(iv) Summer Academy at Strathclyde University**

The Summer Academy at Strathclyde University will accommodate 80 S3 students from East Ayrshire Secondary schools, in a 10 day programme of curricular, leisure and enterprise activities. This will be a four-fold increase on participation last year. A programme of all summer schools being held in East Ayrshire will be prepared and circulated shortly.

**(v) East Ayrshire Schools' Brass Band and Schools' Choir**

Good luck and best wishes were extended to the East Ayrshire Schools' Brass Band and East Ayrshire Schools' Choir who will take part in "Midsummer Music" in aid of the Hansel Foundation on 18 June 2000 in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. The pupils will perform a programme of music featuring the recently commissioned work 'A String O' Blethers" by Goff Richards.

**(vi) Schools Showcase**

Congratulations were extended to all of the 650 pupils who had taken part in this year's Schools Showcase. Seventeen schools had taken part in this event which was staged over three evenings at the Palace Theatre. The programme was varied with something to suit everyone, and featured outstanding performances from all the young people who took part.

**(vii) The National Grid for Learning**

It was noted through the National Grid for Learning aspect of the Excellence Fund, extra funds had been provided at the very end of the last financial year and in this financial year to reduce the pupil:computer ratios in Primary Schools. Already 17 primary schools have had installed sets of four laptop computers which may be easily transported from class to class. It is likely that most other primary schools will take a similar approach over the next few months.

**(viii) Adult Learners Week**

It was reported that Adult Learners Week had been celebrated during May and part of the celebration had been the annual presentation of certificates. This year the presentations had been held in Drongan and Kilmarnock and a total of 260 certificates were awarded. Congratulations were extended to all the learners who celebrated their achievements. In addition, East Ayrshire Council had eight nominations for Adult Learner of the Year Award. One group from Catrine were runners up in the finals and were presented with a quaich and certificate at the awards ceremony held in the City Chambers in Edinburgh.

**(ix) National Youth Summit**

The Chair advised that on 19 June 2000, five young people from across East Ayrshire will join 200 of their peers from across Scotland for a National Youth Summit in Motherwell. This event was being organised by the Scottish Executive and East Ayrshire had been allocated five places. The nominated young people were two members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, one Young Quality Scot participant, one member of the Millennium Youth Council and one Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme representative.

**(x) Sorn Primary School - 150th Anniversary**

The Chair informed the Education Committee that Thursday 15 June 2000 would be an important day for three of our educational establishments in the South area. Sorn Primary School will celebrate their 150th Anniversary with an afternoon programme of celebration. The official opening of the new Auchinleck Primary School and Nursery School, will be held on 15 June 2000. The event is set to be an excellent evening of entertainment to mark this special occasion for the people of Auchinleck and a landmark for the Education Committee.

**COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE DEVELOPMENT - NEW OPPORTUNITY  
FUND BID**

2. There was submitted a report dated 25 May 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of an opportunity to apply for funding to the New Opportunities Fund.

Councillor Walsh joined the meeting at this point.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the submission of the bid for funding amounting to £251,272 to the New Opportunities Fund;
- (ii) that the Director of Education advise the Education Committee of the outcome of the application; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS**

3. There was submitted a report dated 24 May 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval for the distribution of additional financial resources to schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the additional money arising from this Scheme be delegated directly to schools;
- (ii) that the money be spent on the priorities detailed in paragraph 3 of the report;
- (iii) that the Director of Education consult with Head Teachers over any refinement to the basic Scheme as detailed in the report; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**CONSULTATION ON THE SCHOOLS SCOTLAND CODE**

4. There was submitted a report dated 22 May 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval for the submission of a response to the Scottish Executive Education Department following the consultation on the Schools Scotland Code.

Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Coffey moved that the report be withdrawn until a more detailed report could be submitted to the Committee.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Knapp moved as an amendment:-

- (i) that the response detailed in the report be submitted to the Scottish Executive Education Department as the official East Ayrshire response to the Schools Scotland Code consultation; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands the amendment was carried by 9 votes to 5.

#### **RAISING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT - EASTER SCHOOLS IN EAST AYRSHIRE (Item 15, Page 3262)**

- 5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 30 May 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the success of Easter Schools in East Ayrshire.

#### **NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR SCHOOLS - CONSULTATION PROCESS - LISTENING TO OUR YOUNG STUDENTS**

- 6. There was submitted a report dated 25 May 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a proposal to establish focus groups of young people to consult on the National Priorities for Schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposal to establish focus groups of young people be approved and that the Director of Education give consideration to incorporating a "virtual" focus group as part of the process;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit East Ayrshire Council's response to the consultation exercise as detailed in the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

- 7. 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 25 May 2000 (circulated) as detailed in the Appendix to these Minutes.

#### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

- 8. The Chair intimated that this was the last meeting of the Education Committee that the Senior Depute Director, Margaret Burnell and the Depute Director of Education, Sue Bruce would attend.

The Chair took the opportunity to express his thanks and that of the Committee for the contribution which Margaret had made within the Education Service in the Ayr Division of the former Strathclyde Regional Council and latterly as Senior Depute Director of Education within East Ayrshire. The Chair then extended his best wishes and that of the Committee to Margaret for the future.

The Chair then extended his thanks and on behalf of the Committee to Sue for her contribution to the Education Service since taking up her post within East Ayrshire, during which time she had held a range of responsibilities including Community

Education, Early Years, Social Inclusion, the Education Capital Programme and transport issues.

The Chair then extended his best wishes and that of the Committee to Sue for the future.

The meeting terminated at 1035 hours.