

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 MAY 1998 AT 1000 HOURS IN
THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Douglas Reid, Jane Darnbrough, Ann Hay, John Knapp, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Eric Ross, David Sneller, George Smith, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson; Church Representatives, J W Paterson and M Sullivan and Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Angus and Graham Short, Depute Directors of Education; Kenneth McKinlay, Principal Quality Development Officer; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; Apryl Chalmers, Senior Solicitor; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Melanie Macleod, Administrative Officer; Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant; and Etta Goldie, Senior Clerical Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gordon McCredie, Ronald Brailsford, Daniel Coffey and David Macrae; and Church Representative, J McHugh.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. In welcoming Members and, in particular the newly appointed Church of Scotland Representative, Mr J W Paterson, to the meeting of the Education Committee, the Chair highlighted some good news for the Education Service for the information of Community Members.

(i) **Appointment of Head Teacher**

The Chair advised on the recent appointment of Duncan Bicket to Lainshaw Primary School and expressed warm wishes to Duncan for every success in his new appointment.

(ii) **National Adult Learner's Award 1998**

It was reported that the National Adult Learner's Award 1998 had been won by the Outdoor Opportunities Group, a voluntary organisation supported by East Ayrshire Council's Community Education Service which offered unemployed adults the opportunity to gain nationally recognised qualifications in outdoor activities. It was noted that the group had passed the benefits of these qualifications onto other members of the community including Primary Schools.

(iii) **Schools Showcase, Palace Theatre**

The Chair expressed his delight that over 700 pupils from across East Ayrshire would be participating in the 1998 Schools Showcase being held at the Palace Theatre over three evenings (28, 28 and 29 May 1998) and hoped that those members able to attend would enjoy excellent performances from the talented young people in East Ayrshire Schools.

(iv) 1998 Yamaha Scottish Instrumental Teacher of the Year Awards

The Chair extended congratulations and best wishes to Drew Keachie, of East Ayrshire Education Department's Instrumental Service, in gaining an area award at the 1998 Yamaha Scottish Instrumental Teacher of the Year Awards held on 2 May 1998.

(v) Stewarton Academy Brass Band Concert

It was reported that Stewarton Academy Brass Band would hold a concert on Thursday 25 June 1998 in the Grand Hall to mark the achievement of a gold award in the Boosey and Hawkes Concert Band Annual Festival held in the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. It was noted that the award was the third consecutive gold won by the band in this national competition and that Stewarton was only the second band ever to have won three years in a row. The Chair reported that the band had been presented with a silver salver to mark this unique achievement.

(vi) St Columba's Primary School, Kilmarnock

It was reported that St Columba's Primary School in Kilmarnock had been awarded Investors in People Status and that a presentation would take place on 3 June 1998 in recognition of this important award.

(vii) Silverwood Primary School

It was reported that Silverwood Primary School had received £550 following a recent bid to the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. The Chair reported that the money would be used to purchase a Soccer Sevens Starter Kit through the Scottish Football Association and added that he was sure that many young football fanatics in the school would be delighted with this equipment.

(viii) Grange Academy, Kilmarnock

It was reported that Grange Academy had been awarded £3,000 over two years by Barclay's New Futures for a school/community partnership project. The project would give students the opportunity to develop the core skills essential for further and higher education, as well as the workplace.

Councillor Ross joined the meeting during the Chair's Remarks.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

2. 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 Appendix I of these Minutes.

2.1 EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE - 14 MAY 1998 - Appendix I.

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

BUDGET 1998: MONEY FOR SCHOOLS

3. There was submitted a report dated 18 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on additional resources made available to East Ayrshire Schools in the national budget settlement for financial year 1998/99 and which recommended how best to use the additional resources in support of the Committee's key target to raise educational standards in all schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the additional resources allocated to the Education Department from the March 1998 budget; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education allocate these resources in support of enhancing educational standards as described in the report.

It was noted from points arising in discussion from this item that the Director of Education would provide an update for all Members on the number of classes with over 30 pupils in Primaries 1 to 3 and would submit a report to a future meeting on recruitment of teachers and associated personnel issues which would also be submitted to the JCC (Teachers) Committee for its information.

Councillors McIntyre and Sneller joined the meeting and Councillor Reid re-joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO "NEW LIBRARY: THE PEOPLE'S NETWORK"

4. There was submitted a report dated 11 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the Government's response to the Library and Information Commission's "New Library" report.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the Government's response to the "New Library" report;
- (ii) to support the strategy for the involvement of the Education Service, in partnership with the Department of Community Services, in the initiative; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

RAISING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT - SETTING TARGETS: AUTHORITY FIGURES AND ARRANGEMENTS (Item 12, Page 2344)

5. There was submitted a report dated 11 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the latest developments within the National Target Setting Initiative and which sought approval for the next phase of implementation within East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress already made in the target setting initiative;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on arrangements in place for supporting pupils and their educational achievement in the transition from primary to secondary school education within the 5-14 programme; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

RAISING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT: SUMMER SCHOOLS 1998

6. There was submitted a report dated 18 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on proposals to provide a range of summer school projects designed to raise educational achievement and combat disadvantage in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the proposals for summer school projects in East Ayrshire;

- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a further report to the Committee on progress in due course; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

HIGHER STILL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

7. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education on progress made in planning the implementation of Higher Still and which outlined an implementation strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals for future development of Higher Still as described in the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit further reports to the Committee on progress made towards the delivery of Higher Still; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

SOCIAL STRATEGY: EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL - PROVISION OF NATIONAL ADVICE (Item 8, Page 2563)

8. There was submitted a report dated 11 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the contents of the Scottish Office Circular 2/98 "Guidance on Issues concerning Exclusion from School" and which sought approval for action based on this document.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department Circular 2/98 as a basis for the revision of exclusion procedures within East Ayrshire;
- (ii) to support the development of inclusive approaches at school level to add as an alternative to exclusion;
- (iii) to work with Head Teachers in supporting the appropriate implementation of exclusion strategies in their schools;
- (iv) that the Director of Education submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the Department's approach to the provision of alternatives to exclusion strategies; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the content of the report and that the Director of Education would issue an update exclusion statistics report to all Members for their information.

PARENT'S OPEN DAY "EDUCATION ON DISPLAY"

9. There was submitted a report dated 12 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the arrangements for the Parent's Open Day/Exhibition in June 1998 "Education on Display".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the initiative "Education on Display";
- (ii) that the Director of Education proceed with arrangements as outlined within the report; and

- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report and that next year's initiative would be held in the south of East Ayrshire.

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN SCOTLAND: A DISCUSSION
PAPER (Item 4, Page 2881)**

10. There was submitted a report dated 12 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the purpose and scope of the Government's discussion document, "Special Educational Needs in Scotland: A Discussion Paper".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve a consultation exercise based on the document "Special Educational Needs in Scotland: A Discussion Paper";
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a report on the results of the consultation to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

11. There was submitted a report dated 13 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the proposed plan to mark the 50th Anniversary of the National Health Service.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education investigate the feasibility of providing information to pupils during the new school term on the history of the National Health Service and reasons for its establishment.

PRE-FIVE PROVISION: RURAL EDUCATION

12. There was submitted a report dated 26 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on proposals to expand pre-five provision in rural areas.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the establishment of a Nursery Class in Littlemill Primary School, to be managed by the Head Teacher of the School;
- (ii) that appropriate staff development and training be offered to staff in newly established provision within rural areas;
- (iii) that the Director of Education inform the Scottish Office of the arrangements to disburse the additional grant in respect of this initiative; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL PUPILS

13. There was submitted a report dated 11 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the arrangements in place for the transportation of Primary and Secondary pupils and which sought approval to accept tenders for contracts due for renewal.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that it be remitted to the Director of Education to pursue through the Strathclyde Passenger Transport contracts due for renewal in the school session 1998/99; and
- (ii) to note that arrangements in place for contracts with expiry dates up to 1999 would be continued.

PATNA PRIMARY SCHOOL: PROPOSED CREATION OF A SPECIALIST FACILITY FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN THE SURPLUS CAPACITY OF THE PATNA PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION (Item 21, Page 3248)

14. There was submitted a report dated 23 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of the consultation exercise.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that a facility for Special Educational Needs Children be established within the building occupied by Patna Primary School;
- (ii) that the facility be managed by the Head Teacher of Patna Primary School;
- (iii) that the facility make provision for primary aged and pre-school children; and
- (iv) that this facility be established at the start of the session 1998/99, or as soon as possible thereafter depending upon the completion of the necessary adaptation works.

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

CROSSHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A FACILITY AT CROSSHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN WITH SEVERE COMMUNITY DISORDERS: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION (Item 21.2, Page 3249)

15. There was submitted a report dated 23 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of the consultation exercise.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that a facility for pupils with severe communication disorders be established in Crosshouse Primary School; and
- (ii) that this facility be established at the start of session 1998/99, or as soon as possible thereafter depending on the completion of the necessary adaptation works.

Councillor Ross re-joined the meeting at this point.

WEST PARK SCHOOL/SILVERWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF WEST PARK SCHOOL, CROSSHOUSE AS A SPECIAL SCHOOL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BASE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED PUPILS AT SILVERWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL, KILMARNOCK: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION (Item 21.3, Page 3250)

16. There was submitted a report dated 23 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of the consultation exercise.

The Chair intimated an alternative recommendation (iii) to read: that the pupils be maintained in the present accommodation pending the results of detailed discussions with parents; and, if necessary, as a consequence of these discussions, further proposals for new provision be brought to the Committee for early consideration

It was agreed:-

- (i) that West Park School be closed as a special school on 26 June 1998, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (ii) that the proposal to open a base for hearing impaired pupils at Silverwood Primary School not proceed; and
- (iii) that the pupils be maintained in the present accommodation pending the results of detailed discussions with parents; and, if necessary, as a consequence of these discussions, further proposals for new provision be brought to the Committee for early consideration.

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

BARSHARE AND GREENMILL PRIMARY SCHOOLS: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CUMNOCK NURSERY SCHOOL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NURSERY CLASSES IN BARSHARE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND GREENMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, CUMNOCK: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION (Item 21.4, Page 3250)

17. There was submitted a report dated 26 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of the consultation exercise.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that Nursery Classes be established at Barshare Primary School, Cumnock and Greenmill Primary School, Cumnock from August 1998, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (ii) that Cumnock Nursery School be closed; and
- (iii) that, on completion of the closure of Cumnock Nursery School, the building be declared surplus to education requirements.

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

The meeting terminated at 1143 hours.