

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 JUNE 1999 AT 1000 HOURS IN
THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Brian McNeil, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Willie Coffey, Robert Stevenson, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, David Macrae, Iain Linton, Alex Walsh, Alan Campbell, John Knapp, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Julie Faulds, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie.

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; Apryl Chalmers, Senior Solicitor; Janie Allen, Principal Officer (Pre-Fives); 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.

APOLOGY: Councillor Finlay MacLean.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed all those present, particularly newly Elected Members to the first meeting of the Education Committee of the new Council.

NON ELECTED MEMBER REPRESENTATION

2. There was submitted a joint report dated 26 May 1999 (circulated) by the Directors of Corporate Services and of Education which sought authorisation to obtain nominations for non elected member representation on the Education Committee.

It was reported and noted that nominations had been received from the Church of Scotland, Department of Education and the Roman Catholic Church for their representative to serve on the Education Committee, viz:-

Rev John Paterson, Church of Scotland

John McHugh, Roman Catholic Church.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Corporate Services be authorised to make appropriate arrangements to advertise in the local press for one further nomination for a Church Representative to serve on the Education Committee;
- (ii) that a Teacher Representative be appointed to serve on the Education Committee and that it be remitted to the Directors of Corporate Services and of Education in consultation with the Chair of the Education Committee to make the appropriate arrangements to obtain a nomination for a Teacher Representative to serve on the Education Committee as soon as practicable;

- (iii) that a Parent Representative be appointed to serve on the Education Committee and that it be remitted to the Directors of Corporate Services and of Education in consultation with the Chair of the Education Committee to make the appropriate arrangements to obtain a nomination for a Parent Representative to serve on the Education Committee as soon as practicable; and
- (iv) to note that all representatives would be appointed to serve for the life of the Committee and/or the current Council, subject to their remaining eligible to hold such appointment.

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE PLAN (Item 4, Page 4515)

3. There was submitted a report dated 19 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought agreement to the proposals for the expansion of pre-five establishments to assist in meeting the Government's target of universal pre-school provision for three year olds by 2002.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the Scottish Office offer of development grant of £422,633 for the financial year 1999/2000 for the development of pre-school education;
- (ii) that the establishment of a nursery class in Dunlop Primary School and New Farm Primary School be approved;
- (iii) to welcome the survey of parents in Local Authority pre-five provision to establish the need and demand for 'wraparound' care;
- (iv) that the Director of Education provide a further report detailing proposals for expansion of Local Authority provision aged 3-5 years, including 'wraparound' care; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EARLY INTERVENTION INITIATIVE

4. There was submitted a report dated 19 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the progress and future development of the Early Intervention Initiative in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to commend the work which had been undertaken to date, and note the progress made in respect of the Early Intervention Initiative;
- (ii) to note that a further report would be submitted to the Education Committee in the Autumn regarding further developments; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

TIME FOR TEACHING

5. There was submitted a report dated 18 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the implications of the recent national report "Time for Teaching" and which sought approval for an outline plan to meet the national report's recommendations.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the review of administrative procedures outlined in the report;
- (ii) that a review in line with paragraph 5 of the report be undertaken and included within the Department's approach to Best Value;
- (iii) that the report be referred to the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) and the Joint Consultative Committee (APT&C) Staff for their information;
- (iv) that the Director of Education submit any interim statements and the final report to the Accounts Commission or Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools as required; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS' AUTHORITY PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A SECOND EXAMINATION DIET - CONSULTATION PAPER

6. There was submitted a report dated 19 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the response by East Ayrshire Council to the Scottish Qualifications Authorities' (SQA) Consultation Paper on the proposal to introduce a second examination diet.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the response by the Director of Education detailed at Paragraph 3 of the report as the East Ayrshire response to the consultation paper; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (Item 12, Page 4169)

7. There was submitted a joint report dated 20 May 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 advised on the Implementation Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the arrangements which had been made with regard to the Implementation Plan for the new Community Schools Project detailed at Paragraph 5 of the report;
- (ii) that Officers ensure that the development of New Community Schools take cognisance of other national initiatives, for example, the Children's Service Plan, the National Childcare Strategy and the Social Inclusion Bid; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PROPOSED PILOT SCHEME FOR EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES

8. There was submitted a report dated 17 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the proposals by the Scottish Office to pilot an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Scheme in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support the proposal to pilot the Education Maintenance Allowance Scheme in East Ayrshire;

- (ii) that the Director of Education conduct negotiations with the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department in respect of the detailed implementation of the Scheme; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education report progress to future meetings of the Education Committee.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2000/2001 (Item 13, Page 4170)

9. There was submitted a report dated 19 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the consultation exercise which had been carried out regarding school holiday arrangements for school session 2000/2001 and which sought agreement to implement the preferred school holiday option.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education respond to all consultees regarding the outcome of the consultation process for school holiday arrangements;
- (ii) that the Director of Education write to all main employers within East Ayrshire regarding school holiday arrangements asking if in future, they could take cognisance of the dates for school holidays when setting local holidays for their employees;
- (iii) that the school holiday arrangements as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report, and as revised in line with paragraph 3.2 of the report be approved as the school holiday arrangements for the school session 2000/2001; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 1997/98 AND PART-YEAR 1998/99 (Item 11, Page 4003)

10. There was submitted a report dated 27 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of absence rates for employees in the Education Department in the financial year 1997/98 and in the three quarters to date in 1998/99.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the absence rates contained in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EAST AYRSHIRE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYEES

11. There was submitted a report dated 19 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding the revised Code of Conduct for Local Government employees in Scotland which had been remitted from the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee to the Education Committee for its interest in respect of teaching staff.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be referred to the Teachers JCC representatives for consultation;
- (ii) that the Director of Education relay the results of the consultation regarding teachers to the Head of Personnel; and

- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

RESERVATION OF PLACES AT FENWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL - AMENDMENT TO PLACING REQUEST LEGISLATION

- 12.** There was submitted a report dated 27 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding reservation of places for pupils at Fenwick Primary School in the academic year 2000/2001.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the implications of amendments to placing request legislation in respect of reserved places;
- (ii) that, in respect of Fenwick Primary School, places be reserved for P1 for the academic year 2000/2001 in order to accommodate pupils who might move into the catchment area for Fenwick Primary School;
- (iii) that the Director of Education monitor and review the situation regarding the reservation of places under the amended legislation; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

- 13.** There was submitted a report dated 4 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the outcomes of the third annual Youth Conference which had been held in Onthank Community Education Centre on Monday 29 March 1999 and which advised of ongoing developments resulting from the Conference.

Arising from a query from Councillor Ross regarding participation by pupils in East Ayrshire at the official opening of the Scottish Parliament, it was noted that the Director of Education would make arrangements to advise all Elected Members of the Council of the arrangements in place for the selection of pupils to represent East Ayrshire at the opening ceremony.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the success of the Youth Conference;
- (ii) that the Director of Education inform Local Committees, where appropriate, of further developments which result from the Conference; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

REVIEW OF CHARGES IN THE LETTING POLICY FOR COMMUNITY USE

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated 18 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of proposals to review the charges for accommodation used by Community Groups.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the revised charges for the joint letting policy as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report be approved;
- (ii) that implementation of the revised charges be effective from 16 August 1999; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DEVELOPING LEARNING COMMUNITIES IN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 15.** There was submitted a report dated 8 April 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the report, *Communities: Change Through Learning*, which had been published by the Scottish Office on the future of Community Education and which recommended future arrangements for the delivery of community learning in East Ayrshire.

It was reported and noted that the finalised Scottish Office Circular alluded to at paragraph 6.1 of the report was now available.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the re-focusing of the Community Education Service which had taken account of the national report, *Communities: Change Through Learning*;
- (ii) that the Head of Personnel and the Director of Education, in consultation with Trade Unions consider the future structure of the Service for consideration by the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee;
- (iii) that the Director of Education report the results of the consultation to a future meeting of the Education Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

AYRSHIRE CAREERS PARTNERSHIP

- 16.** There was submitted a report dated 27 May 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of current issues concerning the Ayrshire Careers Partnership and which sought agreement to proceed with discussions in respect of re-contracting for the period post March 2000.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the current arrangements for the delivery of the Careers Service;
- (ii) to approve negotiations continuing in the context of the current joint arrangements and partnership structure for the Ayrshire Careers Partnership; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education report progress to a future meeting of the Education Committee.

SESSIONAL STAFF RATES

- 17.** There was submitted a report dated 12 April 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of proposed rates of pay for sessional staff within the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education be instructed to progress discussions in conjunction with the Head of Personnel and the Trade Unions, where appropriate, with a view to implementation from 1 September 1999; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

18.1 Schools' Showcase

The Chair advised that three outstanding performances of this year's Schools' Showcase had been held in the Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock last week. Over 550 young people from 17 of East Ayrshire secondary and primary schools had taken part in a varied programme of song, dance, art, music and drama. The commitment of pupils, staff and parents was outstanding and reflected the high quality of this event. The Chair hoped that those colleagues who had attended, enjoyed the show as much as he did.

18.2 National Lottery New Directions Programme

The Chair was pleased to report that a grant of over £5,000 had been awarded to the Authority from the National Lottery New Directions Programme. This funding would be put towards the cost of commissioning a new work for the East Ayrshire Schools Brass Band and Choir, including a series of related workshops and concerts, one of which had been planned for London. Congratulations were extended to all involved in acquiring this finance.

18.3 Drongan Primary School

It was reported that a very successful Schools Boards Forum had been held last night in Drongan Primary School. This Forum had given School Board representatives the opportunity to come together to discuss various educational issues. 16 Parent Representatives from 10 School Boards attended.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 19.** 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 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE- FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

- 20.** The Chair requested and it was agreed that this item be withdrawn from the Agenda.

The meeting terminated at 1153 hours.