

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 APRIL 1997 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Douglas Reid, Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, David Macrae, George Turnbull, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael and Robert Taylor; Church Representatives, John McHugh, and Matthew Sullivan; Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education; Jennifer Wallace, Depute Director of Education; Robert McLeary, Head of Property; Graham Short, Head of Quality Development; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Margo McFadzean, Head Teacher, Hillside School, Cumnock; Robert Sawers, Health and Safety Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer and Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Kim Nicoll, David Sneller and Eric Jackson, Church Representative, William McConnell and Parent Representative, Shelagh McKerrall.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

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

(i) CoSLA Quality Award

The Chair advised that the Education Department had been successful in obtaining the Chair's award for the best overall submission at the final of the CoSLA Quality Awards which had been held on 27 February 1997. The submission was Conductive Education for Children with Cerebral Palsy undertaken at Hillside School in Cumnock. The Chair stated that this was an outstanding achievement and gave recognition to the hard work and commitment of the Head Teacher and staff at the school. The crystal bowl presented was on display at the Committee.

(ii) Isla Pickering, James Hamilton Academy

Isla Pickering, a third year pupil at James Hamilton Academy had won major awards at the recent Lothian and Borders Trampolining Competition. Isla also represented Scotland in an international competition held in Holland in mid-March.

(iii) Sports Council Sports Mark Award Scheme 1996/97

Loudoun Academy had been awarded £1,000 from the Sports Council's Sports Mark Award Scheme 1996/97, which award money would be used to further develop the wide range of sporting and extra-curricular activities already in place at the school.

(iv) Teacher of the Year Award

Carol McGregor, a teacher of hearing impaired children had been nominated by a parent for the Teacher of the Year Award being organised by the Disney Channel of Sky TV. It was noted that Carol was one of three Scottish Finalists and that the overall winner would be announced in the summer.

(v) Strathclyde Police Inter-Schools Quiz Finals

The finals of an inter-schools quiz organised by Strathclyde Police had been held on 27 March in the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock. The winner of the first prize of a computer system, donated by Scottish Power, was Lainshaw Primary School in Stewarton with the second prize going to Silverwood Primary School and third prize to St Columba's Primary School. Involvement in the quiz had benefited pupils, schools and the Authority in developing potential, increasing business links and promoting partnership with the Police and the wider community.

(vi) Kilmaurs Primary School - BT Communications Pilot Project and Primary Sports Hall Athletic Championships

On 20 March 1997 a presentation had been given by BT on a pilot project which had been undertaken at Kilmaurs Primary School. Departmental representatives had been able to watch a presentation on communications by Primary 7 pupils at Kilmaurs Primary School through a video link to Council Headquarters. Also, the school beat 37 teams from Primary Schools throughout East Ayrshire to win the Primary Sports Hall Athletics Championship at the final of the competition held on 24 March.

(vii) Boosey and Hawkes Music Competition

The Chair further advised that Stewarton Academy had double success in the recent Boosey and Hawkes Music Competition. The brass band won the gold medal and the jazz band won the silver medal. Warm congratulations were extended to the staff and pupils involved.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

2.1 COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 25 MARCH 1997 - APPENDIX I

2.2 BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 27 MARCH 1997 - APPENDIX II

TACKLING DEPRIVATION AND DISADVANTAGE

3. There was submitted a report dated 24 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which requested approval of the proposed strategy for the re-investment of the revenue savings which had accrued to the Education Department from the schools rationalisation programme in 1996/97.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the availability of revenue savings from the 1996/97 Schools Rationalisation Programme to re-allocate to strategic priorities;
- (ii) to approve the policy framework as detailed within the report, within which the re-allocated savings would be made;
- (iii) that the Director of Education circulate the statement regarding the policy framework to all Educational establishments;
- (iv) that the Director of Education make the necessary arrangements to allocate the financial resources within the policy framework;
- (v) that the Director of Education report to the Education Committee, as appropriate, on the progress of this initiative; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PROVISION OF TEACHING STAFF TO SCHOOLS

4. There was submitted a report dated 24 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought agreement for a change in the way that staffing support was allocated to schools with significant levels of deprivation.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the revised method of allocation of Social Strategy funding be approved;
- (ii) that the allocation of additional staffing to those schools detailed in Section 4.2 of the report for 1997/98 be approved; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education review the allocation for extra staffing for Social Strategy funding for 1998/99.

THE EDUCATION (SCHOOL TEACHER APPRAISAL) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS

5. There was submitted a report dated 26 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the draft Regulations which had been issued by the Scottish Office for formal consultation on Teacher Appraisal.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the response to the consultative document proposed by the Education Department be endorsed;
- (ii) that the implications for the implementation of the proposed scheme for School Teacher Appraisals be noted; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

6. There was submitted a report dated 24 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which outlined the Policy Document - "Making Schools Safer Places" and which sought approval for the document to be circulated widely across the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the content of the Policy Document "Making Schools Safer Places" be approved;
- (ii) that the Director of Education circulate the policy statement widely within the Education Department;
- (iii) that the Director of Education monitor the preparation of establishment security plans;
- (iv) that the Director of Education submit further reports regarding key issues in security to future meetings of the Education Committee which arose from establishment plans; and
- (v) that the Director of Education make appropriate arrangements to allocate the additional available expenditure on the improvement of security in schools.

Having heard the Chief Executive it was also agreed that the Director of Education make clear in a covering note, that material contained in a recommended risk assessment survey for schools should be read in the context of Scots Law.

**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1997 - 2002
(Item 1, Page 1871)**

7. There was submitted a report dated 1 April 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the proposed Capital Programme for the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Capital Allocations to the Education Department in the financial year 1997/98 be noted;
- (ii) that the priorities for determining the Capital Programme be approved; and
- (iii) that the initial programme outlined in Appendix I of the report be approved.

Arising from a number of queries regarding the Capital Programme, in particular, the major maintenance and traffic management sections of Appendix I to the report, it was agreed:-

- (i) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Education Committee outlining, for the purpose of comparison, the costs of re-roofing Educational establishments which had flat roofs with pitched roofs;
- (ii) that a review of pupil safety at Galston Nursery School be undertaken as part of the overall review of security arrangements within Educational establishments in East Ayrshire.

Councillors Cree and McCredie left the meeting at this point.

**DALRYMPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION
DOCUMENT (Item 10, Page 1675)**

8. There was submitted a report dated March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of the consultation on the proposed amendments to the arrangements for transfer of children in Dalrymple Primary School to Secondary School, resulting in amendments to the catchment areas of Carrick Academy, Maybole and Doon Academy, Dalmellington.

It was agreed:-

- (i) not to proceed with the proposal to associate Dalrymple Primary School pupils with Doon Academy; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education monitor the position with the Director of Education of South Ayrshire Council throughout the next school session.

NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY - RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL - DALDORCH HOUSE, CATRINE

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 7 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which provided an update on the development of the residential school for autistic children at Daldorch House, Catrine.

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL LINKS

10. There was submitted a report dated 23 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a project to promote international links within the Department of Education.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the organisation of a seminar to promote international links within the Department of Education be approved; and
- (ii) that the further promotion of international links between schools or services and international partners be approved.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK

11. There was submitted a report dated 1 April 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the significance of Environment Week for the Education Service in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support the participation of the Education Department in Environment Week; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

AYRSHIRE CAREERS PARTNERSHIP LIMITED - REVISED MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES

12. There was submitted a report dated 3 April 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of proposed revisions to the Memorandum and Articles for Ayrshire Careers Partnership Limited and which sought agreement to the proposals.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposed revisions to the Memorandum and Articles for Ayrshire Careers Partnership Limited be approved; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education advise the Board of Directors accordingly.

The meeting terminated at 1145 hours.