

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 APRIL 1996 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Gordon McCredie, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Robert Brailsford; Provost Robert Stirling; Councillors John Knapp, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, David Sneller, George Smith, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson; and Church Representatives William McConnell, John McHugh and Matthew Sullivan.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Jim Kelly and Jimmy Boyd.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Robin Gourlay, Depute Director of Commercial Operations; Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education; Bob McLeary, Head of Property; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; John McHarg, Area Property Officer; Frank Green, Principal Budget Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Apryl Chalmers, Senior Solicitor; David Morgan, Public Relations Officer and James Lally, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Eric Ross and Jimmy Carmichael.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

1.1 BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE OF 3 APRIL 1996

There was submitted and approved as a correct record the Minutes of the Business Sub-Committee held on 3 April 1996 (circulated) as detailed in Appendix 1 of these Minutes.

1.1.1 CHARGES FOR SCHOOL MEALS (ITEM 2 PAGE 751)

Councillor Farrell reported that since the meeting of the above Business Sub-Committee further information had been received from the European Commission in respect of subsidies for Primary School milk and advised that a report on this matter would be submitted to the next meeting of the Business Sub-Committee.

Councillor Nicoll seconded by Councillor Coffey moved that under Standing Order 51 the Committee re-consider the decision of the Business Sub-Committee to increase charges for school milk.

Councillor Farrell seconded by Councillor Taylor moved as an amendment that the decision of the Business Sub-Committee to increase charges for school milk should not be reconsidered.

On a division by a show of hands the amendment was carried by 12 votes to 4.

1.1.2 APPOINTMENT OF CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillor Farrell reported that the Council at its meeting held on 2 April 1996 had approved the Scheme of Delegation which provided for two Church representatives to be nominated to serve on the Business Sub-Committee.

It was agreed that William McConnell and Matthew Sullivan should be appointed to serve on the Business Sub-Committee.

1.2 COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF 9 APRIL 1996

There was submitted and approved as a correct record the Minutes of the Community Sub-Committee held on 9 April 1996 (circulated) as detailed in Appendix 2 of these Minutes.

2. POSSIBLE RATIONALISATION OF SCHOOLS

There was submitted a report dated 9 April 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education recommending the establishment of a case and criteria for the rationalisation of educational establishments within East Ayrshire and including draft consultation documents on proposed rationalisation of schools.

Councillor Farrell seconded by Councillor Taylor, moved:

- (i) that the criteria for the rationalisation of educational establishments within East Ayrshire should relate to:-
 - (a) Educational Criteria - rationalisation of school provision should result in improved education for pupils either in terms of a broader, richer curriculum or a more effective educational environment; and
 - (b) Property and Maintenance Criteria - schools in which the roll was very small, where buildings were underoccupied or large sums of capital monies would be required to maintain the fabric of the building in circumstances where alternative improved provision was available locally;
- (ii) that the Director of Education prepare a detailed report on personnel issues in the event of school closures for the consideration of the Community Sub-Committee of this Committee; and
- (iii) that the Committee should consider the detailed consultation documents relative to the schools identified in the report and contained in the appendices thereto.

Councillor Nicoll seconded by Councillor Coffey moved as an amendment:

- (i) that the proposed criteria for the rationalisation of educational establishments within East Ayrshire should not be accepted; and
- (ii) that the Committee should not consider the detailed consultation documents relative to the schools identified in the report and contained in the appendices thereto.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 4 and the Committee proceeded to consider the individual consultation documents detailed below.

2.1 CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT - FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR SECONDARY AGED, DENOMINATIONAL PUPILS, IN THE AREAS SERVED BY ST CONVAL'S HIGH SCHOOL, CUMNOCK AND ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY, KILMARNOCK

Local Members and other Members of the Committee commented on the consultative document and Councillor Farrell explained that they would have the opportunity to express their views during the consultative process. Councillor Farrell seconded by Councillor Taylor then moved:

- (i) adoption of the proposal detailed below:-
 - (a) that all stages of education at St Conval's High School, Cumnock be discontinued from the end of session 1995/96 and that those pupils attending St John's Primary School, Cumnock, St Patrick's Primary School, Auchinleck and St Thomas's Primary School, Muirkirk who under present arrangements would transfer to St Conval's High School at the P7 stage would instead transfer to St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock at the beginning of session 1996/97 ie August 1996; and
 - (b) that all pupils at present attending St Conval's High School should attend St Joseph's Academy from the start of session 1996/97 ie August 1996.
- (ii) that the consultative document as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be issued as a consultative document in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 as amended and made available to all interested parties;
- (iii) that all interested parties, including school boards, be asked to make written submissions on the proposals to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG, no later than 21 May 1996; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

Councillor Nicoll seconded by Councillor Coffey moved as an amendment:

- (i) that the consultative document as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be issued as an informal document and made available to all interested parties;
- (ii) that all interested parties, including school boards, be asked to make written submissions thereon to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG, no later than 1 August 1996; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of this process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 5.

2.2 CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT - FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR NON-DENOMINATIONAL PUPILS OF PRIMARY AGE RESIDING WITHIN THE

DELINEATED AREAS OF GROUGAR PRIMARY SCHOOL, MOSCOW AND FENWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Local Members and other Members of the Committee commented on the consultative document and Councillor Farrell explained that they would have the opportunity to express their views during the consultative process. Councillor Farrell seconded by Councillor Taylor then moved:

- (i) adoption of the proposal detailed below:-
 - (a) that Grougar Primary School be closed with effect from the end of the current school session in June 1996 or at as early a date as possible thereafter;
 - (b) that the pupils attending Grougar Primary School should transfer to Fenwick Primary School from the start of the school session in August 1996 or at as early a date as possible thereafter;
 - (c) that in the event of this proposal being accepted, the pupils transferring from Grougar Primary School to Fenwick Primary School would continue their secondary education at Loudoun Academy;
 - (d) that where there were siblings attending James Hamilton Academy, parents would be given, for continuity, the choice of sending pupils to James Hamilton Academy; and
 - (e) that the delineated area of Fenwick Primary School be amended to incorporate the current delineated area of Grougar Primary School.
- (ii) that the consultative document as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be issued as a consultative document in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 as amended and made available to all interested parties, including school boards;
- (iii) that all interested parties be asked to make written submissions on the proposals to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG, no later than 21 May 1996; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

Councillor Nicoll seconded by Councillor Coffey moved as an amendment:

- (i) that the consultative document as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be issued as an informal document and made available to all interested parties including school boards;
- (ii) that all interested parties be asked to make written submissions thereon to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG no later than 1 August 1996; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of this process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 4.

2.3 CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT - FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR NON-DENOMINATIONAL PUPILS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE RESIDING WITHIN THE DELINEATED AREAS OF CROOKEDHOLM PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEW FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HURLFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Local Members and other Members of the Committee commented on the consultative document and Councillor Farrell explained that they would have the opportunity to express their views during the consultative process. Councillor Farrell seconded by Councillor Taylor then moved:

- (i) adoption of the proposal detailed below:-
 - (a) that Crookedholm Primary School be closed with effect from the end of the current school session in June 1996 or at as early a date as possible thereafter and that:
 - EITHER
 - (1) the pupils currently attending Crookedholm Primary School should transfer to New Farm Primary School;
 - OR
 - (2) parents of pupils at Crookedholm Primary School be given the choice of sending their children to either New Farm Primary School or Hurlford Primary School;
 - (b) to note that the above proposals were alternative proposals either of which the Council may implement without further consultation;
 - (c) that transfer under the above options would take place from the start of the school session in August 1996 or at as early a date as possible thereafter; and
 - (d) that the delineated area of New Farm Primary School (Option 1) or of New Farm Primary School and Hurlford Primary School (Option 2) (dependant upon which of the above options was implemented) be amended to incorporate the current delineated area of Crookedholm Primary School.
- (ii) that the consultative document as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be issued as a consultative document in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 as amended and made available to all interested parties including school boards;
- (iii) that all interested parties be asked to make written submissions on the proposals to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG no later than 21 May 1996; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

Councillor Nicoll seconded by Councillor Coffey moved as an amendment;

- (i) that the consultative document as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be issued as an informal document and made available to all interested parties, including school boards;

- (ii) that all interested parties be asked to make written submissions thereon to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG no later than 1 August 1996; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education prepare a report thereon for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 4.

Matthew Sullivan, Church representative left the meeting during discussion of the above item prior to a decision being made.

2.4 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR DENOMINATIONAL PUPILS OF PRIMARY AGE RESIDING WITHIN THE DELINEATED AREAS OF ST CLARE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, SINCLAIRSTON, ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, AUCHINLECK AND ST XAVIER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNASKIN

The Director of Education reported that should the Committee give approval to issue the consultative document a further appendix, appendix 9 showing the combined roll projections of St Clare's Primary School and St Xavier's Primary School would be added to the consultative document prior to issue for public consultation.

Local Members and other Members of the Committee commented on the consultative document and Councillor Farrell explained that they would have the opportunity to express their views during the consultative process. Councillor Farrell seconded by Councillor Taylor then moved:

- (i) adoption of the proposals detailed below:
 - (a) that St Clare's Primary School, Sinclairston be closed with effect from the end of the school session in June 1996 or at as early a date as possible thereafter;
 - (b) that pupils currently attending St Clare's Primary School should transfer to:
 - EITHER
 - (1) St Patrick's Primary School from the start of the school session in August 1996 or at as early a date as possible thereafter;
 - OR
 - (2) St Xavier's Primary School from the start of the school session in August 1996.
 - (c) to note that the above proposals were alternative proposals either of which the Council may implement without further consultation; and
 - (d) that the delineated area of either Option 1, St Patrick's Primary School or Option 2, St Xavier's Primary School be amended to reflect the option chosen.
- (ii) that the consultative document as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report inclusive of the further Appendix as outlined by the Director of Education be issued as a consultative document in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 as amended and made available to all interested parties, including school boards;

- (iii) that all interested parties be asked to make written submissions on the proposals to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG, no later than 21 May 1996; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

Councillor Coffey seconded by Councillor Nicoll moved as an amendment;

- (i) that the consultative document as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report inclusive of the further appendix outlined by the Director of Education above be issued as an informal document and made available to all interested parties, including school boards;
- (ii) that all interested parties be asked to make written submissions thereon to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG, no later than 1 August 1996; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of this process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 4.

2.5 CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT - FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR DENOMINATIONAL PUPILS OF PRIMARY AGE RESIDING WITH THE DELINEATED AREA OF ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURLFORD AND ST MATTHEW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, KILMARNOCK

Local Members and other Members of the Committee commented on the consultative document and Councillor Farrell explained that they would have the opportunity to express their views during the consultative process. Councillor Farrell seconded by Councillor Taylor then moved:

- (i) adoption of the proposals detailed below:-
 - (a) that St Paul's Primary School be closed with effect from the end of the school session in June 1996 or at as early a date as possible thereafter;
 - (b) that pupils currently attending St Paul's Primary School should transfer to St Matthew's Primary School from the start of the school session in August 1996 or at as early a date as possible thereafter;
 - (c) that the delineated area of St Matthew's Primary School be amended to incorporate the current delineated area of St Paul's Primary School.
- (ii) that the consultative document as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report be issued as a consultative document in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 as amended and made available to all interested parties, including school boards;
- (iii) that all interested parties be asked to make written submissions on the proposals to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG, no later than 21 May 1996; and

- (iv) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

Councillor Nicoll seconded by Councillor Coffey moved as an amendment,

- (i) that the consultative document as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report be issued as an informal document and made available to all interested parties, including school boards;
- (ii) that all interested parties be asked to make written submissions thereon to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG, no later than 1 August 1996; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of this process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 4.

2.6 CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT - FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR DENOMINATIONAL PUPILS OF PRIMARY AGE RESIDING WITHIN THE DELINEATED AREAS OF ST THOMAS'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MUIRKIRK AND ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CUMNOCK

Local Members and other Members of the Committee commented on the consultative document and Councillor Farrell explained that they would have the opportunity to express their views during the consultative process. Councillor Farrell seconded by Councillor Taylor then moved:

- (i) adoption of the proposals detailed below:-
 - (a) that St Thomas's Primary School, Muirkirk be closed with effect from the end of the school session in June 1996 or at as early a date as possible thereafter;
 - (b) that the pupils currently attending St Thomas's Primary School should transfer to St John's Primary School from the start of the school session in August 1996 or at as early a date as possible thereafter; and
 - (c) that the delineated area of St John's Primary School, Cumnock be amended to incorporate the current delineated area of St Thomas's Primary School, Muirkirk.
- (ii) that the consultative document as detailed in Appendix 6 of the report be issued as a consultative document in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 as amended and made available to all interested parties, including school boards;
- (iii) that all interested parties be asked to make written representation on the proposals to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG, no later than 21 May 1996; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

Councillor Coffey seconded by Councillor Nicoll moved as an amendment;

- (i) that the consultative document, as detailed in Appendix 6 of the report be issued as an informal document and made available to all interested parties, including school boards;
- (ii) that all interested parties be asked to make written representation thereon to the Director of Education, John Mulgrew, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7DG, no later than 1 August 1996; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education prepare a report on the results of this process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 3.

Councillor McCredie left the meeting during discussion of the above item prior to a decision being made.

LOCAL SCHOOL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

3. There was submitted a report dated 9 April 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education providing information in relation to the consultation exercise carried out by the former Strathclyde Regional Council to agree local school holidays and seeking agreement to implement the proposals for 1997/98.

It was agreed;

- (i) to accept the proposed school holiday arrangements for 1997/98 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (ii) to note that the local school holiday arrangements would now be issued to educational establishments in June 1996 and to school boards in August 1996, with school board decisions expected by November 1996 and a final decision circulated to educational establishments in February 1997.

QUALITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE EDUCATION SERVICE

4. There was submitted a report dated 12 April 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education describing the nature and scope of the work of the quality development team and advising of the function, operation and management of the quality development team.

It was agreed to approve the establishment of the quality development team and agree the nature and scope of the work of the quality development team as detailed in the report.

The meeting terminated at 1140 hours.