

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22 APRIL 1999 AT 1000 HOURS  
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,  
KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Gordon McCredie, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Douglas Reid, Jane Darnbrough, Alan Campbell, John Knapp, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, Eric Ross, George Smith and Eric Jackson; John McHugh, John Patterson and Matthew Sullivan, Church Representatives and Iain Harvey, Teacher Representative.

**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; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Janie Allen, Principal Officer (Pre-Fives); Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant and Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Drew McIntyre, Ann Hay, George Turnbull, David Sneller and Andrew Torrance, Parent Representative.

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS****(i) Appointment of Area Community Education Officer**

The Chair was delighted to advise that Dot Grieve had been appointed to the post of Area Community Education Officer in the North area of East Ayrshire. Dot had previously held the post of Senior Community Education Worker leading the Sub-Team providing services to young people in the South area.

**(ii) Cumnock Academy - Musical Concert**

It was noted that an outstanding musical concert had been held in Cumnock Academy recently. The concert which involved seven of East Ayrshire's Secondary Schools in conjunction with Cumnock Music Club and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra was the culmination of a series of master workshops held recently in East Ayrshire's schools. The work had been specially commissioned by local and internationally renowned composer James MacMillan. This innovative development, while relating to the curriculum had given the pupils a valuable insight into professional music making and the opportunity of working with leading professional musicians in Scotland.

**(iii) Easter Schools - Study Support**

The Chair advised that over 1,600 pupils from all of East Ayrshire's secondary schools had taken part in the successful provision of study support in Easter Schools, covering a wide variety of subjects at Standard Grade and Higher levels. Student participation had been extremely high and positive feedback had been received from

staff and students. The increased motivation and learning opportunities will help students improve their performance in the forthcoming national examinations.

**(iv) Youth Conference - Onthank Community Centre**

It was noted that this year's Youth Conference held recently in Onthank Community Education Centre had been an excellent success. 66 young people had participated in this event which focused on Active Citizenship and how young people could be more fully involved with the Council in taking forward issues of concern to them. Also, discussion took place on establishing a Youth Magazine and the development of Youth Forums. A number of meetings had been planned for the near future to allow the young people to progress the issues raised.

**(v) Doon Academy - Science Race 99**

The Chair extended congratulations to a team of 19 pupils from Doon Academy who had come 40th out of 263 schools across the UK who had made it to the final round of Science Race 99 conducted over the Internet. The young scientists of Doon Academy had to answer 20 demanding questions based on physics, chemistry, engineering and mathematics.

**(vi) Stewarton Academy**

Congratulations were also extended to pupils of Stewarton Academy who have had three rounds of recent success:-

- Curling Team reached the semi-finals of Scottish Schools Championship.
- Senior Wind Band won silver medal at National Boosey & Hawkes Competition.
- S4 pupil Laura Paterson had been selected for Scottish Under-16 Badminton team to play at Wimbledon in May.

**CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**

2. There were submitted and approved both as a correct record and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the Chair's Sub-Committee of 23 March 1999 (circulated) as contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.

**HIGHER SCHOOL AND FURTHER EDUCATION BURSARIES**

3. There was submitted a report dated 6 April 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought the agreement to proposed allowances in contribution scales in respect of Higher School and Further Education Bursaries for 1999/2000.

It was agreed that the allowances and contribution scales for 1999/2000 in respect of Higher School and Further Education Bursaries be maintained at the current rate as detailed in Paragraph 4.1 of the report.

Councillors McCredie and Nicoll and Matthew Sullivan, Church Representative joined the meeting at this point.

**EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND  
CHILDCARE PLAN**

4. There was submitted a report dated 7 April 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the proposed outline plan for pre-school education and

childcare for children aged 0-14 years in East Ayrshire and which sought approval of the outline plan prior to submission to the Scottish Office by 23 April 1999.

John Patterson, Church Representative joined the meeting at this point.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the initial audit of childcare provision (0-14);
- (ii) to the proposed outline plan for pre-school education and childcare for children aged 0-14 years;
- (iii) to approve the commissioning of places for children aged 3-5 years in those private and voluntary sector providers which are HMI accredited at a recommended rate of £880 per place;
- (iv) to note that implementing the proposed plan would increase the number of 3 year old places from the Autumn term 1999;
- (v) that the Director of Education initiate discussions with the Trades Unions on the proposal;
- (vi) that the Director of Education provide further reports on the findings of the Out of School Care audit and bring forward details;
- (vii) that the Director of Education provide a further report detailing proposals for the expansion of Local Authority provision aged 3-5 years;
- (viii) to approve the outline plan and interim audit being submitted to the Scottish Office by 23 April 1999; and
- (ix) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS: INTER-AUTHORITY PAYMENTS**

5. There was submitted a report dated 15 March 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval for a revised basis for the setting and accepting of inter-authority fees in relation to placements in special schools and units.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education be authorised to set and accept changes for pupil placement that are proposed in accordance with the CoSLA guideline principles detailed in Paragraph 3.1 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING GRANTS 1999/2000**

6. There was submitted a report dated 6 April 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised on matters relating to Footwear and Clothing Grants and proposed a recommended level of grant for 1999/2000.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve that Footwear and Clothing Grants continue to be available to eligible pupils attending schools managed by East Ayrshire Council or to a school to which they have been directed by East Ayrshire Council;
- (ii) that the level of grant for 1999/2000 remain at £50; and

- (iii) that the Director of Education arrange to publicise widely within East Ayrshire the availability of Footwear and Clothing Grants and continue to monitor the uptake of grants and report periodically to the Education Committee.

### **NEW INITIATIVES**

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 1 April 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which outlined recent developments in educational provision in East Ayrshire for which funding had been granted by the Scottish Office.

### **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) - PROPOSED CONFERENCE ON ICT - SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 1999**

8. There was submitted a report dated 8 April 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a proposal to develop a National Conference on ICT in conjunction with the Scottish School Boards Association and which sought agreement to proceed with this proposal.

It was agreed to approve the proposal to progress arrangements for the Conference on ICT to be held on Saturday 18 September 1999 in the Palace Theatre and Grand Hall, Kilmarnock.

### **TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL PUPILS**

9. There was submitted a report dated 7 April 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the arrangements in place for the transportation of Primary and Secondary pupils and which sought approval to accept tenders for contracts due for renewal.

Arising from queries from Elected Members, it was noted that the Director of Education would continue (i) to monitor those vehicles used for transporting pupils to school; and (ii) to investigate any reports received regarding misbehaviour on school transport contracts.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the Director of Education to pursue through the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority those contracts due for renewal in School session 1999/2000; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education continue with arrangements in place for contracts with expiry dates up to 2002.

Councillor McCredie left the meeting at this point.

### **DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY - GROUND AT CASTLE STREET, NEW CUMNOCK**

10. There was submitted a report dated 9 April 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which sought approval to declare surplus to the requirements of the Education Department a strip of ground at Castle Street, New Cumnock.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposal to declare surplus the strip at Castle Street, New Cumnock, be approved; and

- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the matter to the Director of Development Services for completion.

**PROPOSAL FOR GARDEN DEVELOPMENT AT ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, AUCHINLECK**

11. There was submitted a report dated 9 April 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a proposal by staff and pupils at St Patrick's Primary School, Auchinleck, to develop a garden project.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the re-allocation of land detailed in Appendix I of the report to the Education Department for the purposes of the garden project development by St Patrick's Primary School; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the matter to the Director of Development Services for completion.

**VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 1999/2000**

12. There was submitted a report dated 1 April 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which recommended awards in respect of allocations for Educational Voluntary Sector Grants for 1999/2000.

Councillor McCredie re-joined the meeting at this point.

The Committee made the following decisions:-

**(a) Applications Approved**

<u>NAME OF ORGANISATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Onthank After School Care	£27,390.00
Islamic Education Culture Centre	£1,500.00
Workers Educational Association	£2,000.00
Glasgow Gaelic Drama Group	£150.00
Dyslexia Scot West	£100.00
Childline Bullying Line	£500.00
Caledonian Award	£500.00
East Ayrshire Federation of Community Associations	£1,200.00
Scottish Opera for All	£290.00
National Youth Orchestra	£100.00
Bellfield After School Care	£2,000.00
Youthlink Scotland	£150.00
Avonlea Youth Centre	£5,700.00
Ayrshire Schools Football	£500.00
Scottish Council for Research and Education	£770.00

<b><u>NAME OF ORGANISATION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
Before and After School Care, Shortlees	£42,061.00
Outdoor Opportunities	£2,000.00
KULOC	£1,500.00
Scottish Council for Educational Technology	£100.00
Scottish Community Education Council	£1,012.00
Adult Education South	£5,000.00
Adult Education North	£4,000.00
Scottish Childminding Association	£1,800.00
East Ayrshire Mobile Toy Library	£500.00
<b>(b) <u>Application Refused</u></b>	
Hopscotch Theatre Company; Ethnic Minorities Law Centre; Scottish Pre-School Play Association; Playaway Crèche; Noah's Ark Crèche; Ladybird Playgroup; and St Ninian's Pre-School Playgroup	
<b>(c) <u>Applications Approved in Principle</u></b>	
<b><u>ORGANISATION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
West of Scotland Playscheme Forum	£4,500.00

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

13. The Chair advised that as this was the last meeting of the Education Committee in the life of the present Council he wished to extend his thanks to Elected Member colleagues and, in particular, those retiring from the Council, Councillors Fulton, Reeves, McCredie and Nicoll. The Chair also expressed thanks to Church Representatives serving at present, Matthew Sullivan, John McHugh and John Patterson and to the former Church Representative, William McConnell, in addition to expressing thanks to the Parent Representative, Andy Torrance and a former Parent Representative, Shelagh McKerrell and Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey for their support during the life of the Education Committee.

The meeting terminated at 1100 hours.