

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 MARCH 1999 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Gordon McCredie, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Ann Hay, John Knapp, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Eric Ross, George Smith, Eric Jackson and Church Representatives John McHugh and John Paterson; Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey and Parent Representative, Andrew Torrance.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Blake and Graham, Short, Depute Directors of Education; Ken Hathaway, Principal Client Services; Frank Green, Principal Officer (Budgets); Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager; Euan Couperwhite, Financial Service Manager; Paul Whip, Senior Accountant; David Morgan, Public Relations Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer and Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Douglas Reid, Jane Darnbrough, Alan Campbell, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, David Sneller and Matthew Sullivan, Church Representative.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

ADDITIONAL ITEM**RE-ROOFING CONTRACT AT ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY, KILMARNOCK**

1. The Chair agreed to the consideration of an additional item after item 4 of the Agenda, as an early decision was required.

CHAIR'S REMARKS**2.1 Woodstock School**

The Chair extended congratulations to the pupils and staff at Woodstock School who had been excellent ambassadors at the national "Success Stories in Scottish Education" exhibition in Dundee recently. They had also had the privilege of their exhibition being visited by Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland.

2.2 East Ayrshire Schools Band and School Choir

It was noted that two excellent performances of the East Ayrshire Schools Band and Schools Choir had been held recently in Kilmarnock and Cumnock. The success of these performances was due to the hard work and dedication of the pupils and staff involved. The musical performance had been outstanding.

2.3 Easter Schools Programme

The Chair was pleased to inform the Committee that a programme of Easter Schools and supported study would be taking place during April involving all secondary schools in East Ayrshire. This important initiative, involving well over 1,000 pupils

would provide students with an opportunity to enhance their study timetable for the forthcoming Standard Grade and Higher examinations.

2.4 Drongan Primary School

The Chair advised that three pupils from Drongan Primary School would appear on the Eikon television programme this Sunday. The pupils had been filmed with Christian Akumiah, a faith missionary partner from Ghana as part of "Experience Africa" exhibition which had been held in Castlehill Church recently.

2.5 Ochiltree Primary School

It was noted that pupils from Ochiltree Primary School had been rewarded with a cheque for £500 for their production of a song about Disney World for promoting the Daily Record's "Biggest School Trip Ever" competition and that the money would be used to buy a fax machine and resource materials. It was also noted that the pupils had celebrated their win with an ice-cream and had imagined they were in sunnier climes.

2.6 Grange Academy

The Chair had advised that pupils from Grange Academy had played host to students from Luxembourg and Dublin recently as part of a project funded by the European Union under the Comenius scheme. The pupils had participated in a mock interview activity which had required the students to present themselves in a foreign language: French for the Irish students, English for the Luxembourg students and German for the Grange students. This had been only part of this very innovative and interesting project and the Chair wished the pupils continued success with these exchange links.

2.7 Doon Academy

It was noted that Doon Academy were also developing exchange links with their visit from pupils from Fayette County High School and Auchinleck Academy and would play host to a group of pupils from Bremen High School both in Atlanta, Georgia. Both of these exchanges had been part of the Achievers International Project, which had promoted enterprise within education.

2.8 Appointment to Post of Financial Services Manager

The Chair was pleased to inform the Committee that Euan Couperwhite had been appointed to the post of Financial Services Manager for the Education Department. It was noted Euan brought a wealth of financial experience to the post and that he and the Directorate were looking forward to working closely with Euan.

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE - MINUTES

3. There were submitted and approved both as a correct record and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the Education Sub-Committee of 25 February 1999 (circulated) as contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - EDUCATION TO 29 JANUARY 1999 (PERIOD 11)

4. There was submitted a joint report dated 24 February 1999 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Education which advised of the current budgetary control

position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Education Department for the period ended 29 January 1999 (Period 11).

Arising from a query from Councillor McCredie, it was agreed that the Director of Education would pursue the issue concerning reported smoking on school buses.

It was, otherwise, agreed to note the contents of the report.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - COMMUNITY EDUCATION STEWARDS - TRADING SERVICES TO 29 JANUARY 1999 (PERIOD 11)

5. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 24 February 1999 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Education which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Community Education Stewards - Trading Services for the period ended 29 January 1999 (Period 11).

AWARDING OF TENDERS

6. There was submitted a report dated 24 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been awarded in respect of the Education Service, viz:-

CONTRACT	SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
Replacement of Asbestos Ceilings at Loudoun Academy, Galston	Carymar Construction Services, Kirkintilloch	£34,973.61
Proposed Refurbishment to Galston Nursery School, Galston	Morris & Spottiswood Ltd, Glasgow	£47,351.77
Re-roofing of Art Block at Auchinleck Academy, Auchinleck	Rennie Roofcare Ltd, Glasgow	£35,276.30
Refurbishment of Computer Rooms at St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock	John McCaig Electrical, Ayr	£54,434.73
Replacement of Roof Decking on Art Department at St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock	McKay Roofing Ltd, Kirkintilloch	£82,761.87
St Joseph's Academy, Cumnock Campus, Alterations to Reception Area and Security Improvements	McLean Construction, Ayr	£24,139.50
Re-roofing of Main Block to Kilmarnock Academy	Braedale Roofing Ltd, Wishaw	£51,943.57
Upgrading & Electrical Works to various Community Education Centres	Anderson & Innes, Kilmarnock	£32,496.17

CONTRACT	SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
CCTV Installation and associated works at Grange Academy and Loudoun Academy	Alarmfast Security Systems Ltd, Glasgow	£117,381.04

RE-ROOFING CONTRACT AT ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY, KILMARNOCK

7. There was submitted a joint report dated 11 March 1999 (circulated) by the Directors of Education and of Support Services seeking authority to incur additional expenditure in relation to the current re-roofing contract at St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock.

It was agreed to authorise additional expenditure amounting to £18,500 in respect of the re-roofing contract at St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock.

TARGETING EXCELLENCE

8. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a consultation exercise being conducted in relation to the Government's White Paper "Targeting Excellence: Modernising Scotland's Schools".

It was reported and noted that summaries of the White Paper were available for Members information.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to mount a consultative exercise on the content of the White Paper "Targeting Excellence: Modernising Scotland's Schools"; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

TARGETS FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

9. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the latest developments in the quality initiative in Scottish schools, relating to pupils with special educational needs.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the setting of targets for pupils with special educational needs in East Ayrshire Schools;
- (ii) that the initiative should be closely monitored by members of the Quality Development Team;
- (iii) that the Director of Education negotiate directly with the Scottish Office if any issues of concern emerged in the course of this initiative; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SCOTTISH CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION - EXAMINATION RESULTS 1998

10. There was submitted a report dated 22 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the performance of secondary schools in East Ayrshire

in national examinations for the Scottish Certificate of Education and which provided benchmark data from neighbouring authorities and nationally.

It was reported and noted that paragraph 3.6, bullet point 2 of the report 're-organised' should read 'recognised'.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support Headteachers in the use of examination analysis as part of their strategies for systematic review and evaluation of performance;
- (ii) to support the use of examination data as a basis for professional discussions within schools, with parents and with the Education Department, although it should be borne in mind that the data did not take account of social and economic factors; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

STANDARDS AND QUALITIES IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS 1995-1998

11. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the contents of the report "Standards and Quality in Scottish Schools" and which sought approval for future action in this area of work.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report and the implications for the Education Department; and
- (ii) to approve the measures being taken by East Ayrshire's Education Department to proceed to develop strategies to improve quality based on self evaluation within educational establishments.

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING (Item 10, Page 3678)

12. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the events taking place in educational establishments as part of the National Year of Reading and which indicated future events planned at authority level. It was noted that East Ayrshire had arranged a 'Drop Everything and Read Day' for 23 April 1999.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to continue to approve the participation in National Year of Reading; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS: COSTS 1996/97 TO 1998/99

13. There was submitted a report dated 25 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the contents of the report "Scottish Schools: Costs 1996/97 to 1998/99" which has been published by the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department in January 1999.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education provide further annual reports based on school running costs to the Education Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

14. CROSSHOUSE NURSERY - FIRE

The Chair reported to the Committee and expressed his concern in relation to a further fire incident the previous day at Crosshouse Nursery. The damage had been serious and Members would be kept advised of the progress being made.

AMENDMENTS TO PLACING REQUEST LEGISLATION (Item 8, Page 1674)

15. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the reservation of places for pupils at Stewarton Academy in 1999/2000.

It was reported and noted that paragraph 3.2, last line should read "... until the eighth reserved place has been secured."

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the implications of amendments to placing request legislation in respect of reserved places;
- (ii) that, in respect of Stewarton Academy, 8 places be reserved for S1 for the academic year 1999/2000 in order to accommodate pupils coming into the catchment area for that school; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education monitor and review the situation regarding the reservation of places under the amended legislation.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 1998/99 (Item 3, Page 3423)

16. There was submitted a report dated 24 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which requested approval for the re-allocation of the balance of funds which had been returned to the Voluntary Sector Grants budget from the Scottish Early Years Forum and Rascals, Kilmaurs amounting to £3,031.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to award the balance of £3,031 from the Voluntary Sector Grants budget for 1998/99 to the Rural Challenge Projects; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CHARGES FOR SCHOOL MEALS

17. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which proposed that the revised charges for school meals be implemented from 13 April 1999.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Jackson moved to note the new charge for a set meal would be £1.25 and that the revised charge be effective from 13 April 1999.

Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor McCredie moved as an amendment not to implement the revised charge with effect from 13 April 1999.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by nine votes to three.

MUSIC PROJECT

- 18.** There was submitted a report dated 25 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of a Music Project involving seven secondary schools within East Ayrshire in conjunction with Cumnock Music Club, The Scottish Chamber Orchestra, James McMillan, The Scottish Arts Council and which had been supported by Lottery Funding.

It was agreed to note the innovative development which would involve pupils of East Ayrshire Schools in working with leading professional musicians in Scotland.

The meeting terminated at 1047 hours.