

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 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, David Macrae, Iain Linton, Alex Walsh, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie; and Church Representatives Rev John Paterson and John McHugh.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Blake, Depute Director of Education; Stewart Gillan, Assistant Contracts Manager; Euan Couperwhite, Financial Services Manager; Frank Green, Principal Officer (Budgets); Kenneth MacKinlay, Principal, Quality Development; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Jacqueline Phillips, Senior Accountant; Peter Hessel, Solicitor; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer, Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer (Education).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Alan Campbell and Provost Jimmy Boyd.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS**(i) Death of Norah Craig, Head Teacher, Woodstock School**

On behalf of the Education Committee, the Chair expressed his sincere condolences to the staff and pupils of Woodstock School, Kilmarnock following the recent death of Head Teacher Norah Craig. Norah had been an excellent colleague who had been held in very high regard. Her contribution to the educational development of her students had been considerable. Many people had been grateful to her for her professionalism, patience and commitment and she would be a great loss to the school, the education authority and the wider community of East Ayrshire.

(ii) National ICT 2000 and Beyond Conference

The Chair had been delighted to welcome everyone to East Ayrshire for the National ICT 2000 and Beyond Conference which had been held in the Palace Theatre on 18 September 1999. The success of this event had been reported in the national press.

(iii) Parent's Open Day

Congratulations were extended to all the pupils and staff from the educational establishments who had taken part in this year's Parents' Open Day held in the Grand Hall on 25 September 1999. Over 30 schools had contributed to this very successful event which had given an opportunity for parents and the wider community to see, at first hand, the good practice going on in schools in East Ayrshire.

(iv) Instrumental Service Gala Concert

The Chair advised over 250 young musicians from secondary schools had played to a packed Grand Hall last Thursday evening at the Instrumental Service Gala Concert. This event had given the young people the opportunity to show-off their talents to parents and the wider community in East Ayrshire. Those who had been able to attend enjoyed the show immensely.

(v) Extra Curricular Activities

The Chair expressed his delight that a large number of pupils would benefit from a Dance School, which was being held in Kilmarnock Academy. A Woodwind Master Class with the Scottish Flute Trio had been held in Cumnock Academy on Wednesday of this week.

(vi) Annanhill and Silverwood Primary Schools

It was noted that Channel 4 TV was working with pupils in Annanhill and Silverwood Primary Schools in the production of a series of programmes on 5-14 language learning.

(vii) Drugs Awareness/Active and Healthy Lifestyles Programme

It was noted that all Primary 5 pupils in East Ayrshire would be involved in an experiential learning programme being run from October to December on drugs awareness and active and healthy lifestyles. This initiative would involve joint working between the Education Department, Kilmarnock Football Club, Strathclyde Police, Leisure Services and Scotland Against Drugs.

(viii) Stewarton Academy Bands

The Chair reported Stewarton Academy Bands had been delighted to play host to a performance by the Representative Band of the Norwegian Armed Forces recently. This had been the first performance by the Norwegians as part of their 1999 Tour of Scotland and had been well received by a large audience of parents and friends.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

2. There was submitted and approved both as a correct record 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 CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE - 15 SEPTEMBER 1999 (Appendix I)**2.2 EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE - 30 SEPTEMBER 1999 (Appendix II)**

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - EDUCATION TO 27 AUGUST 1999 (PERIOD 5)

3. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 29 September 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 27 August 1999 (Period 5).

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - COMMUNITY EDUCATION STEWARDS - TRADING SERVICES TO 27 AUGUST 1999 (PERIOD 5)

4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 29 September 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 27 August 1999 (Period 5).

Arising from a query on whether the recent pay award for APT&C and Manual Staff had been linked to changes in Conditions of Service, the Chief Executive advised that of the 3.3% pay award 0.3% had been related to some changes in Conditions of Service and that these had been concerned specifically with the arrangements being made for transition to single status for employees. It was noted that information regarding the changes would be provided to Councillor MacLean.

SCHOOL BOARD BIENNIAL ELECTIONS

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 30 September 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the position to date in relation to School Board Elections in East Ayrshire.

IMPROVING OUR SCHOOLS

6. There was submitted a report dated 29 September 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the main contents of the Government Paper "Improving Our Schools" and which sought approval for forwarding the results of a consultative exercise on its proposals to The Scottish Executive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the results of the consultation exercise "Improving Our Schools" as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report be forwarded to The Scottish Executive by 31 October 1999 as the official response of East Ayrshire Council; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PILOT SCHEME FOR EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES (Item 8, Page 89, 1999/02)

7. There was submitted a report dated 15 September 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the outcome of discussions between the Education Department and The Scottish Executive relative to the pilot scheme for Education Maintenance Allowances (EMA) in East Ayrshire.

It was reported and noted that in relation to paragraph 4.1 of the report updated figures for the awards being assessed and processed were now as follows:-

East Ayrshire Schools - 321;

Other Schools - 13

Kilmarnock College - 83;

Ayr College - 86;

other colleges - 2; and

applications currently being assessed - 188.

It was agreed that the Director of Education report progress to future meetings of the Education Committee regarding the pilot scheme for Education Maintenance Allowances.

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP AUDIT - OUT OF SCHOOL CHILD CARE AND WRAP-AROUND CARE (Item 3, Page 88, 1999/02)

8. There was submitted a report dated 30 September 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the results of the audit undertaken by the Childcare Partnership in East Ayrshire regarding the need and demand for out of school hours childcare and wrap-around care.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education provide a further report on the need and demand for wrap-around care in nursery school and classes;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit this report to the Council's Local Committees; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY - FORMER JANITOR'S HOUSE, DOON ACADEMY, DALMELLINGTON

8. There was submitted a report dated 23 September 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education which advised of the termination of use of the former Janitor's House at Doon Academy, Dalmellington and which recommended that the property be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare the former Janitor's House at Doon Academy, Dalmellington surplus to the requirements of the Education Department; and
- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the disposal of the property to the Director of Development Services.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

10.1 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SECONDARY TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN RESIDING IN THE DELINEATED AREA OF KILMAURS PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was submitted a report dated 22 September 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding proposed amendments to the secondary transfer arrangements for children residing in the delineated area of Kilmaurs Primary School.

It was reported and noted that in relation to paragraph 9.1 of the report the second paragraph should read "on balance, it is estimated that there would be no additional transport costs."

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Knapp moved:-

- (i) to adopt the proposal that:-
 - (a) Primary 7 pupils from Kilmaurs Primary School should now be associated with Kilmarnock Academy, instead of Stewarton Academy

on transfer to secondary education. This proposal to be effective for new admissions in August 2000 at the start of the new school session;

- (b) pupils from Kilmaurs Primary School already in attendance at Stewarton Academy would be able to continue to attend Stewarton Academy with the continued provision of transport to the school;
 - (c) those pupils from Kilmaurs Primary School already in attendance at Stewarton Academy should be given the opportunity to attend Kilmarnock Academy provided places are available at the appropriate stage with transport being provided in line with the Council's policy;
- (ii) that this report be issued as a consultative document and made available to interested parties;
 - (iii) that all interested parties, including the relevant School Board(s) be asked to make written representation to the Director of Education, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU no later than 18 November 1999; 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 McNeil, seconded by Councillor Coffey moved as an amendment the proposals detailed above with the exception of the following change:- "that the period of consultation be extended for a further month".

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 8.

10.2 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CATCHMENT AREA OF ANNANHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL AND CROSSHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was submitted a report dated 23 September 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding proposed amendments to the catchment area of Annanhill Primary School and Crosshouse Primary School.

Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Knapp moved:-

- (i) to adopt the proposal that prospective pupils from the area known as Mount House/Springhill and described in Appendix 2 of the consultative document be zoned to Crosshouse Primary School instead of Annanhill Primary School. This proposal to be effective for new admissions for school session 2000/01;
- (ii) that this report be issued as a consultative document and made available to interested parties;
- (iii) that all interested parties including the relevant School Board(s) be asked to make written representation to the Director of Education, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU no later than 18 November 1999; 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 Committee.

Councillor McNeil, seconded by Councillor Linton moved as an amendment the proposals detailed above with the exception of the following change:- "that the period of consultation be extended for a further month".

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 10 votes to 6.

APPEALS COMMITTEE (SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS) (Item 12, Page 501, 1995/99)

11. There was submitted a joint report dated 28 September 1999 (circulated) by the Directors of Education and of Corporate Services which sought approval of a proposal to extend the duties of Appeals Committees to cover aspects of Special Educational Needs.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the extension of the duties of the present Appeals Committee system to include special educational needs; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

AWARDING OF TENDERS

12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 30 September 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Corporate Services which advised of details of a tender which had been awarded in respect of the Education Service, viz:-

SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
Installation of CCTV System and Lighting at Kilmarnock Academy	Pointer Alarms	£44,652.74

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

13. 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.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - SITE SERVICES UNIT TO 27 AUGUST 1999 (PERIOD 5)

14. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 29 September 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 Site Services Unit for the period ended 27 August 1999 (Period 5).

The meeting terminated at 1110 hours.