

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 1996 AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Drew McIntyre, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson; and Parent Representative Mrs Shelagh McKerrell.

ATTENDING: John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education; Jennifer Wallace, Depute Director of Education; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; Ken McKinlay, Quality Development Officer; Jean Nisbet, Quality Development Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; and Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gordon McCredie, John Knapp and David Sneller.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

MODERN LANGUAGES IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL (MLPS): PHASE 4

1. There was submitted a report dated 10 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the progress made to date with the Primary Modern Languages Training Programme and which sought approval to proceed with the arrangements to evaluate the Training Programme presently being implemented.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the progress made to date with the Primary Modern Languages Training Programme be noted;
- (ii) to agree that the Director of Education proceed with the arrangements outlined in the proposal at paragraph 3 of the report, viz:-
 - to evaluate the success of the P6/7 project, so far, by observing the kind and quality of teaching currently taking place;
 - to determine the benefit of the project to pupils on transfer to secondary school by evaluating pupil's progression from P7 to S1;
 - to discuss with Head Teachers any problems that may have arisen at the implementation stage of the project, and to discuss with Head Teachers and trained teachers the kind and quality of 'follow-up' support available to staff;
 - to ascertain the parental response to the introduction of Primary Modern Languages;
 - to examine the balance of languages, in particular to discover whether the present allocation of training places to German in some clusters meets the wishes of parents and teaching staff;

- to determine the form that an East Ayrshire bid for Phase 5 training should take in order to maintain and improve the quality of teaching and learning; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education be authorised to raise any concerns relating to financial implications with the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department.

Councillor Nicoll joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS

2. There was submitted a report dated 10 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the contents of the national report by HM Inspectors of Schools entitled "Standards and Quality in Scottish Schools 1992-95", and which sought approval for future action in this area of work.

Jennifer Wallace, Depute Director of Education made available to Members of the Sub-Committee a summary of the report. The Depute Director then continued to highlight the salient points in relation to the findings of the HMI report and the Department's proposals for future action in this area of work.

The Quality Development Officer (Ken McKinlay) also reported that as a first step in the self evaluation process a Quality Systems Conference had been held in September which had been attended by Head Teachers.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the contents of the report and the implications for the Education Department be noted;
- (ii) that the measures, identified in the report being taken by the East Ayrshire Education Department to proceed to develop strategies to improve quality based on self evaluation within Educational establishments be approved; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education prepare a report outlining the measures proposed by the Department of Education to address issues concerning the level of under-achievement in Scottish Examination Board examinations.

TRAINING FOR MEMBERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS

3. There was submitted a report dated 11 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education on proposals to promote training for School Board members in conjunction with the Scottish School Boards Association (SSBA).

It was agreed:

- (i) that the involvement of the SSBA in School Board training in a pilot initiative within East Ayrshire be approved;
- (ii) that the continuing development of a fruitful partnership between the Council and the SSBA be noted; and
- (iii) that it be remitted to the Director of Education to circulate a paper to all Elected Members providing a summary of activities and contact points in relation to School Boards within East Ayrshire.

“ACHIEVERS INTERNATIONAL” - EXTENSION OF PILOT PROJECT

4. There was submitted a report dated 12 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding the proposal to extend the pilot project “Achievers International” and which sought approval to participate in the Initiative.

It was reported that “Achievers International” aimed to enable young people to develop an awareness of international trade, through participation in a school based company exporting and importing products within a joint venture partnership.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) that further participation by schools in East Ayrshire in the extension of the pilot project be approved;
- (iii) that the Quality Development team be instructed to monitor the development;
- (iv) that a further report outlining developments be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

The meeting terminated at 1020 hrs.