

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 1996 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Ronald Brailsford, John Knapp, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Eric Ross, David Sneller, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson; Church Representatives, John McHugh, William McConnell and Matthew Sullivan; Parent Representative, Shelagh McKerrall and Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education; Jennifer Wallace, Depute Director of Education; Graham Short, Head of Quality Development; Margo McFadzean, Head Teacher, Hillside School, Cumnock; Frank Green, Principal Budget Officer; Kenneth McKinlay, Quality Development Officer; Ken Hathaway, Principal, Client Services; John McHarg, Maintenance Manager; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer and Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gordon McCredie, Douglas Reid, Provost Robert Stirling and Councillor David Macrae.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed Margo McFadzean, Head Teacher, from Hillside School, Cumnock to the meeting of the Education Committee.

The Chair also reported to the Committee that Mrs Brigid Rooney had been appointed as Head Teacher at St Joseph's Academy and that this was the first woman who had been appointed to a Head Teacher's post within a secondary school in East Ayrshire. Members offered their best wishes to her.

MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

2. There were submitted and approved both as correct records and in respect of recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as detailed in Appendices I to V of these Minutes.

2.1 CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 13 SEPTEMBER 1996 - Appendix I

2.2 EDUCATION (JOINT APPEALS AND BURSARIES) SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 18 SEPTEMBER 1996 - Appendix II

2.3 COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 24 SEPTEMBER 1996 - Appendix III

2.4 JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (TEACHERS) OF 24 SEPTEMBER 1996 - Appendix IV

2.5 BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 26 SEPTEMBER 1996 - Appendix V

BUDGET 1996/97

3.1 REVENUE BUDGET REDUCTIONS 1996/97

There was submitted a report dated 2 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding a proposed savings package in the Education Revenue Budget as part of the Council's review of savings across all Departments.

Councillor Sneller joined the meeting at this point.

The Depute Director of Education (Jennifer Wallace) reported the details of the proposed savings package as presented in the report to the Education Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposed package of savings totalling £287,000, as detailed in the report, be approved; and
- (ii) that the approved savings be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee.

3.2 EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1996/97

There was submitted a report dated 4 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education outlining proposals to incorporate the additional funding allocated to the 1996/97 Capital Programme and which sought the Committee's approval for an amended Capital Programme.

The Depute Director of Education (Jennifer Wallace) reported that, following the decision of the Finance and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee of 3 September 1996 (Item 4, Page 1248) to make available an additional capital allocation of £120,000 to the Education Department, proposals as detailed in the report were prepared to expend the monies.

It was agreed:-

- (i) arising from a query from Councillor Ross, concerning the costs of the work for the boiler at Auchinleck Academy, that Ken Hathaway, Principal, Client Services would provide him with details of the tender document.
- (ii) that the proposed revision of the Education Capital Programme by incorporating the additional funding allocated by the Policy and Resources Committee be approved;
- (iii) that the proposals for action on major maintenance projects through Capital Funded From Current Revenue (CFCR) by the Property Services Department be approved;
- (iv) that the Director of Education liaise with the Head of Property Services on CFR projects;

- (v) that the Director of Education investigate the phasing of the project at Kilmarnock Academy and report his findings to a future meeting of the Education Committee;
- (vi) that the Director of Education continue to monitor, closely, the progress of the Capital Programme; and
- (vii) that the Government be urged to provide the necessary additional funding to provide enhanced security measures in schools following the release of Lord Cullen's findings into the Dunblane Primary School tragedy.

It was also agreed to note, arising from a query from Councillor Nicoll regarding Galston Primary School, that the project had been inherited from Strathclyde Regional Council and would incorporate provision for security measures within the school and also to note that the Chair and Vice Chair would be visiting Galston Primary School.

MANAGING ABSENCE (Item 15, Page 1233)

4. There was submitted a report dated 1 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education regarding the management of absence for APT&C Etc Staff within the Education Department together with a copy of a related report which had been remitted from the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for this Committee's interests.

The Depute Director of Education (Jennifer Wallace) reported that APT&C Etc staff would perceive no real difference to the scheme for managing absence and that this scheme had previously existed under the former Strathclyde Regional Council.

It was further reported that Teachers already had in place an agreement effective from 1 January 1996 for the management of absence.

Having noted the report and the comments of the Depute Director of Education (Jennifer Wallace), it was agreed that the report be submitted to the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) for their information.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE - "MAKING IT HAPPEN IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS"

5. There was submitted a report dated 23 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education providing details of recent developments in the Investors in People (IIP) Initiative and which sought approval for future action within the Education Department of East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the use of Investors in People (IIP) in schools and services at the discretion of individual schools and with the agreement of its staff, (ie Head Teachers, their staff, Principal Officers and other Heads of Service);
- (ii) that the Director of Education be authorised to explore avenues of support and pursue the financial implications with Enterprise Ayrshire;
- (iii) that the Director of Education be authorised to liaise with the National Co-ordinating Group to ensure the most effective delivery of the Initiative in schools and services in East Ayrshire.

Councillor Carmichael left the meeting at this point.

THE HIGHER STILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

6. There was submitted a report dated 23 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the current progress of the National Higher Still Programme and which sought the Committee's support for future developments.

The Head of Quality Development outlined the background concerning the changes within Scottish Education which had resulted in the development of the Higher Still Development Programme.

The Director of Education reported that the Head of Quality Development would be arranging meetings with interested parties to explain the implications of the programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made to date in relation to the implementation of the Higher Still Programme;
- (ii) that the development programme be supported provided that the pace of implementation of the programme and resource implications were influenced by the views of key staff in the Education Department;
- (iii) that the Director of Education submit this report to the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (SOEID) for the consideration of the Higher Still Development Unit; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education monitor progress of the programme and appraise the Education Committee of future developments, as appropriate.

OUTDOOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (Item 3, Page 1108)

7. There was submitted a report dated 25 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the progress which was being made following the continuation of this matter from the meeting of the Committee held on 29 August 1996.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the report in respect of reviewing storage facilities; and
- (ii) that the site at Glencairn Industrial Estate should not be pursued.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY - DWELLINGHOUSE AT REAR OF CUMNOCK ACADEMY, AYR ROAD, CUMNOCK

8. There was submitted a report dated 1 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education advising of the cessation of use of a dwellinghouse and recommending that the property be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the dwellinghouse located at the rear of Cumnock Academy, Ayr Road, Cumnock be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Department; and

- (ii) that the Director of Education refer the matter to the Head of Property Services for the disposal of the property.

SCOTTISH QUALITY AWARDS

9. There was submitted a report dated 7 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Education providing details of the submission made by the Education Department to CoSLA with regard to the Scottish Local Government Quality Awards and which sought approval to begin identifying projects for the 1997/98 submission.

The Head Teacher of Hillside School, Cumnock (Margo McFadzean) outlined for Committee the principles and practices of conductive education, which is provided at Hillside School, Cumnock to support children with cerebral palsy. An invitation was extended to members of the Education Committee to visit the school to see, first hand, the range and quality of education provided at the school.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the submission of the quality project for consideration for the Scottish Local Government Quality Awards;
- (ii) that the Director of Education begin the process of identifying potential projects for the 1997/98 Quality Awards submission; and
- (iii) that the Director of Education arrange a visit to Hillside School, Cumnock for those members of the Education Committee who wished to visit.

The Chair thanked Margo McFadzean for her contribution to the meeting and wished the school every success in the Scottish Local Government Quality Awards.

The meeting terminated at 1115 hours.