

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER 1997 AT 1000 HOURS  
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,  
KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Douglas Reid, Ronald Brailsford, John Knapp, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, David Sneller and George Smith; Church Representatives, John McHugh and William McConnell; Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey; and Parent Representative, Shelagh McKerrall.

**ATTENDING:** John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education; Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education; Graham Short, Depute Director of Education; Tom Williams, Principal Psychologist; Janie Allen, Principal Officer (Pre-5 Services); Frank Green, Principal Officer (Finance and Resources); Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Ian Arnott, Chief Accountant; Hugh Carswell, Service Officer (Careers Strategy); Jean Nisbet, Quality Development Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Melanie Macleod, Administrative Officer; Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer and Lesley-Ann Wallace, Administrative Assistant.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Gordon McCredie, Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors Eric Ross, Jimmy Carmichael, Robert Taylor and Eric Jackson.

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

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. In welcoming Members to the meeting of the Education Committee, the Chair highlighted a number of recent events in the Education Service for the information of Committee Members:-

**(i) Appointment of Head Teachers**

The Chair advised on the recent appointment of the following Head Teachers, viz:-

Carole Ford to Kilmarnock Academy, Anne Wilson to Cairnhill Primary, Sheila Rae to Crossroads Primary, Kirsteen McCartney to Hurlford Primary and Elspeth Stretford to Onthank Primary.

He remarked that all of these new Head Teachers had a wealth of educational experience and were sure to make a positive impact in East Ayrshire.

**(ii) Gala Concert: Performance of Music and Singing**

The Chair referred to an outstanding performance of music and singing which was given recently by pupils from East Ayrshire's 10 secondary schools in the Gala Concert held in the Grand Hall and which included the first performance of the East Ayrshire Schools Band and East Ayrshire Schools Choir. He added that a concert of this Band and Choir would be held on 28 February 1998. The Committee offered congratulations to all involved.

**(iii) Spotlight Initiative**

The Chair reported that around 1,200 local youngsters from East Ayrshire Schools took part in a Spotlight Initiative arranged by Strathclyde Police and East Ayrshire Council. The event, held at Rowallan Castle, gave youngsters the opportunity to learn various aspects of Police, safety and first aid work and the event, which was a fine example of good practice between the Council and Strathclyde Police, was described by the organisers as a thoroughly enjoyable and successful project.

**(iv) Special Olympics**

The Chair announced that two pupils who attended Park School had had success at the swimming events in the Special Olympics held in Portsmouth in July 1997, with Bridget Cooper winning two gold, one silver and one bronze medal and Lee Townsley winning one gold and one silver medal. Overall, the team from East Ayrshire won approximately 200 medals. The Committee congratulated all who took part in this very special event.

**(v) Scottish Youth Championships**

The Chair referred to the Scottish Youth Championships held in Dalkeith on 4 October 1997, in which Doon Academy Junior Brass Band won second prize, competing against five other bands from all over Scotland and pipped at the post by only one point by Queensferry High School Youth Band.

**SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTE**

2. There was submitted and approved both as a correct record and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minute (circulated) as detailed in the Appendix of these Minutes.

**2.1 COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 23 SEPTEMBER 1997**

**AWARDING OF TENDERS**

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 24 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which provided details of tenders which had been awarded in respect of the Education Department, viz:-

<b>Contract</b>	<b>Successful Contractor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Roof Alterations to Kilmaurs Primary School, Kilmaurs	Commercial Operations, Kilmarnock	£35,867.44
Replacement of Windows to Kilmaurs Primary School, Kilmaurs	Commercial Operations, Kilmarnock	£69,713.29
Heating Improvement Works, Kilmaurs Primary School, Kilmaurs	Commercial Operations, Kilmarnock	£79,943.75

<b>Contract</b>	<b>Successful Contractor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Proposed Heating Improvement Works - Loudoun Academy, Glasgow Road, Galston	Moir Mechanical Services, Prestwick	£122,341.94
Upgrading of Heating at Drongan Primary School, Drongan	Commercial Operations, Kilmarnock	£22,969.18
Re-roofing of Games Hall at Auchinleck Academy, Auchinleck	Ridgewood Roofing Ltd, East Kilbride	£46,577.84
Kirkstyle Primary School, Kilmarnock - Traffic Plan	Commercial Operations, Cumnock	£34,000.00
Re-roofing of Technical Block to St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock	Ridgewood Roofing Ltd, East Kilbride	£43,539.72
Re-roofing of Muirkirk Primary School, Muirkirk	Allander Roofing Ltd, Glasgow	£42,212.81
Hurlford Primary School - Structural Repairs	Barr Ltd, Ayr	£170,148.98

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT -  
TO 12 SEPTEMBER 1997 (PERIOD 6)**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance advising of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Education Department for the period ended 12 September 1997 (Period 6).

**MODERN LANGUAGES IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL: RESULTS OF RESEARCH  
UNDERTAKEN BY PAISLEY UNIVERSITY (Item 1, Page 1369)**

5. There was submitted a report dated 23 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the results of a research exercise conducted to evaluate the implementation of the modern languages in the Primary School Programme in East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to accept this report as a satisfactory conclusion of the commissioned research project;
- (ii) that the findings of the report be disseminated within East Ayrshire Council's Department of Education;
- (iii) that the results of the research be made available to other interested groups and bodies, subject to acknowledgement; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

### **IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL PARENTS**

6. There was submitted a report dated 18 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education advising of the nature and extent of parental partnerships formed within the education service and of the strategies designed to further develop and strengthen links between the home and educational establishments in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education proceed with the initiatives outlined in paragraph 6 of the report and identify pilot projects in line with criteria specified within the report;
- (ii) to encourage the dissemination of the good practice identified in the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

It was also noted that the Director of Education would be consulting with Head Teachers with regard to the preparation of guidelines on parents working with children in schools, as well as development issues to promote parent participation in School Boards, and the Education Service in general, particularly with regard to School Boards setting agendas for the Parent Conference.

### **DAY CARE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED**

7. There was submitted a joint report dated 16 September 1997 (circulated) by the Directors of Education and of Social Work advising of the Council's requirements under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to provide day care to children in need.

It was agreed:-

- (i) in so far as this Committee's interest, to approve the proposals for day care for children in need as detailed in the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Social Work and the Director of Education increase the complement of day-carers;
- (iii) to approve the continued co-ordination and inspection of day-carers through the Education Department Pre-5 Services; and
- (iv) to authorise the allocation of £25,000 from the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Implementation budget to day-care services for children in need.

### **SCOTTISH OFFICE EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT (SOEID) CONSULTATION: GUIDANCE ON ISSUES CONCERNING EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL (Item 7, Page 2386)**

8. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education advising of the main contents of a recent report issued by SOEID dealing with exclusion from school and seeking support for a response to the consultation exercise relating to national guidelines on this issue.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Director of Education's response to the Consultation Exercise within the terms outlined in Paragraph 4 of the report;

- (ii) to welcome the inclusion of more financial support from the Government; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

It was also noted that the Director of Education would circulate statistics relating to exclusions from schools within East Ayrshire to all Members and that consultations on any changes in relation to the current policy on exclusions would be dealt with via the normal consultation processes by the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers).

### **STRUCTURE OF QUALITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

9. There was submitted a report dated 15 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education advising of recent changes which had taken place in the Quality Development Team and seeking approval for alterations to its staffing structure, subject to consideration by the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Farrell seconded by Councillor Sneller, moved, subject to the approval of the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee with regard to APT&C posts:-

- (i) to approve the appointment of a Principal, Quality Development;
- (ii) to approve the grading of the post of Principal, Quality Development at the level equivalent to Senior Adviser on national teachers pay scales;
- (iii) that the Director of Education be authorised, subject to the needs of the Department, to make permanent appointments to the two seconded posts in Quality Development, using the Council's agreed recruitment procedures; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Coffey, moved as an amendment that the Director of Education submit a report on the re-structuring of the Education Department as part of the Council's overall re-organisation.

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

### **MANAGEMENT OF STRESS FOR PUPILS AND STAFF IN THE EDUCATION SERVICE**

10. There was submitted a report dated 18 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education seeking approval for a strategy for the Management of Stress within the Department of Education.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the report as a basis for stress management within the Department of Education;
- (ii) to request an annual report from the Principal Psychologist on progress being made in stress management within the Department; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

Arising from a query from Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey, it was noted that the issue of proposals in respect of the appointment of a Staff Welfare Officer would be progressed through the Council's usual Committee processes.

### **EXAMINATION RESULTS 1997**

11. There was submitted a report dated 17 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education advising of some of the main features of performance in the 1997 Scottish Certificate of Education examinations.

Having noted that, in 2.2 of the report, the word "qualify" should be amended to read "quantify" and that, in 3.2.1 of the report the reference to "Physics" should be deleted, it was agreed:-

- (i) to support Head Teachers in the use of examination performance as part of their overall school self-evaluation strategies;
- (ii) to support the use of examination data as a basis for professional discussions within schools and in the Department of Education; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

### **THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION IN EAST AYRSHIRE SCHOOLS**

12. There was submitted a report dated 23 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education describing the current position of the European and International Dimension in East Ayrshire's Education Department and seeking approval for future developments.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the function of a co-ordinating group within the terms described in paragraph 5 of the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Education report to a future meeting of the Committee on the work of this group; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

### **NEW DEAL FOR SCHOOLS**

13. There was submitted a report dated 25 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education advising of the details of the Government's new initiative "New Deal for Schools" and, in addition, seeking agreement for the submission of proposals to secure additional resources under this new initiative.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the Government initiative on a "New Deal for Schools";
- (ii) to approve the development of project proposals;
- (iii) to approve the submission of schedules in accordance with the timescales set by the Secretary of State; and
- (iv) that the Director of Education report progress to future meetings of the Committee.

It was noted that the Director of Education had written to the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department in relation to retrospective recognition for the school rationalisation exercise already undertaken by East Ayrshire Council and that,

following enquiry from Councillor Nicoll, the Chair confirmed that a further letter reiterating these points, would be sent to the Scottish Office.

### **PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION**

14. There was submitted a report dated 25 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the recent statement issued by the Minister of Education in respect of a proposed programme for the development of pre-school education.

Having noted the receipt of £25,000 in respect of in-service training finance for the current financial year, it was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the statement from the Scottish Office on pre-school Education and related developments;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit further reports to future meetings of the Committee, as appropriate, on any future Government statements on pre-school Education; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

Church Representative, John McHugh, left the meeting at this point.

### **PROPOSED DRESS CODE FOR EAST AYRSHIRE SCHOOLS**

15. There was submitted a report dated 17 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education advising of a review of the policy on school dress codes and seeking approval for implementation.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support Head Teachers in promoting a dress code in line with the principles and good practice outlined in paragraph 5 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

### **SCHOOL SECURITY STRATEGY**

16. There was submitted a report dated 2 October 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education on current progress on the implementation of the school security strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made in respect of the implementation of the school security strategy;
- (ii) that the Director of Education submit a further progress report on this matter to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- (iii) to note that any Members interested in undertaking a visit to schools in their local area to inspect school security strategy plans, should contact Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education.

Councillor Nicoll left the meeting during discussion of this item.

### **SCHOOL BOARD BIENNIAL ELECTIONS**

17. There was submitted a report dated 24 September 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Education on the position to date of School Board elections in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Education consider the implications of the data on School Board elections and submit a further report to the Committee following Elections on 21 October 1997; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1143 hours.