

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

At a Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held in the Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Monday, 25 June 2007 at 10.00a.m.

Present: Councillors William Hendrie and May Smillie and Liz McGinlay, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Terry Lanagan, Head of Service for the Schools' Estate; Gordon Bone, Head Teacher, Dumbarton Academy; Margaret Mackay, Quality Improvement Officer (substitute); Paul McGowan, Section Head, Personnel, Education and Cultural Services (substitute); Rae Strang, Head Teacher, Bonhill Primary School; Stewart Paterson, Teachers' Convener, E.I.S.; Jan Cleife, E.I.S.; Kathleen Burns, E.I.S.; Janice Wardrop, E.I.S.; Olean Allison, E.I.S.; May McDonald, E.I.S. (substitute) and Alex McEwan, S.S.T.A; Charles Docherty, E.I.S.; and Geraldine Lyden, Personnel Adviser – Education (substitute) and Norman Bissell, E.I.S. Area Officer.

Attending: Fiona Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Patrick McGlinchey, Tricia O'Neill, Head of Personnel and Josephine McDaid, E.I.S.

Ms Jan Cleife in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 12 December 2006 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Having heard Ms Cleife, the Committee welcomed Councillor Hendrie and Councillor Smillie to their first meeting of the Committee.

Having heard Ms Cleife, the Committee noted that it would be the last meeting for Norman Bissell, E.I.S. Area Officer and May McDonald, E.I.S. substitute member, and thanked them for their contribution.

The Committee noted that the Council, at its meeting held on 16 May 2007, had agreed that Councillor Smillie be appointed as Chair/Vice Chair (position to alternate on annual basis).

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Annual General Meeting of the LNCT held on 26 September 2006 when it had been agreed that the above item would be placed on the Agenda of this meeting, the Chair, Ms Cleife invited Mr Paterson to be heard in respect of this matter.

After hearing Mr Paterson in further explanation, the Committee noted that it had not been possible to comply with the timescale agreed but that Mr Paterson would continue discussion with Mr Graham Jeffries, Manager of Continuing Professional Development, and report back to a future meeting.

PROBATIONER TEACHERS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Annual General Meeting of the LNCT held on 26 September 2006 when it had been agreed that the above item would be placed on the Agenda of this meeting, the Chair, Ms Cleife invited Mr Paterson to be heard in respect of this matter.

After hearing Mr Paterson in further explanation, the Committee noted that it had not been possible to comply with the timescale agreed but that Mr Paterson would continue discussion with Mr Graham Jeffries, Manager of Continuing Professional Development, regarding Probationer Teachers and report back to a future meeting.

THE DEPLOYMENT OF LEARNING ASSISTANTS IN SCHOOLS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the LNCT held on 13 March 2007, a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services informing the Committee of the proportion of the working week devoted by Learning Assistants to supporting teachers and to supporting pupils and making recommendations thereon.

After discussion and having heard both Sides, the Committee noted:-

- (1) that it would have been helpful if a copy of the questionnaire had been included;
- (2) the details of the survey as summarised in the Appendix to the report;
- (3) that informal reports from some schools had indicated that some teachers may still be routinely undertaking non-teaching clerical/administrative duties;
- (4) that the Joint Secretaries would issue a further questionnaire to establish the extent to which clerical and other staff had helped to remove the burden of non-teaching duties from teachers in the wake of the Teachers' Agreement; and

- (5) that the results of the further questionnaire would be incorporated in a report to be submitted to the December meeting.

35 HOUR WORKING WEEK AGREEMENT FOR 2007-2008

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services on proposals for the Teachers' 35 hour working week for the Session 2007-2008.

After discussion and having heard from the Head of Service, Education and Cultural Services, the Committee noted:-

- (a) that although the authority agreement is normally signed in May, the Legal and Administrative Services Department had recommended that it should not be signed at that time as no Elected Members had been appointed;
- (b) that the Joint Secretaries had written to schools indicating that no significant changes were anticipated;
- (c) that it was hoped to have received all collegiate calendars, school by school, by the end of June;
- (d) that Head Teachers should be reminded that the specific procedures detailed in the terms of the Agreement should be followed and "agreed"; and
- (e) that the issue referred to in item (d) above should be placed as an item on the Agenda for the first Head Teacher Business Meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

After discussion, the Committee agreed that a date would be set for the next meeting once the Committee Schedule for August – December 2007 had been issued.

The meeting closed at 10.40 a.m.