

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Education Committee, held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday 11 December 2002 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present:** Councillors James Bollan, Geoffrey Calvert, James McCallum, Ronnie McColl, Duncan McDonald, Ian McDonald, Margaret McGregor and John Syme. Mr Ronald Alexander, Miss Margaret Wallace and Miss Sheila Rennie.
- Also Present:** Gregory Paul and Kirsty Hazley, Pupil Representatives from Clydebank High School; Terry Lanagan, Head Teacher, Vale of Leven Academy; Susan Gray, Head Teacher, Dalmuir Nursery and *Lesley Robertson, Head Teacher, Aitkenbar Primary School.
- Attending:** Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Neil McKechnie, Head of Educational Development; Bob Cook, Head of Resource Development; Frank Newall, Head of Children's Services; Lynn Townsend, Manager of Special Educational Needs; Dave Clarke, Section Head (Resources); Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work (Operations); David Logan, Principal Solicitor and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.
- Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors James McElhill, Danny McCafferty, John Trainer, Andrew White and Mrs Janice Wardrop.

* Arrived later in the meeting.

Councillor Margaret McGregor in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor McGregor, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Gregory Paul and Kirsty Hazley, Pupil Representatives from Clydebank High School to the meeting. It was noted that Joan McDonald, Head Teacher, St. Ronan's Primary School was also in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 9 October 2002 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS 2002

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the performance of West Dunbartonshire schools in the national SQA Examinations of 2002.

A presentation was made by Neil McKechnie, Head of Educational Development on the attainment of pupils aged between 5-14 years in West Dunbartonshire Council in respect of national testing. A further presentation was made by Stewart Jardine, External Consultant, to the Committee on the performance of West Dunbartonshire schools in the national SQA Examinations of 2002.

Lesley Robertson entered the meeting during the presentation.

After discussion and having heard the Director of Education and Cultural Services, Mr McKechnie and Mr Jardine in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to congratulate all teachers, staff, pupils and parents in West Dunbartonshire for maintaining and raising levels of attainment in the National SQA Examination 2002 and in respect of the national testing of 5-14 year olds; and
- (3) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee concerning performance in the 2003 diet of SQA Examinations.

At this point the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mr McKechnie and Mr Jardine for their excellent presentations. Thereafter, Mr Jardine left the meeting.

IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2002-2005

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the Education and Cultural Services Statement of Improvement Objectives 2002-2005.

The Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Head of Educational Development were heard in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions.

Having heard the Principal Solicitor, the Committee agreed: -

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to approve the draft Statement of Improvement Objectives subject to further consultation and delegate authority to the Director of Cultural

Services in consultation with the Chair of the Education Committee to finalise the Statement for submission to the Scottish Executive;

- (3) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee concerning the Standards and Quality Report for 2001/2002; and
- (4) that the amended Service Plan for 2002 – 2005 be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF
EDINBARNET EARLY EDUCATION & CHILDCARE CENTRE (FORMERLY
EDINBARNET NURSERY SCHOOL) AND FAIFLEY EARLY EDUCATION &
CHILDCARE CENTRE (FORMERLY FAIFLEY FAMILY CENTRE)**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Education Committee held on 21 August 2002, a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the views expressed on the above consultation.

The Committee agreed :-

- (1) that Faifley Family Centre and Edinbarnet Nursery be amalgamated into one Early Education and Childcare Centre;
- (2) that Faifley Community Nursery and Skypoint be amalgamated into one Early Education and Childcare Centre;
- (3) that after consultation with the communities affected, and in line with the communities' wishes, each of the amalgamated Centres be given a new name to reflect the changed circumstances;
- (4) that Community Education staff be managed within the Community Education management structure; and
- (5) that West Dunbartonshire Council Mobile Crèche Service should link with the new centre to provide Crèche Services as required, to meet the needs of adults accessing adult education.

**A TEACHING PROFESSION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: LOCAL
AGREEMENT 2002-2003**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 18 September 2002, a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the Local Agreement on the teachers' 35 hour working week for session 2002-03.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Resource Development in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and the detail of the Local Agreement for 2002-03.

Thereafter, Mr Cook and Mr Alexander (in their capacity as Joint Secretaries to the LNCT) and Councillor McGregor and Councillor McCallum (on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council) signed the Local Agreement for 2002-03.

At this point the Director of Education and Cultural Services informed the Committee that the Head of Resource Development would be taking up a seconded post with the Teachers' Agreement Communication Team at the Scottish Executive from 1 January 2003 until 30 June 2003 for 3 days per week. On behalf of the Education Committee, Councillor McGregor congratulated Mr Cook on his appointment.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – PP5.4 – PLACING REQUESTS

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services seeking approval of an amendment to the Council Policy in respect of placing requests whereby priority would be given to children resident within West Dunbartonshire Council.

After discussion and having heard the Director of Education and Cultural Services and Head of Children's Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to approve the implementation of Policy and Procedure PP5.4 – Placing Requests which amends previous Policy in so far only as priority is now given to children resident within West Dunbartonshire Council.

BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND – CHILDCARE AND FAMILY SUPPORT THEME

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the progress of various initiatives being taken forward as part of the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) Childcare and Family Services Support Initiative.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

SURPLUS PROPERTY – TIED HOUSES

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services seeking approval to declare surplus to the requirements of the Department, the Janitors' Houses at the following schools:-

Dalreoch Primary School, 1 Arran Avenue, Castlehill, Dumbarton
Aitkenbar Primary School, 14 Whiteford Crescent, Dumbarton
St Andrew's High School, 1 John Knox Street, Clydebank

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the properties outlined above be declared surplus to the requirements of the Education and Cultural Services Department with the sole purpose of selling the properties to the sitting tenant;
- (2) that as a result of these specific circumstances, the normal procedures of offering the properties to other Council departments be set aside in this instance; and
- (3) that the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services be authorised to carry out a valuation of said properties and thereafter to refer the sale to the Head of Legal and Administrative Services to conclude this transaction subject to such conditions as are considered appropriate.

INCREASED ACCOMMODATION AT GAVINBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services seeking approval of a proposal to construct a double hatted classroom unit at Gavinburn Primary School with the effect of enabling the school to accommodate two classes at all stages.

After discussion and having heard the Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Head of Children's Services in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Ronnie McColl moved, seconded by Councillor Ian McDonald that the recommendations of the report, as undernoted, be approved:-

- (1) to note that a sum in the region of £50,000 would require to be committed within the 2003/04 General Services Capital Plan, in order to progress the proposal;
- (2) to view the funding as one of the Education Service's high priorities within their bids for such funding;
- (3) to approve that, provided such funding is made available through the General Services Capital Plan process, a double hatted classroom unit be constructed at Gavinburn Primary School to be operational from the commencement of academic session 2003/04; and
- (4) thereafter that the Director arrange a limited, formal exercise under the terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 as amended, with those parents of children living in that part of the Antonine Estate not presently zoned to Gavinburn Primary School thereby removing the necessity for parents living there to make placing requests for their children.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Duncan McDonald, seconded by Councillor John Syme, moved that consideration of the report be continued to the next meeting for further information.

On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 4 for the motion. The amendment was declared carried.

UPDATE ON CAPITAL & REVENUE BUILDING PROGRAMME 2002/03

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing Members with up-to-date information on the status of Education Capital and Revenue Building Projects within Education and Cultural Services Department.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair wished all present best wishes for the festive season and the coming year before bringing the meeting to a close.

The meeting closed at 11.50 a.m.