

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Education Committee, held in Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 9 October 2002 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors James Bollan, Geoffrey Calvert, Daniel McCafferty, James McCallum, Ronnie McColl, James McElhill, Margaret McGregor and John Syme. Mr Ronald Alexander, Miss Ellen McBride, Sheila Rennie and Mrs Janice Wardrop.

Also Present: Andrew McDonnell and Kerri Devine, Pupil Representatives from Our Lady and St Patrick's High School; John Docherty, Head Teacher, St. Andrew's High School and Susan Gray, Head Teacher, Dalmuir Nursery.

Attending: Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Neil McKechnie, Head of Educational Development; Bob Cook, Head of Resource Development; Lynn Townsend, Manager of Special Educational Needs; Dave Clarke, Section Head (Resources); Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work (Operations); Alan Douglas, Manager of Best Value and Special Projects and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Mary Collins, Ian McDonald, Connie O'Sullivan and John Trainer and Angus Macdonald, Head Teacher, Braidfield High School, Lesley Robertson, Head Teacher, Aitkenbar Primary School and Margaret Wallace, Church Representative.

Councillor Margaret McGregor in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor McGregor, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Kerri Devine and Andrew McDonnell, Pupil Representatives from Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School to the meeting. It was noted that John Docherty, Head Teacher, St. Andrews High School was also in attendance, in place of Angus Macdonald.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Education Committee held on 21 August 2002 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MINUTES OF LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 18 September 2002 were submitted for approval.

Having heard the Manager of Best Value and Special Projects, in clarification of the status of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers, and after discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that, in terms of existing legislation, the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers could not have any delegated powers due to its composition;
- (2) to recommend to Council that a formal request be made to the Scottish Executive to review the legislation which governs Council Committees with a view to making it less restrictive and more amenable to decentralisation;
- (3) to note that it was the Committee's intention to honour the spirit of the Agreement reached with Trades Unions on the establishment of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers; and
- (4) to approve the Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 18 September 2002.

EXPANSION OF BREAKFAST CLUB SERVICE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Education Committee held on 12 June and 21 August 2002 a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services on the development of the breakfast club service.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of Special Educational Needs in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a further report on the progress of the breakfast club service be submitted to a meeting of the Committee prior to the end of the 2002/2003 school year; and
- (2) to note that Paragraph 2.5 of the report should have included Whitecrook Primary School as one of the primary schools offering a breakfast club service this session; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

INCLUSION: THE WAY FORWARD

A presentation was made by Lynn Townsend, Manager of Special Educational Needs to the Committee on the background to inclusion in terms of international and national legislation and outlining the progress made within West Dunbartonshire Council.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of Special Educational Needs, the Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Head of Social Work (Operations) in answer to questions from Members and Andrew McDonnell (Pupil Representative), the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to thank Mrs Townsend for her very informative presentation; and
- (2) to request the Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Director of Social Work and Housing Services to submit a joint report to Council in November 2002 providing statistical information on the level of achievement of young people being looked after by the local authority in residential schools and detailing what throughcare and aftercare services are currently provided by this authority.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE 5.8 – INDISCIPLINE AND EXCLUSION PROCEDURES

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the Policy and Procedures Document 5.8 – Indiscipline and Exclusion Procedures.

Having heard the Manager of Special Educational Needs and the Director of Education and Cultural Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the words "and Violence Against Staff in Schools" be inserted at the end of the first paragraph of Section 3.2 in the PP5.8 Indiscipline and Exclusion Procedures, attached as Appendix A to the above report; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McElhill left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

DISCIPLINE TASK GROUP – ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services:-

- (a) providing information on the allocation of additional funding from the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) under the heading Discipline Task Group report; and
- (b) making proposals for the use of this additional funding.

Councillor McElhill returned to the meeting at this point.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of Special Educational Needs and the Director of Education and Cultural Services in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor McCallum moved:-

That the Committee should approve Option B as outlined in the report subject to the inclusion of the Additional Pupil/Homelink support in the Vale of Leven cluster (part year cost for November to March - £15,922), as referred to in Option A. The difference in funding to be met from the downloading of funding to clusters.

As an amendment, Councillor McCafferty, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved:-

That the Committee should approve Option B as outlined in the Report, but if any monies became available due to slippage, the Director of Education and Cultural Services be granted the delegated power to direct those monies to additional support for the Vale of Leven Academy.

On a vote being taken, 7 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion. The Amendment was declared carried.

Councillor McCafferty and Miss Rennie left the meeting at this point.

POLICY & PROCEDURE 11.1: QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the Policy and Procedures Document 11.1 – Quality Improvement.

Having heard the Head of Educational Development in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and the Policy and Procedures 11.1 – Quality Improvement Framework.

A TEACHING PROFESSION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: THE WINDING DOWN SCHEME FOR TEACHERS AND ACTUARIALLY REDUCED PENSIONS

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the terms and conditions of the Winding Down Scheme which has been introduced as part of the McCrone Agreement and detailing the entitlement of teachers to retire on an Actuarially Reduced Pension (ARP).

Having heard Mr Alexander, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to continue consideration of the matter until such time as the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers has had the opportunity to discuss the report and, in the meantime, if a teacher applies to be included in the scheme, the Department should follow the procedures outlined in the National Guidelines.

CONSULTATION ON THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE'S DRAFT REPORT FROM THE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TASK FORCE – LET'S MAKE SCOTLAND MORE ACTIVE

A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services seeking retrospective approval of a response submitted to the Scottish Executive on the consultation on the initial report from the Physical Activity Task Force.

Having heard the Chair and the Head of Educational Development in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the contents of the report; and
- (b) to approve, retrospectively, the submission to the Scottish Executive as shown in the Appendix to the report.

UPDATE ON CAPITAL & REVENUE BUILDING PROGRAMME

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 the Education and Cultural Services Department and drawing attention to significant issues or problems with the progress of any particular project.

Having heard the Section Head (Resources) in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that Councillor McColl be notified in writing of the actual dates on which those projects listed on pages 141 –143 of the Agenda would commence; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 12.15 p.m.

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