

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

Children's Services Committee: 11 October 2006

Subject: Progress report on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School and the transfer of pupils, staff and resources to Clydebank High School

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide members with a final progress report on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School in June 2006 and the transfer of pupils, staff and resources to Clydebank High School in August 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1** At the meeting of the Children's Services Committee on 15 March 2006, it was agreed that Braidfield High School should close at the end of school session 2005/06 and that, from August 2006, the delineated catchment area of Clydebank High School be redefined to include pupils previously zoned to attend Braidfield High School.
- 2.2** The Children's Services Committee further instructed the Director of Education and Cultural Services to provide future meetings of the Committee with detailed progress reports on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School and the transfer of pupils, staff and resources to Clydebank High School.
- 2.3** In line with the instruction in 2.2 above, progress reports were provided by the Director of Education and Cultural Services for the meetings of the Children's Services Committee on 17 May 2006 and 16 August 2006.
- 2.4** At the meeting on 16 August, members of the Children's Services Committee agreed that the Director of Education and Cultural Services should provide a further progress report to the next meeting of the Committee on 11 October 2006, by which time the enlarged Clydebank High School would have been in operation for some seven weeks.

3. Main Issues

3.1 General

- 3.1.1** As planned, Clydebank High School opened for staff on Friday 18 August 2006 and for pupils on Tuesday 22 August 2006. The pupil roll on the school census date was 1502.

3.2 Staffing

- 3.2.1** All necessary appointments have been made and Clydebank High School is now fully staffed. In addition, funds have been downloaded to the school to allow enhancements of 3.0 full time equivalent teaching staff to ease the transition over the next two years.

3.3 Curriculum

- 3.3.1** The Clydebank High School timetable was fully operational from the first day of the school session.

3.4 Resources

- 3.4.1** Clydebank High School is fully resourced in all subject areas.

3.5 Accommodation

- 3.5.1** As previously reported to the Children's Services Committee, a range of physical adaptations have been made to the Clydebank High School building. Final adaptations, including the creation of an additional science laboratory and work on ICT infrastructure, will be carried out during the October school holiday.
- 3.5.2** There remain some concerns about the requirement for teachers to move from room to room in order to operate the timetable. The Senior Management Team is exploring a range of options to minimise this problem, although a degree of teacher movement will always be necessary. This is especially true during the current session, when it has been necessary for curricular reasons to timetable the S4 who had transferred from Braidfield High School separately from S4 pupils who had previously attended Clydebank High. This inevitably creates pressures on the rooming timetable which will not apply in future years.

3.6 Roads and Traffic Management

3.6.1 The work in and around Clydebank High School to improve traffic circulation, provide additional dropping off points and install additional staff parking spaces was all completed in time for the start of the school session.

3.6.2 There remains some concern that some parents are not using the new dropping off zones; this is causing unnecessary congestion around the school at the start and end of the school day. The Head Teacher has written to all parents urging them to cooperate with the new measures and the assistance of the police has been sought to encourage safe practice.

3.7 Integration

3.7.1 Fears expressed by some pupils and parents that there would be conflict and tension between “Braidfield” and “Clydebank High” pupils have proved unfounded. Pupils have integrated well and there have been no such incidents.

3.7.2 The Chairperson of the Clydebank High School Board has expressed the view that the transition has been managed smoothly and effectively.

3.7.3 Some staff have expressed concerns about the challenging behaviour of a small minority of pupils in the inevitably more crowded environment of the enlarged Clydebank High School. The Department’s Inclusion Officer and the Head of Service with responsibility for pupil support have been working with the school to find solutions to this problem.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 Personnel issues are dealt with in section 3.2 of this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The final cost of building adaptations is not yet known. It should be noted, however, that many of the additional costs involved will be offset by savings which will accrue from the closure of Braidfield High School.

6. Conclusions

6.1 With the exception of a small number of comparatively minor building adaptations in Clydebank High School, it should now be considered that the closure of Braidfield High School and the transfer of pupils, staff and resources to Clydebank High School are now complete.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Members of the Children's Services Committee are asked to:

- (i) note the contents of this report; and
- (ii) instruct the Director of Education and Cultural Services to express the thanks of the Committee to the Head Teacher and staff of Clydebanks High School, and the former staff of Braidfield High School, for their hard work and commitment in implementing all the necessary changes over recent months

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Director of Education and Cultural Services

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Background Papers: Paper submitted to the Children's Services Committee on 15 March 2006 recommending the closure of Braidfield High School

Minutes of the Children's Services Committees of 15 March 2006, 17 May 2006 and 16 August 2006

Reports Submitted to meetings of the Children's Services Committee of 17 May 2006 and 16 August 2006 outlining progress on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School

Wards Affected: Whitecrock, Dalmeir Central, Mountblow, Parkhall, Linnvale/Drumry, Kilbowie, Kilbowie West, Faifley, Hardgate, Duntocher, Bowling/Milton/Old Kilpatrick.