
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes

Tuesday 2 July 2002 at 10.30 a.m.
Council Hall, Council Offices, Dumfries

Present

Members

Tommy Sloan (Chairman)	-	Stranraer North
Helen Bell	-	Dalbeattie - Milton
Andrew O Bell-Irving	-	Hoddum & Kinmount
Ian Callander	-	Lochvale
James H Dempster	-	Sanquhar & District
John W Forteath (Leader of the Council)	-	Marchmount
Allan Graham	-	Solway Border
Robert Higgins	-	Stranraer East
Ivor A Hyslop	-	Nithsdale East
William B Lockhart	-	Moffat
Jane S Maitland	-	Kirkcudbright - Bengairn
Joan Mitchell	-	Cree
Thomas A McAughtrie	-	Troqueer
George L McBurnie	-	Palmerston
Moira McCrossan	-	Primary Teacher Representative
Neil McKay	-	Mid Nithsdale
John McMillan	-	Secondary Teacher Representative
Robert McQuistan	-	Church Representative
William G Nimmo	-	Lochside
Elizabeth J Smith	-	Church Representative
Canon John Walls	-	Church Representative

Apologies

Fred Murray (Vice Chairman)	-	Luce
Andrew R Campbell (Convener)	-	Castle Douglas – Urr
Sandra McDowall	-	Wigtown
Wilma Paterson	-	Annan West
George Prentice	-	Stewartry North

Officials

Fraser Sanderson	-	Director for Education
John Young	-	Committee Services Manager

James M Smith
Secretary to the Council

19 Members present

0.1 The Chairman congratulated Fraser Sanderson on his appointment as Director of Education and Community Services

1. MINUTE OF MEETING of 4 June 2002

Decision -

APPROVED.

2. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2002/2003 AS AT 31 MAY 2002 - Report dated 21 June 2002 by Director for Education

Decision -

- 2.1 AGREED the budget adjustments for 2002/2003 referenced A008 to A011 in Appendix 2 of the report.
- 2.2 NOTED that the projected out-turn detailed shows a balanced budget after taking into account the adjustments listed.
- 2.3 AGREED to draw down £11,396 from the Service Reserve and enhance the 2002/2003 New Community Schools budget accordingly, leaving a balance in reserve of £283,968 and to seek ratification from Finance Sub-Committee for this.
- 2.4 NOTED the indicative budgets for 2003/2004 - £106,748,716 - and 2004/2005 - £108,387,824.

SCHOOLS' PPP PROJECT – SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE FUNDING

The Chairman announced that on 25 June 2002 the Scottish Executive had allocated £100m to Dumfries and Galloway in support of the Outline Business Case submitted in December 2001 for the refurbishing and rebuild of its school building stock. The Executive had offered no further detail as yet although the intention was to meet with the 15 individual authorities to whom funding allocation has been made in this round. There was therefore little further that could be said on the matter until this meeting had taken place and the details of the offer examined. The Executive had also announced an allocation of £750k to Dumfries and Galloway as a grant for general expenditure on school buildings in the current financial year. Again, detailed guidance was still awaited.

Members – Moira McCrossan and Robert McQuistan entered the meeting – 21 Members present

3. EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2002/2003 - UPDATE AS AT 21 JUNE 2002 – Report dated 21 June 2002 by Director for Education

Decision -

- 3.1 NOTED the updated Capital Programme for 2002/2003.
- 3.2 APPROVED the changes to the detailed Capital Programme contained in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 3.4 NOTED that the current projection for the S94 maintenance block represents an over commitment of £15k compared to the available consent of £3.082m.
- 3.5 NOTED that future reports would contain clearer details of changes in the Capital Programme.
- 3.6 **VOTE**

MOTION

Neil McKay seconded by **Allan Graham** moved to agree immediate reinstatement of the contracts for re-roofing and re-wiring at Wallace Hall Academy.

AMENDMENT

John Forteath seconded by **Robert Higgins** moved to agree that a further report on Wallace Hall Academy be submitted to the September meeting.

- 3.7 On a vote being taken by Roll Call Members voted as follows:-

Motion - 4 Votes being:-

Andrew Bell-Irving
Allan Graham

Ivor Hyslop
Neil McKay

Amendment -17 Votes being:-

Tommy Sloan
Helen Bell
Ian Callander
Jim Dempster
John Forteath
Robert Higgins
William Lockhart
Jane Maitland
Joan Mitchell

Thomas McAughtrie
George McBurnie
Moirra McCrossan
John McMillan
Robert McQuistan
William Nimmo
Elizabeth J Smith
Canon John Walls

Decision -

- 3.8 AGREED that a further report on Wallace Hall Academy be submitted to the September meeting.

Member – Neil McKay left the meeting – 20 Members present

4. **SCHOOL REVIEW - SMALL SCHOOLS** - Report dated 21 June 2002 by Director for Education

Decision -

APPROVED the consultation paper on the criteria to be employed in reviewing a school's viability when it approached single-teacher status, for distribution to all relevant parties for comment.

5. **SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND SESSION DATES 2003/2004** - Report dated 10 June 2002 by Director for Education

Decision -

- 5.1 APPROVED the holiday and session dates for 2003/2004 as set out.
- 5.2 AGREED that a full review of future holiday and session dates be undertaken, with a report on the findings being submitted to a future meeting of the Education Committee.

AGREED to considers Agenda Items 6 and 7 together

6. **TEACHERS' PENSION REGULATIONS - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS** - Report dated 14 June 2002 by Director for Education

Decision -

- 6.1 NOTED that the Teachers' Pensions Regulations are to be amended to allow access to pensions on an actuarially reduced basis and the introduction of a Winding Down Scheme.

AGREED-

- 6.2 that Dumfries and Galloway Council introduce with effect from August 2002 a Winding Down Scheme in accordance with the amended Pension Regulations and subject to the following conditions:-
- Applications to participate should be submitted no later than 3 working months before the teacher wishes to begin working part-time.
 - Winding Down contracts should preferably begin at the start of the school session but may, exceptionally, begin at the start of a new term.
 - Winding Down contracts will only be granted where suitable alternative arrangements can be put in place to cover the other portion of the teaching post (if required).

- The Winding Down contract may be for a post in a school other than the one in which the teacher is currently employed if this best suits the needs of the service.
- These arrangements should only be waived in exceptional circumstances; and

6.3 submission of a further report to a future meeting on the operation of the Winding Down Scheme.

7. PROBATIONER INDUCTION SCHEME 2002/2003 - UPDATE - Report dated 21 June 2002 by Director for Education

7.1 NOTED the outcome of the allocation of probationer teachers to Dumfries and Galloway under the Probationer Induction Scheme for 2002/2003.

7.2 AGREED that representations be made to Ministers, the Scottish Executive and COSLA for changes to be made to the Probationer Induction Scheme for future years as detailed in the report in order that rural authorities are not disadvantaged.

8. SCHOOL BUSES - DRIVER AGE LIMIT - Report dated 20 June 2002 by Director for Environment and Infrastructure

Decision -

8.1 AGREED to allow private contractors to use drivers up to the age of 70 on school bus contracts, subject to no adverse reports through the passenger carrying vehicle driver licensing arrangements or the referral to Occupational Health.

8.2 NOTED that a future report on the age limit of the Council's own Yellow Bus drivers would be forthcoming.

Member – Thomas McAughtrie left the meeting – 19 Members present

9. DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY ACTION PLAN - Report dated 20 June 2002 by Director for Education

Decision -

9.1 APPROVED the establishment of a post of temporary Administrative Assistant for up to two years.

9.2 AGREED further reports as appropriate.

10. CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND - Report dated 21 June 2002 by Director for Education

Decision -

NOTED -

- 10.1 the successful outcome of the Council's Bid against the Changing Children's Services Fund; and
- 10.2 that there would be wide consultation with Members and service users to help inform the development and location of Children's Services Centres.
- 10.3 AGREED submission of further reports on the dispersal of this funding.

11. DEVELOPING A NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS APPROACH IN DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - Report dated 19 June 2002 by Director for Education**Decision -**

- 11.1 NOTED the positive response of the Scottish Executive to the proposal for adopting a New Community Schools approach across all schools in Dumfries and Galloway; and
- 11.2 AGREED submission of further reports as appropriate.

Members – Thomas McAughtrie returned to the meeting – 20 Members present

12. STANDARDS IN SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS ETC. ACT 2000 - GUIDANCE ON PRESUMPTION OF MAINSTREAM EDUCATION - Report dated 21 June 2002 by Director for Education**Decision -**

NOTED -

- 12.1 the guidance provided by the Scottish Executive on Section 15 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 which requires authorities to provide education to children with special educational needs in mainstream schools unless certain, specified exceptions apply;
- 12.2 that the new provision would apply to all children starting or attending school, nursery schools and classes, with effect from 1 August 2003; and
- 12.3 that the guidance offered suggested that education authorities should start planning immediately to ensure that they were in a position to implement the terms of the new provision by this date.

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13. **APPLICATION TO LLOYDS TSB FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP DRUGS INITIATIVE ON BEHALF OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY DRUG ACTION TEAM AND ABERLOUR CHILD CARE TRUST-** Report dated 21 June 2002 by Director for Education

Decision -

- 13.1 NOTED the successful outcome of the bid by the Aberlour Child Care Trust against the Lloyds TSB Foundation Partnership Drug Initiative.
- 13.2 AGREED submission of progress reports throughout the project's two year duration.

14. **HMI REPORT ON STANDARDS AND QUALITY INSPECTION OF PALNACKIE PRIMARY SCHOOL, PALNACKIE, CASTLE DOUGLAS -** Report dated 17 June 2002 by Director for Education

Decision -

NOTED the very positive findings of the HM Inspection of Palnackie Primary School and that HMI will return between one and two years after the publication of the report in order to assess progress made in meeting the points raised under Main Points for Action.

15. **CHAMPIONING CULTURE IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS -** Report dated 24 June 2002 by Director for Education

Decision -

NOTED the success of Dumfries and Galloway Council in securing funding to the value of £55,200 from the Scottish Arts Council to appoint 6 cultural co-ordinators to develop cultural education in schools over school session 2002/2003 and 2003/2004.

16. **INFORMATION ON SCHOOL SUCCESSES -** Report dated 20 June 2002 by Director for Education

Decision -

NOTED the success of schools throughout the region.

17. **MINUTES OF MEETING OF LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS (LNCT) OF 29 May 2002**

Decision -

NOTED (**Appendix**)

18. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY CHAIRMAN DUE TO THE NEED FOR A DECISION

18.1 New Opportunities Funding for PE and Sport Development

Decision -

NOTED that a Members' seminar would be held on Tuesday 20 August 2002 at 2.00 p.m. in the Council Hall, Council Offices, Dumfries.

18.2 St Cuthbert's R C Primary School, Kirkcudbright

Decision –

18.2.1 NOTED that the parents of all the pupils at St Cuthbert's R C Primary School had decided to enrol their children at other schools, the majority at Johnston Primary School, Kirkcudbright; and

18.2.2 AGREED that the school would be "mothballed" in the meantime with submission of a report to the September meeting.

APPENDIX/-



LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFF

**Wednesday 29 May 2002 at 10.30 a.m.
Committee Room, Education Office, Dumfries**

Minutes

Present

Gordon McIntosh	-	EIS Representative
(Chairman)		
Anne Beck	-	SSTA Representative
Margaret Campbell	-	EIS Representative
John F K Crichton	-	SSTA Representative
John Dennis	-	EIS Representative
Graham Herbert	-	Head Teacher, Lockerbie Academy
Dorothy Logan	-	Head Teacher, Noblehill Primary School
Irene McCourtney	-	EIS Representative
Moira McCrossan	-	EIS Representative
Sarah McKenzie	-	Head Teacher, Hardgate Primary School
John McMillan	-	EIS Representative
Fraser Sanderson	-	Director for Education

Apologies

Scott Anderson	-	NAS/UWT Representative
David Archibald	-	Head of Personnel Services
Christine D Dignan	-	Head of Education (School & Adult Services)

In Attendance

Alan Scott	-	EIS Representative
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**Christine D Dignan
Gordon McIntosh
Joint Secretaries**

1. **MINUTE OF MEETING** of 17 April 2002

Decision -

APPROVED.

2. **MATTERS ARISING**

NOTED that Terry Pierce had resigned from this Committee and James Leggat, Head Teacher, Annan Academy would take his place.

3. **A TEACHING PROFESSION FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

3(a) **35 Hour Week - Progress (including School Agreements)**

Decision -

NOTED that arrangements seemed to be going fairly smoothly and AGREED that a copy of the school agreements be sent out to LNCT members.

3(b) **Probationers**

Decision -

NOTED that -

3(b).1 the full complement of 70 - 35 primary and 35 secondary - had been sought. To date, the names of primary school staff had been received and most had been matched to schools. The names of secondary staff were expected imminently.

3(b).2 compulsory transfers had been given priority treatment before the placing of probationers;

3(b).3 a number of schools were being allowed to remain above the staffing formula with no compulsory transfers being made; and

3(b).4 a number of temporary contracts had been terminated.

3(b).5 AGREED to discuss termination of temporary contracts at a future meeting.

3(c) **Job-Sizing**

Decision -

NOTED that -

3(c).1 a job-sizing tool kit was about to be trialled across Education Authorities with a consultation period to follow. Thereafter, job analysts would be identified and the job-sizing exercise would take place over the October 2002 - June 2003 period. It is likely that Dumfries and Galloway would have 4 job analysts including representation from the teacher unions; and

3(c).2 a report was being submitted to the June Education Committee.

3(d) Continuing Professional Development

Decision -

AGREED that the existing CPD working group draw up a set of guidelines for the longer term.

Agreed to discuss the following two items together

3(e) Budget

7. Education Department Budget

Decision -

NOTED that in December savings required of the Education Department had been set against McCrone funding but with the agreement that it should be restored in the new financial year.

Keith Best entered the meeting and it was agreed to take the following item:-

12.3 Forward Planning

Decision -

12.3.1 NOTED the information distributed by Keith Best.

12.3.2 AGREED that Irene McCourtney, Margaret Campbell, Moira McCrossan and Dorothy Logan meet with Keith Best to go over the papers distributed.

Keith Best left the meeting

4. MALICIOUS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST TEACHERS

Decision -

4.1 NOTED the stress caused to staff when false accusations were made against them.

4.3 AGREED to consult Legal Services to find out if it was possible for anything to be done about this and to consider distributing a letter to staff indicating what support would be available to them.

5. SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND SESSION DATES**Decision -**

NOTED that the staff side wished to retain the status quo of a 2 day break in February, 2 inservice days in February and any extra time added on to the summer break with a full review for next session encompassing the whole school year.

6. C.A.T. RESULTS**Decision -**

- 6.1 NOTED requests the staff side had received for a full review of this procedure.
- 6.2 AGREED that, if necessary, a review would be carried out at a suitable point.

7. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Discussed with Item 3(e).

8. COUNCIL RE-STRUCTURING**Decision -**

NOTED -

- 8.1 that there would be three corporate departments with three corporate directors;
- 8.2 the Education and Community Services Department would include Education, Social Services, Community Resources, Housing and Registration; and
- 8.3 the interviews for the post of for Education and Community Services Director would be held on 17 and 18 June.

9. SPEAKING TESTS IN MODERN LANGUAGES**Decision -**

NOTED that it was difficult to carry out these tests in a full class and that consideration should be given to resourcing departments to allow these to be carried out outwith the class.

10. PERIPATETIC STAFF

10.1 NOTED the Note of the meeting held with Expressive Arts Staff on 11 December 2001.

AGREED -

10.2 to issue the Note for comment/approval to the group involved in the discussions; and

10.3 to set up a working group to bring forward as a matter of urgency a report in line with the McCrone recommendations which were to be in place for 2004.

11. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Decision -

AGREED the following dates for future meetings:-

Tuesday 17 September 2002

Tuesday 26 November 2002

Tuesday 11 February 2003

Tuesday 13 May 2003 (AGM)

12. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

12.1 Primary 1 School Day

Decision -

NOTED that a report was being submitted to the June Education Committee recommending that parents should have the choice of their child attend a full day or a half day until the October break.

12.2 Stress in Teaching

Decision -

NOTED the paper distributed and AGREED to discuss at a future meeting.