

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 28 MAY 2013 at 9.30 AM.

COUNCILLORS:

Jim Blackwood
Gerry Goldie
Linda Gow
Adrian Mahoney
Craig Martin (Convener)
Dr Craig R Martin
Alan Nimmo

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:**

Hector Cairns
Margaret Coutts
Reverend Michael Rollo

CO-OPTEES:

Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative)
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)
Marnie McKay (Pupil Representative)

OFFICERS:

Shona Barton, Committee Services Officer
Danny Cairney, Accountancy Services Manager
Steven Dougan., Support Officer
Nigel Fletcher, Head of Educational Support and Improvement
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Educational Resources
Eileen Hutton, Childcare Provision Co-ordinator
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Anne Pearson, Curriculum Support Manager
Andrew Sutherland, Director of Education
Maureen Tait, Quality Improvement Officer
Malcolm Wilson, ICT Curriculum Development Officer

EE1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors D Goldie and Nicol, J Ainsley and A Rattray.

EE2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

EE3. MINUTE

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 29 January 2013 was approved.

EE4. INTRODUCTION OF A 33 PERIOD WEEK ACROSS ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which outlined the results of the consultation which has taken place in relation to the implementation of a 33 period week in all Falkirk Council secondary schools.

In January 2013, the Education Committee agreed to implement a timetabling model based on a 33 period week for all Falkirk secondary schools from August 2014, giving rise to 27.5 hours schooling for pupils and 22.5 hours contact time for teaching staff.

The Committee also agreed to consult with parents, pupils, teachers and other stakeholders on the detail of the implementation with a further report to be provided to the next meeting of the Education Committee.

Decision

The feedback from the consultation on the models developed in Falkirk secondary schools for the introduction of a 33 period week from August 2014 was noted.

EE4. NEW CARRONGRANGE SCHOOL – PROGRESS UPDATE

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which provided an update on the progress made to date in relation to the Carrongrange School project.

In October 2012, the Education Committee agreed to progress the project for a new Carrongrange school following a successful bid to the Scottish Future's Trust and agreed that the project would be taken forward via two teams, the site selection team and the school design team.

11 sites were identified by the site selection team. Details of the 3 selected and 8 rejected sites were provided in detail in the Appendices to the Report.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made to date by both the site selection and design teams as outlined in the Report;**

- (2) to endorse the 2 short-listed sites on land adjacent to Moray Primary School and Weedingshall in Polmont.
- (3) that a Report requesting approval to formally consult on the preferred site(s) as recommended by the site selection team would be presented at a future Education Executive.

EE5. PROJECT SEARCH – CARRONGRANGE SCHOOL

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which provided information on the proposal to introduce a 'Project Search' programme involving Carrongrange School.

The Falkirk Council Project Search programme is a nine month school-to-work internship for students with disabilities that will take place entirely at the Forth Valley Royal Hospital. The Project involves a total workplace immersion to facilitate a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration and on-the-job training and support with the goal being competitive employment for the student using the skills they have acquired.

Decision

The work of the Steering Group to introduce Project Search in partnership with NHS Forth Valley was approved.

EE6. NURSERY PROVISION

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which provided an update on the progress made in developing nursery provision, outlined the current provision and proposed a way forward for further development.

The Report provided detailed information on nursery provision on a cluster-by-cluster basis with recommendations for future developments as resources allow.

Information was also provided on the challenges surrounding the announcement by the Scottish Government that they plan to legislate for an increase in the funded annual provision from 475 hours pre-school education for 3 and 4 year olds to a minimum annual provision of 600 hours early learning and childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to develop proposals for the Bo'ness, Graeme and Larbert clusters for further consideration by the Education Executive, and
- (2) that admissions are prioritised as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the Report.

EE7. CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE – SENIOR PHASE

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which set out how Falkirk schools plan to implement the Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence.

The Report outlined the context, purposes and entitlements of the Senior Phase and provided information on the new national qualifications framework. The design, expectations, implementation and the outcomes of the Senior Phase were also detailed. Information was also provided on the ongoing work being undertaken to develop a new National analytical tool for measuring success.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to approve the statement of expectations as detailed at Appendix 1 of the Report, and**
- (2) that schools would have the flexibility within the parameters of the statement of expectation to agree the structure of their senior phase courses and programmes in negotiation with their stakeholders based on local need and circumstance.**

EE8. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which set out Falkirk Council's strategies to implement "Opportunities for All" within the authority and improve outcomes for all young people.

The Report provided an overview of the strategic and operational delivery of "Opportunities for All", including the partnership/consortia arrangements in place with schools and Forth Valley College. Statistical information was also provided which detailed the positive trend in school leaver destinations in recent years.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the further development of close partnership working between Education Services, the Employment Training Unit, Skills Development Scotland and Forth Valley College, and**
- (2) to approve the strategies adopted to further improve the positive destination profile of all young people in Falkirk up to the age of 20 as set out in the objectives of 'Opportunities for All'.**

EE9. SOCIAL MEDIA IN SCHOOLS TO ENHANCE LEARNING AND TEACHING

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which sought approval to allow schools controlled access to social media sites where they offer added value to learning and teaching within the curriculum.

The Report outlined the most common examples of social media sites – YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Blogging platforms. Information was also provided on the Scottish Government “Technologies for Learning Strategy” which promotes the use of social media as a tool in learning.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) approved the introduction of YouTube in a controlled environment for all young people in Falkirk schools;**
- (2) approved the use of Facebook as a social media tool for teaching and support staff in schools for educational purposes, and**
- (3) agreed that the changes in the use of social media as outlined in the Report are incorporated within the Education Services ICT Strategy.**