

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within OGILVIE HOUSE, OGILVIE WAY, KNIGHTSRIDGE, LIVINGSTON, EH54 8HL, on 11 MAY 2010.

Present – Councillors Andrew Miller (Chair), Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Ellen Glass, Danny Logue, Jim Dickson substituting for Jim Walker

Apologies – Councillor Jim Walker, Greg McCarra

1 MINUTE

The panel confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 20 April 2010 subject to amending the word police to policy on page 207.

2 PRIVATE SESSION

The panel resolved under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1.

3 HMI REPORT – BALBARDIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

In January 2010 HM Inspectors of Schools visited Balbardie Primary School. The report and main findings were published on 9 March 2010. The following key strengths were highlighted:-

- The leadership of the headteacher in creating a culture of continuous improvement.
- Leadership at levels provided by staff and children
- A strong culture of inclusion
- Children who are responsible, confident and safe and happy in school
- The school's progress in taking forward the Curriculum for Excellence which resulted in a significant impact on children's learning
- Very effective arrangements for children to develop their literacy skills in a range of contexts.

The inspectors agreed the following areas for improvement with the school and the education authority.

- Continue to develop high quality opportunities for children, particularly at the early stages, to learn through play activities
- Take forward agreed priorities for development, including building on existing good practise in taking forward Curriculum for Excellence
- Further develop communication with parents to involve them more fully in implementing children's learning experiences

The report advised that the inspectors were able to rely on the school's robust self-evaluation, and as a result it was able to change its focus during the inspection to support further improvements within the school.

The inspectors noted that the school provided a very good quality of education and as such, they would make no further visits in connection with the inspection. The education authority would inform parents about the centre's progress as part of the authority's arrangements for report to parents on the quality of its school.

During discussion the headteacher provided an over of the improvement plan.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To note the school's improvement plan; and
3. To commend the Headteacher, staff and pupils on the positive report.

4 VERBAL UPADATE ON THE SQA PROJECTIONS

There was a verbal update on SQA projections for Whitburn Academy by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance).

The projections were as follows:

3 + Highers = 14%

5 + Highers = 7%

5 + Level 3 = 93%

5 + Level 4 = 75%

5 + Level 5 = 24%

Decision

To note the verbal update

5 DISTRIBUTION OF S5 HIGHERS (HEREWITH).

A chart had been circulated which showed the distribution of S5 highers.

Following discussions it was suggested that a report be brought to the panel on the total number of subjects available and which schools provided each of these subjects.

Decision

1. To note the update.
2. To report back to the panel with a list of all subjects that are available and which schools would provide them.