

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE on 9 JUNE 2015.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), David Dodds, Stuart Borrowman, Tony Boyle, Tom Conn, Alexander Davidson, Jim Dixon (substituting for Frank Toner), Carl John, Dave King, Sarah King, Danny Logue, Anne McMillan, John McGinty, Andrew Miller, Angela Moohan, George Paul and Jim Walker; Appointed Representatives Eric Lumsden, John MacKinnon and Myra MacPherson.

Apologies – Councillor Frank Toner; Appointed Representatives Elsie Aitken and Lynne McEwen

Absent – Councillor Harry Cartmill

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. MINUTES

- a) The Education Executive approved the minute of the meeting held on 5 May 2015 as being a correct record.
- b) The Education Executive approved the minute of the special meeting held on 26 May 2015 as being a correct record.

The Chair thereafter signed both minutes.

3. NAMING OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS LOCATED AT CONNOLLY HOUSE, BLACKBURN

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) providing details of the proposal to name the newly established primary school for additional support needs located at Connolly House, Blackburn to the 'Connolly School Campus'.

The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) advised that the newly established primary school for additional support needs located at Connolly House, Blackburn required to be formally named. The Education Services Committee, at its meeting of 11 March 1997, agreed to name the building after William Connolly, first Convener of West Lothian District Council and Local Member for the Almond Ward, Blackburn, following local consultation within Blackburn. It was recommended that the name Connolly continues to be used, which was already established and recognised within the community.

Timeously naming the school would ensure that arrangements could be put in place to register the school formally within the Scottish Government and the school management information system (SEEMIS) procedures. It would also allow pupils transferring to the school to engage in transition activities and encourage ownership and enjoyment of their new school environment in August 2015.

The Education Executive was asked to approve the naming of the newly established primary school for additional support needs located at Connolly House Blackburn to the 'Connolly School Campus'.

Decision

Approved the terms of the report.

4. SESSION DATES 2016/17

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Schools with Education Support providing details of the proposed session dates for 2016/17 and a revision to the current policy of starting the fixed Spring Break on the last Monday of March.

The Head of Schools with Education Support advised that consultation was carried out with Parent Councils, Head Teachers and the Local Negotiating Committee with Teaching Staff. The report was also considered by the Education PDSP at its meeting held on 5 May 2015 the outcome of which was that the Panel agreed that the report be forwarded to the Education Executive for approval.

The proposed session dates for 2016/17 incorporated the comments received during consultation in relation to moving the Spring Break, details of which were outlined in appendix 4 to the report. The proposals encompassed the Easter holiday and included an additional day holiday in February.

Recommendation

The recommendation in the report by the Head of Schools with Education Support asked the Education Executive to:

1. Approve the Session Dates for 2016/17; and
2. Approve that the Council's policy on fixing the Easter Break be amended to "The Spring Break shall start on the last Monday of March except where Easter would fall outwith this period, in which case the Council would consult on a suitable pattern of holidays to incorporate the Easter public holiday."

Motion

The Education Executive agrees the recommendation subject to

reattaching the name “Easter Break” to the holiday period.

- Moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Dodds.

Decision

The Education Executive unanimously agreed to approve the terms of the motion to:

1. Approve the Session Dates for 2016/17; and
2. Approve that the Council’s policy on fixing the Easter Break be amended to “The Easter Break shall start on the last Monday of March except where Easter would fall outwith this period, in which case the Council would consult on a suitable pattern of holidays to incorporate the Easter public holiday.”

5. APPOINTED MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Planning and Area Services) seeking approval for Church appointed member attendance at the Church of Scotland Annual Education conference to be held in Edinburgh on 2nd and 3rd September 2015. The draft programme of the two day event was attached as an appendix to the report.

The report explained that the Church of Scotland arranges training conferences for Church appointed members on every local authority in Scotland. This provides an opportunity for professional development in relation to their role on education committees. The conference has been advertised as a residential event however, given that West Lothian is situated within easy commuting distance from the Edinburgh hotel hosting the event, confirmation of the day rate for delegates has been requested from the organisers, which was estimated at £76.00.

The Education Executive was asked to agree that the Church appointed members of the Education Executive be invited to attend the Church of Scotland Annual Education conference to be held in Edinburgh on 2nd and 3rd September 2015 on a non-residential basis.

Decision

Approved the terms of the report.