

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFF HELD ON 27th JANUARY, 2015

PRESENT

REPRESENTING RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL MANAGEMENT

G McKinlay, Head of Service; M Dewar, Acting Head of Service; M Macdonald, Head Teacher, Castlehead High School (all Education & Leisure); and D McCann, Principal HR Adviser (Finance & Corporate Services).

REPRESENTING RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL TEACHING STAFF

J Welsh, J McCusker and K Fella and S McCrossan (all EIS).

IN ATTENDANCE

J Levens, Education Officer (Education & Leisure); G McCormick, Personnel Officer and E Currie, Committee Services Officer (both Finance & Corporate Services).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON FOR MEETING

In accordance with the terms of the local recognition and procedure agreement, which stated that the Chair of the Committee should alternate between the two sides comprising the Renfrewshire Council Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff, it was agreed that John Welsh chair this meeting of the Renfrewshire Council Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff.

DECIDED: That John Welsh chair this meeting of the Renfrewshire Council Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff.

2. APOLOGIES

Councillor Henry; R Naylor, Director of Education & Leisure, M Convery, Head Teacher, St James Primary School and L McAllister, Education Manager (Curriculum & Early Years) (all Education & Leisure); D Marshall, Head of HR & Organisational Development (Finance & Corporate Services); M Russell, R Hannah, H Whittle, and A Howie (all EIS); J Stead (NASUWT) and M Greenlees (SSTA).

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFF

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Renfrewshire Council Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff held on 18th November, 2014.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

4. ACTION FROM PREVIOUS MINUTE

There was submitted the action note from the meeting of the Renfrewshire Council Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff held on 18th November, 2014.

DECIDED: That the progress on the items be noted.

5. ANNUAL LEAVE AND SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS 2015/16

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Service relative to annual leave and school closure days for 2015/16. The report intimated that paragraph 5.3 of the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) Handbook of Conditions of Service stipulated that teachers' annual leave entitlement was 40 days and paragraph 5.5 stipulated that within the leave year, the balance of days beyond the working year and the annual leave entitlement, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, would be days of school closure.

The report further intimated that paragraph 5.6 of the SNCT Handbook of Conditions of Service provided that the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers should agree the pattern of annual leave and school closure days. The schedule attached to the report detailed the proposed annual leave and school closure days for 2015/16.

DECIDED: That the annual leave and school closure days 2015/16, as detailed in the schedule to the report, be approved.

6. FAILURE TO AGREE

There was submitted a report by the Joint Secretaries relative to a formal declaration of dispute lodged but the Joint Secretary (Teachers' Side) under the auspices of JNC 1/Revised on the grounds of breach of procedure.

The report intimated that the Joint Secretary (Management Side) had intimated that the Council did not accept the interpretation put forward by the teachers' side for calling the dispute. The Joint Secretary (Teachers' Side) refuted the arguments put forward by the Management Side in asserting their position and expressed a strong feeling of disappointment at what he deemed to be the failure of the Management Side to follow the provisions as laid out in existing JNC agreements. As such the teachers' side sought a referral of the failure to agree to the Joint Chairs of the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers for conciliation.

DECIDED: That the Committee note this failure to agree.

7. ENGAGING WITH PARENTS (REPORTING ON PUPIL PROGRESS)

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Service relative to the key purposes of reporting on pupil progress and the work which was currently being undertaken by a cross sectoral working group to engage with parents, with a particular focus on reporting on pupil progress.

The report intimated that the working group had been established in September 2014 to develop a strategy across the Council and provide guidance for all establishments to support them in engaging parents in their child's learning. The working group's progress to date was detailed in the report.

DECIDED: That the work of the group be noted.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Renfrewshire Council Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff would be held on 17th March, 2015 at 2.00 p.m.