

JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFF

Minute of virtual Special Meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff (JNCT) held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 23 June 2020 at 2.45pm.

- Present:**
- Representing Perth and Kinross Council**
Councillors J Duff, J Rebbeck and C Shiers; S Devlin, M Donaghy, G Doogan, S Hagney, D MacLeod and S Johnston (all Education and Children's Services) and P Johnstone (Corporate & Democratic Services).
- Representing Teachers' Associations**
L Gibb, L-J Grant, M Laurie, C Rose, T Summers and C Weston (all EIS); M Mackie (SSTA) and S Topen-Cooper (NASUWT).
- In Attendance:** A McAuley, Joint Secretary (Trade Unions) and L Brown (Corporate and Democratic Services).
- Also in Attendance:** S Hope, Joint Secretary, Employees' Joint Consultative Committee
- Apologies:** C Flynn, (Joint Secretary – Management Side)
- Councillor J Duff, Convener, Presiding.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted and noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ELECTED MEMBERS ONLY)

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

3. COVID-19 STATEMENT BY DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER ON THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS

Prior to consideration of further business S Devlin provided the Committee with a verbal update on a ministerial statement made to the Scottish Parliament on 23 June 2020 by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney MSP that all pupils will return to school on a full time basis from 11 August 2020, subject to the public health guidance and scientific and medical advice at that time advising that it is safe to do so.

4. SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2020/21

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) G/20/71 seeking the views of the Committee on proposals for the amendment to the School Term and Holiday dates for 2020/21, following the request of Scottish Government to standardise the new term to 11 August 2020.

A summary of the 3 options proposed in the report for school term and holiday dates for session 2020/21 was provided as follows:

Option 1 – The 2020 summer holidays commence one week early on 24 June 2020, instead of 1 July 2020 (inclusive)

Option 2 – The 2021 summer holidays commence one week early on 24 June 2021, instead of 1 July 2021 (inclusive)

Option 3 – The 5 days are allocated during the academic year, set and agreed by Perth and Kinross Council.

The Committee was advised that the results of surveys undertaken with EIS, NASUWT, SSTA and UNISON members had indicated that Option 2 was the preferred Option.

S Devlin advised that Option 2 provided one In Service day on 10 August 2020 whereas two In Service days had been planned on 16 and 17 August 2020 in the previous academic calendar for 2020/21. Should Option 2 be chosen as preferred option one additional In Service day would require to be re-designated later in the year.

C Weston advised that the view of the Teaching Panel was that teachers would prefer the 2 In Service days to be taken in August as teachers would require time to prepare for the return of all pupils to School in August.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) To support Option 2 that the 2021 summer holidays commence one week early on Thursday 24 June 2021, instead of Thursday 1 July 2021 (inclusive).
- (ii) To note that the figure for the number of days for the Spring Holiday in 2021 was 11 and not 10 as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report G/20/71.

5. COVID-19 UPDATE ON RECOVERY PLAN FOR RETURN TO SCHOOLS

S Devlin referred to the briefing note (G/20/72) as previously circulated which had provided an update on the development of the Council's Local Education Phasing Delivery Plan for the reopening of schools and early learning and childcare provision on a blended learning basis from August 2020. The Plan is to be presented to a meeting of Council on 24 June 2020, however, in light of the Deputy First Minister's statement in parliament this would now become a contingency plan.

During discussion C Weston agreed to forward on a number of questions from the Teaching Unions to S Johnston on the Delivery Plan.

The Committee:

- (i) Noted the update on the COVID-19 Recovery Plan
- (ii) Noted that a number of questions from the Teaching Unions on the implementation of the return to schools from 11 August 2020 will be forwarded to S Johnston. **(Action CW)**