

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT A MEETING OF THE
CORK EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD
CORK TRAINING CENTRE, ROSSA AVENUE
20th FEBRUARY 2014

ATTENDANCE

<i>Mr. Liam Ahern</i>	<i>Cllr. Tomás O'Brien</i>
<i>Cllr. Tim Brosnan</i>	<i>Cllr. Michael O'Connell</i>
<i>Mr. Paddy Browne</i>	<i>Cllr. Noel O'Connor</i>
<i>Cllr. Noel Buckley</i>	<i>Ms. Una O'Donnell</i>
<i>Cllr. Liam Burke</i>	<i>Cllr. Tadhg O'Donovan</i>
<i>Mr. Michael Carey</i>	<i>Cllr. Patrick O'Driscoll</i>
<i>Ms. Catherine Cashin</i>	<i>Cllr. Chris O'Leary</i>
<i>Ms. Josephine Coffey</i>	<i>Cllr. Aindrias Ó Muimhneacháin</i>
<i>Cllr. Jim Corr</i>	<i>Cllr. Niall O'Neill</i>
<i>Cllr. Noel Costello</i>	<i>Cllr. Donal O'Rourke</i>
<i>Cllr. Humphrey Deegan</i>	<i>Mr. Sean Roberts</i>
<i>Cllr. Connie Foley</i>	<i>Ms. Máire Roycroft</i>
<i>Cllr. Mary Hegarty</i>	<i>Cllr. Ronan Sheehan</i>
<i>Ms. Helen McGrath</i>	<i>Mr. Gerard White</i>
<i>Ms. Marie Murphy</i>	

EXECUTIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

<i>Mr. Ted Owens, CEO</i>	<i>Mr. Martin Hallahan, PO</i>
<i>Mr. John Fitzgibbons, EO</i>	<i>Ms. Clare Creedon (Minute Taker)</i>

WELCOME

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr. Gerry Kelly, the Deputy Chairman, Mr. Sean Roberts welcomed members to the Cork Training Centre, Rossa Avenue. He thanked Mr. Enda McWeeney and Ms. Sheila Quill for hosting today's ETB meeting and for arranging the tour of the building and facilities. He invited Mr. Enda McWeeney to address the Board. Mr. McWeeney welcomed all members to the Training Centre, the newest addition to Cork ETB, and hoped members found the facilities to their liking. He noted that Training Centres departed SOLAS at the end of 2013. He advised that Cork Training Centre is one of the biggest in the country. A third of training happens within the centre and two thirds takes place outside the centre. There are approximately 40 instructing staff and 60 support staff within the centre. He noted that he is looking forward to the challenges presented in 2014.

APOLOGIES

- Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from Board Members, Rev. Dr. Tom Deenihan, Cllr. Gerry Kelly, Cllr. Catherine O'Keeffe, Rev. Canon Salter.

CONDOLENCES

✠ To the family of Patrick Flavin, former teacher in Youghal Vocational School/Coláiste Eoin, on his death.

✠ To Ms. Lorraine Feehan, Supervisor of Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa crèche, on the death of her mother.

CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations were expressed to Davis College, Mallow, on winning the EMC VEX Robotics Competition for the second year running. The students were awarded the highest award of the day, the Excellence Award.

BEST WISHES

- Best wishes were expressed to Cllr. Catherine O’Keeffe, wishing her a speedy recovery from her surgery.

MINUTES

The Board, on the proposition of Mr. Paddy Browne, seconded by Ms. Catherine Cashin, adopted the minutes of the previous ETB meeting held on **16th January 2014 (copy herewith)**.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Tadhg O’Donovan, seconded by Mr. Liam Ahern, adopted the DES, ETBI and General Correspondence as presented (**copies herewith**).

DES Correspondence

27.01.2014 – Interim Management and Organisational Arrangements for ETBs – The CEO advised that the DES requested all ETBs to submit a plan of their current structures. They have informed ETBs that it is their intention to develop a common structure for all ETBs. CETB submitted the current structure and the DES have written back to advise they are happy with CETBs four pillar structure but have asked for some further clarification. He noted that some ETBs have developed completely news structures but he chose to remain with the four pillar structure, similar to the former VECs. The CEO, at this juncture, took the opportunity to thank the staff of the former City and County VECs and FÁS for the manner in which they have co-operated with management and the courtesy shown throughout the merger process. He is aware that the process has not been easy for staff and the relocation of departments has caused disruption to both individuals’ professional and personal lives.

10.02.2014 – Information note regarding the official minutes of Board meetings – Cllr. Humphrey Deegan referred to the above correspondence and stated that he was surprised by this decision and wondered if it was made so that the DES can now say that

they weren't informed of certain decisions. The CEO advised that he was not aware of the exact rationale for the direction in relation to the official minutes.

ETBI Correspondence

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Noel O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. Tadhg O'Donovan, approved the payment of the ETBI Annual subscription 2014.

General Correspondence

23.01.2014 – Correspondence from the BOM of Mallow FEC – The CEO advised the Board that considering the condition of the mentioned roof, he had no choice but to order the evacuation of the building and on health and safety issues had ordered temporary works to be carried out. He advised the Board that an application to re-roof the building has been submitted to the DES. Cllr. Tadhg O'Donovan stated that as Chairperson of the above BOM it was incumbent on him to express thanks to the CEO and the Executive as the above situation could not have been anticipated. The promptness with which the matter was handled shows the commitment of CETB. He also thanked the staff of Mallow FEC for their co-operation and support.

24.01.2014 – Correspondence from the BOM of Coláiste Pobail Bheanntai – The CEO advised the Board that he has spoken to the Principal in relation to the publication of League Tables and sympathises with his concerns. However, he stated that he will not engage with the media in relation to same as he believes it would be fruitless. He noted that the League Tables have caused enormous hurt in some colleges over the years. He stated that it is easy for schools/colleges to have 100% progression to UCC if they are selective as to who they enrol. However, CETB schools are all inclusive schools and enrolments are not dependant on socio-economic or academic backgrounds. Cllr. Mary Hegarty thanked the CEO for his response and stated that it was the Parents Association who raised this issue with the BOM.

24.01.2014 – Correspondence from the Management Committee of Coláiste Árd Álainn – Mr. Liam Ahern supported that the members, as a Board, should provide some element of a counselling service. The CEO stated that he understands the need for counselling and will meet with the Education Officers and discuss same. Cllr. Niall O'Neill referred to Coláiste Árd Álainn and stated that as a BOM member he felt it may be beneficial to provide training, particularly in the area of finance, to the administrative person in the unit. He stated that there appears to be some issues with the reports accessed from finance. The CEO noted that the agenda for the Principals Seminar will include issues relating to finance reporting and that the views of Principals would be ascertained.

30.01.2014 – Correspondence from the DCYA – Cllr. Ronan Sheehan asked the CEO for clarification regarding the difference between the grant aid for the former County and

City VECs. The CEO stated that these are historical grants and that the City had received more generous funding for youth affairs.

31.01.2014 – Correspondence from the BOM of YR Fermoy – The CEO advised that Mr. John Fitzgibbons visited the centre and subsequently a consultant's report was sought. The CEO stated that he is unhappy with the condition of the building and he has requested permission for a temporary lease to re-locate the YR centre to another location in Fermoy. Cllr. Tadhg O'Donovan stated that as far as the BOM is concerned, this is a substantial step forward. The centre serves the town of Fermoy and Mitchelstown and it was a big fear that Fermoy would lose out if the centre was relocated. The CEO thanked Cllr. O'Donovan for his support and also thanked Mr. Martin Hallahan for his advice and support on this matter.

04.02.2014 – Correspondence from Nagle Community College – Cllr. Patrick O'Driscoll asked the CEO if he could provide more information in relation to the document on the viability of the above College. The CEO advised that the former City of Cork Audit Committee were concerned in relation to the enrolments and requested a report regarding the viability of both Nagle CC and Terence MacSwiney CC. The CEO noted that the report was written in a very clinical manner but the reality of the situation was that the numbers enrolling in both schools were quite low. He acknowledged that the factors effecting school enrolment were complicated and differed from school to school. The Nagle Community College staff were unhappy with aspects of the report but the CEO explained that he had written to the BOM of the College and suggested that the ETB and all stakeholders in the College should work together to attract more students.

Cllr. O'Driscoll referred to the January Meeting and the issue raised in relation to the viability of Mannix College and asked the CEO for an update in relation to same. He asked the CEO if there were other schools that are not viable. The CEO responded by stating that there is not a list of schools that are viable or not viable but management review enrolments on a regular basis. He stated that there is a serious question in relation to the viability of Mannix College and that he has met with the Principal to discuss the situation and that it was now the CEO's intention to talk to the staff and BOM. Cllr. Noel O'Connor, as Chairperson of the BOM of Mannix College supported the decision of the CEO.

Cllr. Humphrey Deegan referred to Coderdojo, the coding clubs, and noted that there are some incredibly clever children doing some amazing things with computers. Cllr. Noel Costello supported Cllr. Deegan's comments. The CEO stated that he met Coderdojo's co-founder, Mr. Bill Liao, at a conference and was aware that the organisation did not want to

get involved in mainstream education. However, the CEO did state that he would be interested in exploring how CETB can make our facilities available.

Cllr. Donal O'Rourke referred to BOM motions now being recorded under General Correspondence and asked the CEO if motions are no longer accepted. The CEO stated that there isn't a need for BOMs to pass formal resolutions. He stated that the Principals/Secretary's of the BOM can write a letter to the CEO and he will deal with the issue.

CEO'S REPORT

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Tadhg O'Donovan, seconded by Mr. Liam Ahern approved the adoption of the CEO's Report, incorporating the Education Report, Finance Report, Human Resources Report and the Capital Report (**copy herewith**).

- **Item 3 – Annual Awards Ceremony** – The CEO thanked Ms. Joan Russell and Ms. Clare Creedon for the work that was put into the above night. Mr. Michael Carey echoed the CEO's sentiments and stated that it was a great success and is an important event for the students. Ms. Marie Murphy thanked Mr. Niall Kennefick also for his contribution.
- **Item 5 – Meetings to note** – The CEO referred to the Staff Consultative Group and advised that former FÁS staff are now members of this group.

The CEO advised the Board that since the agenda was distributed, notification has been received from the DES advising that the former City of Cork VEC Accounts for 2012 have been approved. He stated that CETB will now be placing an advert in the press advising of same and that the accounts are available for inspection and that the report would be formally considered by the Audit and Finance Committees.

Mr. Sean Roberts referred to the Gaelcholáiste Carrigaline and asked the CEO for an update on same. The CEO stated that he has approached the DES and stated that he does not believe the school should open in September 2014. He stated that there are issues with regards to accommodation and numbers for enrolment. He advised the Board that he is waiting to hear from Minister Quinn in relation to same. He also noted that the local advocacy group believe it would be better to wait until September 2015 to open the school.

Cllr. Noel O'Connor stated that Davis College will encounter problems in September with regards to requiring temporary accommodation due to high enrolments. The CEO stated he and Martin Hallahan are aware of the issues. Martin stated that an application has been made and the DES has reverted with some queries.

Cllr. Noel Buckley stated that Coláiste Treasa is in a similar position regarding enrolments and the current facilities not being fit for purpose. Martin Hallahan stated that CETB has approval to build 1 general classroom and the design stage is underway. The Principal has mentioned that the Home Economics room is sub-standard. Mr. Hallahan stated that he has given the necessary forms regarding upgrading facilities and he can then forward them to the DES for consideration. Ms. Marie Murphy stated that she believes the corridor is not wide enough for the students to pass each other. The CEO thanked members for bringing it to the Executives attention and they will analyse their accommodation needs.

COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

The CEO advised the Board that the Finance Committee met for the first time today. Cllr. Chris O'Leary was elected as the Chairperson of the Committee.

MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES FOR RATIFICATION

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Ronan Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Ó Brien, approved the documents as outlined in the list submitted by the CEO (**copy herewith**).

The CEO noted that the document referred to minutes submitted from the Ionad Cultúrtha. Issues were raised in these minutes and the CEO will arrange a meeting with the necessary individuals. Mr. Gerard White queried as to whether the Board should be approving these documents if they haven't read them. The CEO stated that all minutes have been read and they are being put before the Board on his recommendation. He stated that it would not be feasible for all minutes to be distributed to members but should any member wish to view the minutes this will be arranged.

AOB

Cllr. Donal O'Rourke referred to the minutes of the meeting between the Secretary General and Cllr. Humphrey Deegan that were distributed after the January ETB meeting. Cllr. O'Rourke stated that his understanding was that Cllr. Deegan attended this meeting in a personal capacity and did not represent the members of County Cork VEC. He also stated that he believes the members should be afforded the right to reply to these minutes. Cllr. O'Rourke stated that he refutes the statement "*Cllr. Deegan is of the view that the VE*

Committee is unduly influenced by the A/CEO. He also expressed concern that the Chairperson of the Committee is a member of Executive Management of the VEC". He stated that he, as a long serving member of CCVEC, was never unduly influenced by any member of the Executive over the years. He advised that the balance has always been to support the Executive while also challenging them. He also noted that the Chairperson of the former CCVEC is a nominee of a prescribed body and not a member of the Executive. The statement in the minutes that the Chairperson is an Executive member is incorrect and needs to be pointed out. Cllr. O'Rourke also felt that the Secretary General was undermining the CEO by requesting that Cllr. Deegan communicate formally with the DES on issues going forward. He noted that Cllr. Deegan is not the accounting Officer and he would have concerns in relation to this.

The CEO stated that Cllr. Deegan, at the time of the meeting, was in regular contact with the DES and he believes that the Secretary General's request was in an effort to ensure that formal procedures were followed. The CEO stated that he would prefer if Cllr. Deegan would make his views known at this forum and that he would communicate with the Secretary General if needed, but it was not possible for the CEO to prevent anybody from writing directly to the Secretary General.

Cllr. O'Rourke stated that it appears, from the minutes distributed, that the views expressed have been given credence by the DES. The CEO denied this was the case and stated that the minutes were a reflection of what was expressed by an individual rather than a statement of fact. Cllr. O'Rourke proposed that a letter should be sent as he would like his view to be conveyed to the Secretary General. This was seconded by Cllr. Aindrias Ó Muimhneacháin. Cllr. Chris O'Leary stated that he had a difficulty with CETB corresponding with the Secretary General regarding matters that he was not present for. He does not want to be seen to take sides but these are legacy issues. He believes it is not fair to ask members to make a judgement on this matter. Mr. Michael Carey stated that he understood Cllr. O'Leary's issue and suggested that the wording of the correspondence should read "*the former members of County Cork VEC*". Cllr. Donal O'Rourke appreciated where Cllr. O'Leary was coming from and advised that he is conscious about this. It was agreed that the letter would be sent from the CEO to the Secretary General, on behalf of the former County Cork VEC members, stating that they were not unduly influenced by the VEC Executive and that the then Chairman of the VEC was not an Executive member.

Ms. Helen McGrath thanked Mr. Sean Roberts for stepping in as Chairperson and Cllr.
Noel O'Connor thanked the staff in Rossa Avenue.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
Chairman

DATE: _____