

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT A MEETING OF THE
CORK EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD
CORK TRAINING CENTRE, ROSSA AVENUE
26th JANUARY 2017

ATTENDANCE

<i>Cllr. Des O'Grady</i>	<i>Cllr. Christopher O'Sullivan</i>
<i>Cllr. Kay Dawson</i>	<i>Mr. Ger Looney</i>
<i>Cllr. Mary Hegarty</i>	<i>Ms. Gillian Keating</i>
<i>Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy</i>	<i>Mr. Paudie Palmer</i>
<i>Cllr. Pdraig O'Sullivan</i>	<i>Ms. Maura Fitzgibbon</i>
<i>Cllr. Mary Shields</i>	<i>Ms. Louise Sheehan</i>
<i>Cllr. Chris O'Leary</i>	<i>Ms. Pearl Nolan</i>
<i>Cllr. P.J. Hourican</i>	<i>Mr. Declan O'Leary</i>

EXECUTIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

<i>Mr. Ted Owens, CE</i>	<i>Ms. Suzanne Mullins, Director of O.S.D</i>
<i>Mr. John Fitzgibbons, Director of FET</i>	<i>Ms. Clare Creedon (Secretary to the Board)</i>
<i>Mr. Pat McKelvey, Director of Schools</i>	

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed members to the first meeting of 2017. The CE took the opportunity to speak about Cllr. Claire Cullinane and her untimely passing in December 2016. The news that Cllr. Cullinane had passed away was greeted with shock and sadness by all those who had the privilege of working with or knowing Claire. Claire loved her work with CETB. She was passionate about education and cared hugely for learners in schools and the community. Before becoming a member, Claire worked as a CETB tutor for many years. Claire will always be remembered as a Cobh lady and her work as a County Councillor and community activist for the people of Cobh, Great Island and indeed the whole county will be long remembered. Claire is sadly missed by her family and friends who can be proud of the contribution she made as an activist, Independent politician and CETB member. Members of the Board expressed their condolences also. A dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilís.

APOLOGIES

➤ Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from Board Members, Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Cllr. Tim Brosnan and Ms. Mary O'Grady.

CONDOLENCES

- ✠ To the family of Cllr. Claire Cullinane, CETB Member, on her death.
- ✠ To Sheila Quill and family on the death of her mother.
- ✠ To the family of Mr. Owen O'Callaghan, on his death.
- ✠ To Mary Martin, Finance Staff Member, on the death of her mother.
- ✠ To Bríd Cranitch, Ionad Cultúrtha, on the death of her mother.
- ✠ To Kathleen Lowney, Principal, Ballincollig Community School, on the death of her mother.

MINUTES

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Chris O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. P.J. Hourican, adopted the minutes of the previous ETB meeting held on 17th November 2016 (**copy herewith**).

- **Local Bus Service – Mitchelstown** – Cllr. Kay Dawson asked the CE for an update in relation to the above. The CE advised that he had spoken to the Principal and that the issue has been resolved. Cllr. Dawson stated that the area has become quite unsightly and the fence there has come down. The CE stated that the Principals of the schools were concerned with regards to anti-social behaviour so a supervision roster has now been put in place to ensure this issue is resolved also. The CE stated that the collection and drop off issue has been resolved but he will look into the issue regarding the unsightliness of the area.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Chris O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hegarty, adopted the DES, ETBI, SOLAS and General Correspondence as presented (**copies herewith**).

DES Correspondence

- **05.01.2017 – Appointment of a Single Manager to CNS’s** – Cllr. Des O’Grady asked the CE for further information in relation to this appointment and whether the position was advertised. The CE advised that Mr. Liam Ahern oversees the two Community National Schools in Cork. He advised that there is no remuneration for this position. The previous ETB Board recommended Mr. Ahern for appointment by the Minister for Education & Skills. As the establishment of Boards of Management is still being finalised, a Manager is needed. This is an interim arrangement.

ETBI Correspondence

- **18.11.2016 – TUSLA Circular – School Completion Programme** – Mr. Declan O’Leary asked the CE for clarification in relation to this correspondence. The CE advised that this Circular Letter deals with the terms and conditions for staff.
- **15.12.2016 – ETB Legal Services Support Unit** – Mr. Declan O’Leary asked the CE if there is a Memo of Understanding in relation to the Unit. The CE advised that there are two aspects involved here – Procurement and Unit itself. The Unit will consist of three staff members based in ETBI HQ who will offer advice and support to ETB’s on legal aspects. ETBI, as the representative body for ETB’s are here to support. Concerning the procurement process, this has advanced and a decision is expected by the end of the month as to the outcome of the process. Mr. O’Leary stated that he found it regrettable that the company CETB tendered for originally may no longer be available to us. He stated that CETB’s decision making has been more than diluted. The CE advised that this is a Government decision and is out of the control of ETB’s. However, CETB has a three-year contract with the current legal advisor, which he intends on seeing it to its duration. He noted that CETB is hugely satisfied with the service they have been provided with.

General Correspondence

- **22.11.2016 – Collection of PPS numbers from learners** – Ms. Maura Fitzgibbon asked the CE why the Farranree Education Network expressed concerns regarding the collection of PPS numbers. The CE advised that the Farranree Education Network is not the only network that expressed their concerns regarding this. The case they are making is that they are trying to engage with hard to reach groups in disadvantaged areas to try and encourage them back to education and they believe this would be a deterrent for some learners. CETB has advised that SOLAS have made it clear to us that due to requirements from the European Social Fund, they have to prove the authenticity of the courses and that the people are genuine people involved. The CE has argued the case for the Communities but he has been advised that this is a requirement from SOLAS. Cllr. Chris O’Leary stated that people are excluded from communities because of the lack of IT skills and this situation is a challenge for the community’s networks. Mr. John Fitzgibbons stated that one of the issues in the past ten years has been that Community Education has not received enough funding. It is hard to make an argument to seek increased funding if the figures and facts cannot be proven. This is an exercise in tracking people. CETB has a remit for provision but there is a necessity, should CETB request an increase in funding, to prove that these courses are making a difference to the people we are engaging. Mr. Ger Looney stated that the collection of PPS numbers appears to be the only avenue as the data is not available. Cllr. O’Leary stated that perhaps CETB could consider having the Networks come and make a presentation to the Board to highlight the work they do.
- **13.12.2016 – Brooklodge National School, Glanmire** – Cllr. Pdraig O’Sullivan referred to the request from Brooklodge National School, Glanmire, in relation to the acquisition of a piece of wasteland in an effort to alleviate parking and traffic issues. Mr. Pat McKelvey, former Principal of Glanmire Community College, advised that school has been developing an internal plan to develop that piece of land as part of a sports facility. It is unfortunate, as he is aware of the traffic difficulties, but the land is needed by the school.
- **26.11.2016 – Social Welfare Services Office – Food Club applications** – Cllr. Mary Hegarty referred to the amounts for the above and stated that there appeared to be huge disparity between the amounts for different schools. The CE informed that different schools have different needs, for example DEIS schools. However, this is a subject he is going to raise with Principal’s at their next meeting. Mr. John Fitzgibbons stated that these payments have been frozen for the last eight years at the same level. Cllr. Chris O’Leary stated that he would encourage these types of programmes as there are students who come from homes that cannot provide meals.
- **14.11.2016 – Funding request – Briery Gap** – Mr. Declan O’Leary took this opportunity to refer to a previous meeting where it had been agreed that a Committee of the Board would be established to consider funding requests, under certain criteria. He stated that there needs to

be a transparent process and a rationale for funding requests. The CE apologised to members for not calling this Committee of the Board together sooner. Following a lengthy discussion amongst members, it was agreed that no decisions regarding funding requests would be made until the Committee of the Board was finally established. Ms. Clare Creedon would e-mail all members with the proposed membership and a meeting of the Committee would be called to consider the requests. The Committee will then make to recommendations to the Board.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Board, on the proposition of Mr. Paudie Palmer, seconded by Cllr. Christopher O’Sullivan approved the adoption of the Executive Report, incorporating the Education Report, Finance Report and the Capital Report (**copy herewith**).

- **Item 12 – Junior Certificate Developments** – Mr. Declan O’Leary referred to the issues surrounding the new Junior Certificate and asked the CE if the letter requested by the Board at the September meeting was sent to the Minister for Education and Skills outlining CETB’s concerns regarding the matter of some students losing 10% in their English exam next year due to the proposed industrial action. The CE stated that his understanding from the September meeting was that he would take every opportunity to make the concerns of the Board known to the relevant partners but in particular the DES. He stated that should members wish that a letter to be drafted and forwarded to the Minister he will arrange for this to be done immediately. Mr. O’Leary stated that he felt a letter would be valueless now considering that the vote on a revised set of proposals will take place at the beginning of February. Cllr. Des O’Grady stated that this is a very sensitive issue but that it was intended for the letter to focus on the injustice being done to some students. CETB needs to speak up for the students being disadvantaged. Cllr. Chris O’Leary concurred with these statements. It was agreed to await the outcome of the vote in early February and then determine the contents of the letter to be written, if same is required.

COMMITTEES

The Board, on the proposition of Mr. Declan O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hegarty approved the following:

- Following the resignation of Cllr. Michael Hegarty from the BOM of Carrigaline Community School, CETB proposes Mr. Pat McKelvey as his replacement on the BOM.
- Following the resignation of Mr. Pat McKelvey from the BOM of Coláiste Ard Álainn, CETB proposes Mr. Ronan McCarthy as his replacement on the BOM.
- Ashton Comprehensive Schools Board of Management’s term of office has ceased. The following are the proposed members of the BOM for Board approval:
 - Church of Ireland Nominees
 - Mr. John W.T.Deane
 - Ms. Alison Flack
 - Ven. Adrian Wilkinson
 - Very Rev. Nigel Dunne

- Ms. Amanda Welch
- Mr. Malcolm Tyrrell
- CETB Nominees
 - Mr. Ted Owens
 - Ms. Máire Roycroft
- Teacher Nominees
 - Ms. Sandra McKeown
 - Mr. John O’Sullivan
- Parent Nominees
 - Mr. David Jennings
 - Ms. Stephanie Coughlan

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Chris O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Des O’Grady approved the appointment of Cllr. Michael Murphy as the replacement for Rev. Dr. Tom Deenihan on the BOM of St. Peter’s Community School.

The Board agreed that CETB would seek a nominee from the Principal of Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa to replace Rev. Dr. Tom Deenihan on the BOM. This will be brought to the Board at the March meeting.

RESERVED ITEMS

Resolutions

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Mary Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. Mary Shields, approved the following:

- **Request to Cork Education and Training Board regarding the use of CETB property at the former Rossa College site, Skibbereen.**

Naíonra Phobail an Sciobairín, who are currently located in accommodation attached to Gaelscoil Dr Uí Shúilleabháin, request approval from the Board of Cork Education and Training Board, to locate temporary accommodation for the Naíonra on the area of hardcourt area of Rossa College.

The Board of Directors of Naíonra Phobail an Sciobairín confirm that any costs, fees or expenditure associated with providing this accommodation will be a matter for Naíonra Phobail an Sciobairín and Cork Education and Training Board will not be required to make any financial contribution.

Policies/Reports

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Chris O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hegarty approved the following:

- CETB confirms that no protected disclosures were received at the end of 2016. Consequently, no action was required to be taken by CETB in relation to Protected Disclosures.

MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES CONFIRMATION

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Chris O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hegarty, confirmed the documents as outlined in the list submitted by the CE (**copy herewith**).

DATE & VENUE OF MEETINGS

The Board approved the schedule of meetings for 2017, as follows:

- 9th March 2017
- 18th May 2017
- 22nd June 2017
- 21st September 2017
- 16th November 2017

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
Chairman

DATE: _____