

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT A MEETING OF THE
CORK EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE
25th MARCH 2021

ATTENDANCE

<i>Cllr. Karen Coakley</i>	<i>Cllr. Colette Finn</i>
<i>Cllr. Kay Dawson</i>	<i>Ms. Maura Fitzgibbon</i>
<i>Cllr. Noel McCarthy</i>	<i>Mr. Patrick O'Dwyer</i>
<i>Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy</i>	<i>Ms. Maria McGrath</i>
<i>Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan</i>	<i>Mr. Rob Bateman</i>
<i>Cllr. James Kennedy</i>	<i>Mr. Liam Ahern</i>
<i>Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan</i>	<i>Mrs. Mary Hegarty</i>
<i>Cllr. Sean Martin</i>	<i>Ms. Ann Piggott</i>
<i>Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond</i>	<i>Mr. Denis Kirby</i>
<i>Cllr. Derry Canty</i>	<i>Mr. Declan O'Leary</i>

EXECUTIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

<i>Mr. Denis Leamy, CE</i>	<i>Mr. Enda McWeeney of OSD</i>
<i>Mr. John Fitzgibbons, Director of FET</i>	<i>Ms. Suzanne Mullins, Director of OSD</i>
<i>Mr. Pat McKelvey, Director of Schools</i>	<i>Ms. Clare Creedon (Minute Taker)</i>

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Tim Healy and Mr. Jamie O'Leary to the Board meeting. He thanked them and the other members for their service to the Committee's.

CONDOLENCES

† To the parents and family of Dylan Kelleher, student in Glanmire Community College on his untimely passing.

MINUTES

The Board, on the proposition of Mrs. Mary Hegarty seconded by Mr. Denis Kirby adopted the minutes of the previous ETB meeting held on **25th February 2021 (copies herewith)**.

RESERVED ITEMS

For Approval

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond, seconded by Cllr. Sean Martin, approved the Cork ETB Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2020, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Karen Coakley, seconded by Mr. Patrick O'Dwyer, approved the Statement of Internal Controls for the year ending 31st December 2020, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee.

Ms. Maura Fitzgibbons referred to the Single Service pension scheme. She stated that this is an issue across the sector and asked what is being done at national level. Ms. Suzanne Mullins stated that ESBS are working with Core HR to look at resolving the technical issues. The issue is how to treat people who have more than one contract with Cork ETB. There is a 3-year plan in place. Suzanne advised that there is an update brief from ESBS and Clare Creedon will circulate same. Ms. Fitzgibbons asked if the HR pensions team is short staffed. Ms. Mullins stated that yes there are areas where Cork ETB is short staffed but the Executive actively pursue this with the DES and SOLAS.

Approval to enter into a Lease or Licence

The Board, on the approval of Mary Hegarty, seconded by Karen Coakley, approved the following:

- An addition to the existing lease between Cork ETB and Jerry Kelleher for the use of premises in New Street, Macroom for Adult and Further Education. Approval is sought for additional ground floor space at an extra cost of €8,700 per annum. The current lease sealed at the February ETB meeting will be amended to reflect the above. The existing lease is for €32,500 per annum. DES approval has been sought for the addition.
- An addition to the proposed lease between Cork ETB and Daygrove Property Limited, for a premises in Ballincollig Village Chamber to house Adult Education provision. The addition to the existing lease being drafted is for additional office space which will increase the lease from €35,500 by an extra €5,200 per annum plus service charges of €450 per annum. DES approval has been sought for the addition.

EVALUATION OF REMOTE TEACHING & LEARNING

Mr. Pat McKelvey advised that the DES Inspectorate have been unable to conduct in-school inspections since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. The Inspectorate have been working on developing an inspection tool that can be used in a remote learning context. As part of this work, a pilot project is underway involving a number of schools nationally. St Colman's Community College, Midleton, is part of this pilot. The in-school assessment element took place remotely during the week of Monday 08th March with the feedback session taking place on Tuesday 16th March. The feedback from the inspection team was very positive and it

provided the leadership and staff of the school with a strong affirmation of the work that they have done during the two school closures. During the past year, school leaders and staff invested huge time and effort into providing a quality teaching and learning environment for their students. In addition, the school placed huge emphasis on ensuring that the powerful culture of support and care that existed previous in the school was maintained during the lockdowns. The inspection team was keen to point out that the school's commitment to providing quality teaching and learning delivered in a culture of care and with a commitment to constantly seeking improvement, were important foundation stones in its successful navigation of the two lockdowns. In turn, the school was able to give feedback to the inspection team regarding improvements that could be made to the EORTL model.

Ms. Ann Piggott referred to the extra work being asked of teachers and Principals and asked that the appreciation of the Board be expressed to them. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted on behalf of the Chairman and issued to all Cork ETB staff.

Mrs. Mary Hegarty referred to the School of Music and stated that she wished to acknowledge the excellent work being done and wished to note 98% of engagement with on-line learning for the students.

COLÁISTE ARD ÁLAINN

Mr. Pat McKelvey advised that the Education Unit was set out on foot of a court order for children who were in special care at the time. The remit was extended to include another four units. Since 2016, there has been a re-orientation of services by Tusla and its affect has been to reduce the number of students. A number of the centres are closing. It is now Tusla's view that there will not be any students that require the services from September 2021. The number of students has been reducing over the past number of years.

Cork ETB is currently evaluating the future of Coláiste Ard Álainn. There are currently two options:

1. Close the school.
2. Re-purpose the school to serve a different cohort of students.

As part of this evaluation and before any final decision is made, Cork ETB want to be sure that Tusla have no further requirement for the school. We are also examining what post primary school services are required in the greater Cork city area and how these are currently being met. We will also need to consider the suitability of the current location and the feasibility of maintaining a school in the current building. We intend to have this evaluation completed and a decision made by the end of April 2021.

UPDATE ON EAST CORK SCHOOL PLACES

The CE advised that there are significant shortfalls again this year and Cork ETB is working with the DES to try and ensure students have places. Carrigtwohill Community College is in temporary accommodation and Cork ETB has had a lot of traction and assurance from the DES that the permanent build is on track for 2023. There is a requirement for Carrigtwohill Community College to take two extra classes to meet the need. St. Colman's Community College will also be taking an extra class as are other non-ETB schools in the area.

Mr. Pat McKelvey advised that many points were given to the DES in meetings with regards to why the extra classes could not be taken. The DES pointed out a stark reality that the accommodation is there for Carrigtwohill Community College whereas the planning process would have to commence again if other schools were to take extra students. There are a significant number of students in the area who do not have a school place. Following significant discussions, Cork ETB agreed that Carrigtwohill Community College would accept two additional classes into the school. The BoM and Parents Council are extremely frustrated with Cork ETB and the DES but as Patron we have a duty to the student and parents.

Ms. Maria McGrath asked how many students it is now enrolling. Pat McKelvey advised that the school has offered 120 places and this will increase now to 168. The overall enrolment will then be 550. Ms. McGrath stated that the proposed capacity for the new build is 1,000 so it will be full just after the permanent build is ready. She queried as to whether the school will hit capacity too soon. Mr. McKelvey advised that an extension may be a necessity down the line.

Mr. Denis Kirby queried as to whether the intake now will impact the future enrolment and now are planning and additional accommodation issues. Mr. McKelvey stated that yes it will but the DES will provide funding for the additional accommodation and Cork ETB has until September 2022 to get planning finalised.

Mr. Liam Ahern stated that it is vital that the school is built by 2023. He also noted that the anguish parents suffer if their child has not got a school place has to be considered also.

The CE stated that planning permission was granted with 57 condition and 50 of these relate to the road. Substantial work has started on that and investment has been considerable on that. The other 7 clauses are well underway and in hand. The DES expect the framework for

the build to be ready for September and Carrigtwohill Community College will be the first school built under this. The DES have stated that the entire build will take between 70 and 75 weeks for the entire campus. He stated that Cork ETB will work to support the school community as much as possible in the intervening period.

Mrs. McGrath stated that in terms of extra traffic and management of same. Mr. Enda McWeeney stated that the BoM chair met with the Minister and the time commitment was reiterated to the BoM. Following the meeting, Enda is meeting with the Principal of both Carrigtwohill Community College and Scoil Chlíodhna next week to address issues and concerns.

Declan O'Leary referred to the assurances from the DES and asked if these are in writing. He also enquired as to whether there is space to take the students in 2022 in the retail park. Mr. Enda McWeeney advised that he met with the landlord today and he is in a position to provide space for the extra intake, adjacent to the existing structures.

COMMITTEES

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Sean Martin, seconded by Mr. Denis Kirby, approved the following appointments:

- The Board of Management of St. John's Central College is seeking approval for the following as Teacher Nominee to the Board following the resignation of Ruth Kelleher
 - Elaine Lynch

- Following the resignation of Phil O'Connor from the North Cork Youthreach Board of Management, Marie O'Mahony is being nominated as the replacement, following Board approval.

- The following external members are being nominated to the Cork ETB Youth Committee, pending Board Approval. These members will join the Committee with the existing members that were nominated in November 2019. It is expected to have a meeting of the Committee mid-April, June and September 2021.
 - Alicia O'Sullivan – Youth Person Nominee
 - Traolach O'Callaghan – Tusla Nominee
 - Stephen O'Shea – Garda Nominee

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board, on the proposition of Cllr. Sean Martin seconded by Mrs. Mary Hegarty adopted the DES and General Correspondence as presented (**copies herewith**)

DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on 27th May 2021 on Zoom.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
Chairman

DATE: _____