

MINUTES OF MEETING
Held on Tuesday, 16th May, 2017
In Thomond Community College, Moylish, Limerick.

Present: Cllr. Ann Norton, Chairperson
Ms. Joan Aherne
Mr. Tony Brazil
Mr. Michael Cregan
Cllr. Michael Donegan
Mr. Sean Kennedy
Ms. Catherine Harran De Parra
Ms. Mary Flanagan
Cllr. Marian Hurley
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Mr. Sean Mc Mahon
Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon

In attendance: Mr. George O’Callaghan, Chief Executive
Ms. Bernadette Cullen, Education Officer
Ms. Shelagh Graham, Director of Organisation and Development.
Mr. Paul Patton, Director, Further Education and Training
Ms. Mary Troy, Head of Finance
Mr. Eamon Murphy, Head of Capital and Procurement
Mr. Denis O’Brien, Head of IT & Corporate Affairs
Ms. Joanne O’Brien, Recording Secretary

At the outset of the meeting Mr. Eugene O’Brien, Principal, welcomed the Board Members to Thomond Community College and thanked the Board for their continued support of the College. Mr. O’Brien outlined the history of the College culminating in the amalgamation in September 2016 of Salesians Secondary School and St. Nesson’s Community College. The Board paid tribute to the Principal, Staff and School Community on the successful amalgamation and noted the positive enrolment numbers in the new Community College.

1. Apologies/Condolences

Apologies: Cllr. Mary Howard
Cllr. Richard O’Donoghue
Mr. Donal O’hAinifein
Cllr. Elena Secas
Ms. Mary Margaret Valance

Votes of Sympathy were passed to the following;

- Ms. Eileen Aylward (Administrative Staff, Marshal House) on the death of her father, Mr. John Randles.
- Mr. Paul O’Loughlin (Kilkee Community College) on the death of his father, Mr. Michael O’Loughlin.
- Mr. Tommy Barrett (Retired Principal Abbeyfeale Vocational School) on the death of his brother, Mr. Paddy Barrett.
- Ms. Nolaig McKaigney, (former Administrative Staff, Station Road) on the death of her sister, Ms. Kathleen Scott.
- Ms. Deirdre Casey, (SNA, Ennis Community College,) on the death of her mother, Ms. Nancy Shannon.
- Mr. Johnnie O’Halloran on the death of his wife, Marie who was a former staff member of the Burren Outdoor Education Centre).
- Mr. Gerard Cullen, (Staff Member, Burren Outdoor Centre), on the death of his mother, Ms. Marie Cullen
- Family of late Noel Phelan, Former Member of Staff, LCFE.
- Anne Kennedy, former Staff Member of St. Nessian’s Community College on death of her husband Liam.
- Family of Conor Wilmott, Student of St. Patrick’s Comprehensive, Shannon

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Minutes of Meeting held on 11th April, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Mr. Sean Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. Michael Donegan.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Board noted the typographical change in minutes.

4. Development of LCETB Youth Work Plan

This item was moved forward on the Agenda due to time constraint.

Seamus Bane, Jackie Dwane and Cora Foley, Youth Officers with LCETB, presented on the work undertaken by the Youth Work Committee and how the Committee provides a forum to promote Youth Work as a non-formal educational approach and a space for key Youth Work providers to work together. The Youth Officers informed Members on the various budgets and expenditure on various programmes such as Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund (YPFSF), Local Youth Club Grant Schemes, Special Projects for Youth (SPY), Youth Capital, Employability etc.

The Board noted the projects in the region e.g. Community Youth Projects, Local Youth Clubs, Summer Programmes, Youth Café's and Spaces, Arts, Music and Culture Activities.

The Board was pleased to note the work to date on the Youth Work Plan 2017-2021 and wished the Officers every success with same. The CE and Board Members paid tribute to the significant work to date in the region.

5. Correspondence

DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

Circular Letter 31/2017 Re: Prescribed material for the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) in English for Students commencing Junior cycle in September 2017 only.

Circular Letter 0032/2017 Re: Measures to be adopted by schools to reduce the cost of school uniforms and other costs.

Circular Letter 0034/2017 Re: Policy On Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022 - Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme For Post-Primary Schools In Gaeltacht Language-Planning Areas. Initial Implementation Phase (April 2017 To June 2018).

Circular Letter 0035/2017 Re: Assessment Instruments (including tests and web-based resources) approved for use for guidance and/or learning support in post-primary schools from May 2017 until further notice.

Circular Letter 0036/2017 Re: Domestic Travel and Subsistence Rates Effective from 1st April 2017 Payable to Staff in Education and Training Boards (ETBs).

Circular Letter 0037/2017 Re: Indemnity Declaration Form.

2nd May, 2017 Re: Attendance at Board Meetings.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, and seconded by Cllr. Michael Donegan, the DES Circular Letters No. 0031 – 0037/2017 were adopted.

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Fr: SOLAS Re: FET Approved Funding 2017.
25th April, 2017

Fr: Limerick Institute of Re: Student nominations to Governing body 2017/18.
Technology
8th May, 2017

6. For Consideration: Attendance at ETB Meetings

The Board noted the contents of the DES correspondence with regard to attendance at ETB Meetings and the difficulty of reaching a quorum for same and cancellation of Board Meetings as a . The CE highlighted that this had not been an issue for LCETB

Cllr. Liam Galvin expressed his concern at the cut backs in travel and subsistence for Board Members and requested the Chief Executive to raise this with the DES.

7. Chief Executive's Report Incorporating Post Primary Education & Further Education and Training

EDUCATION REPORT

Strategy Statement for LCETB

LCETB has commencing the process of developing the five year strategy statement to ensure compliance with the Education and Training Board Act 2013. Under Section 27 of the Act the "strategy statement shall specify the objectives of the board, the priorities of the specified objectives and the strategies for achieving those objectives. As part of the development and identification of the key themes for the Strategy Statement, Three consultation sessions were held with post-primary school in Clare and Limerick. Further focus groups with parents, Boards of Management will be held prior to the end of this academic year. Sessions with staff and other relevant partners will be arranged.

New Community College in Mungret

Ninety two students have enrolled for September 2017. The Interim Management Board is meeting on a regular basis to progress issues such as school uniform, policy framework and development of extra-curricular activities. The temporary accommodation for the new school will be located on the current Limerick Educate Together, Mungret site.

Principals Forum

Principals Meeting took place on 27th April and the areas addressed were Policy Development, Educational Planning and Leading Teaching and Learning. Further meetings are planned.

New Junior Cycle

LCETB schools have been participating in the Cluster Based CPD to Support Implementation of Junior Cycle Framework feedback from the sessions has been positive. Further sessions are planned.

Section 29 Appeals

A section 29 Appeal was received regarding a refusal to enrol, the appeal was referred back to the Board of Management for consideration in the first instance.

LCETB Development of Youth Work Plans

Next meeting of Youth Work Committee will be held on 10th May, 2017 at 5.30 p.m. Consultation sessions regarding the development of Youth Work Strategy have commenced with the Voluntary Youth Organisations and a presentation will be delivered on this process at the forthcoming Board Meeting.

Schools Reconfiguration for Diversity Process

The Department of Education and Skills are providing a session on the reconfiguration of primary education on Friday, 12th May. The Schools Reconfiguration for Diversity Process is a new initiative adopted to address the 2016 Programme for Government commitment to increasing the number of

multi-denominational and non-denominational schools with a view to reaching 400 by 2030. It envisages that in areas where sufficient demand for more patronage diversity is identified through a consultation process undertaken by the relevant ETB, existing denominational patrons will be asked to give consideration to reconfiguring existing primary school provision in consultation with local school communities, through transferring an existing functioning school to a multi or non-denominational patron.

There is no one model that will provide the answer to this complex issue and a number of different approaches have been adopted in the context of an expanding population and increasing demand for multidenominational education. Therefore, the new process will be implemented alongside a number of existing approaches, including the Patronage Divesting Process which identified a total of 28 areas where schools should be transferred to specific patrons by way of amalgamations and closures, voluntary reassignments of patronage under Section 8 of the Education Act, 1989 and the Patronage Process for New Schools, which includes consideration of parental preferences for different types of school patron.

Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh

The Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, TD, recently held a regional meeting on the Action Plan for Education on Friday 5th May in Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh (part of series of regional meetings). The purpose of this series of meetings is to outline the Government's Action Plan for Education and to detail the steps the Government are taking to make Ireland the best education and training system in Europe by 2026. The Principal, Donncha O'Treasaigh, was a member of the panel responding to audience feedback.

Digital Strategy for Schools 2015-2020 Enhancing Teaching Learning and Assessment;

Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh was recent recipient of Digital Strategy for Schools 2015-2020 Enhancing Teaching Learning and Assessment Award.

Ceolchoirm Bealtaine

Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh' Parents Council hosted a special concert in the Lime Tree Theatre on Wednesday, 26 April.

Further Education and Training Report

FET Centre – Mulgrave Street Campus

LCFE is currently running their May Advertising Campaign and getting organised for the May Interview Session which will happen later this month. LCFE is also busy administering, grading, processing and finalising their current learners assignments and examinations.

LCFE's TV & Film Production Class presented a donation of €1,100 raised at their recent Table Quiz event to Limerick Marine Search and Rescue volunteers.

The LCFE Learner Survey was administered this month. This Survey gives current learners the opportunity to let the College know about their time and experience at LCFE as well as giving them the chance to win a €100 voucher!

FET Centre – Kilmallock Town Campus

Official launch of the Baalbek Hub - Community Co-Working Space.

The aim of this initiative was to engage with local enterprise and provide a space in the Centre for six to eight business people/entrepreneurs/start-ups to work from. This initiative will create opportunities for learners to engage with business people and therefore enhance the current provision in the Centre.

The Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan, T.D., opened the newly refurbished state-of-the-art Further Education and Training Centre, Kilmallock Town Campus on 7th April. The unveiling coincides with the building of a new primary school and the expansion of the secondary school

in the town. Extensive refurbishments have transformed the old and dated college into a spacious and fully accessible facility for adults in Kilmallock and the surrounding localities. A wide range of full-time and part-time courses are offered in the centre including: Post-Leaving Certificate, VTOS, Literacy, Community Education and Back to Education Initiative provision. It is envisaged that the new Kilmallock campus will accommodate up to 150 learners and will serve as a hub for community learning and development in the area.

The development is also fully aligned with the national SOLAS Further Education and Training Strategy 2014-2019 to include levels of active inclusion through provision of high quality, more accessible and flexible education, training and skills development and supports suited to the individual.

Such has been the demand to date for more further education and training courses at a local level that the centre is looking at the feasibility of offering more full-time and part-time courses in the areas of business, digital media, business, healthcare, art and construction.

Youthreach

FET Centre – Ennis Campus

Two Youthreach learners took part in AONTAS (National Adult Learner Forum) in Croke Park Hotel in Dublin. They felt it was a good experience where they got to meet fellow learners from other Youthreach centres and discuss the positive aspects of their relevant provisions.

FET Centre – O’Connell Avenue Campus

From Wednesday the 26th to Friday the 28th of April, Youthreach O’Connell Avenue hosted a delegation of senior management from Copenhagen Youth School in Copenhagen Denmark. The event was organised by Gerry Griffin, National Coordinator for Youthreach, along with Shane Cullinane, Centre Coordinator and Martin Cournane, Assistant Manager FET Training Services. The delegation were welcomed by Paul Patton, Director of Further Education & Training, LCETB, and were provided with a series of workshops, site visits, presentations and cultural and social events over the three day period. Conversations, knowledge sharing and dialogue occurred across a range of policy, provision and procedural areas with all involved concluding on the many benefits of the visit.

FET Centre – Raheen Business Park Campus

Members of the Youthreach Management Team completed 2 days training on ‘Child Protection’ at Marshal House, Limerick with Teresa Crawford, Psychological Services Officer, and Jackie Dwane, Youth Officer.

Part-Time Provision

BTEI

The Back to Education Initiative in Clare has recently commenced a provision in conjunction with Youthreach in Ennis to cater for young people who are on the Ennis Youthreach waiting list. The jointly developed provision commenced with eight young people who have been out of school for some time. The provision is run over 2 days a week, commenced in March and will run until July, when it is hoped that these people will progress onto the full Youthreach provision. While the provision is a BTEI funded provision, it is being delivered under Youthreach guidelines with tutors who also work in Youthreach.

New Learner Record Card – a small milestone in promoting learner self-reliance!

Following on from the production of a set of 6 posters outlining the range of QQI Awards on offer in BTEI O’Connell Avenue, the further production of a Learner Record Card in preparation for the coming year is another small milestone.

Often learners are unclear about the courses and qualifications that they have achieved. They struggle to remember the correct titles of awards gained and this makes planning for 'next steps' difficult for both learners and provision staff.

This personal Record Card is for the learner to maintain, it is a simple tool on which to record and keep updated the correct details of any QQI or other training done in the past or doing at present. It is a handy pocket sized card, with the potential to support learners to be more self-managing and independent in their learning journey!

Progression Planning – supports BTEI Limerick City Learners to take next steps....

During the month of April and May 2017, BTEI Limerick City rolled out a Progression Planning Tool with learners in its City Centre and Community venues. This is the second year that this approach is being used and it gives learners a chance to think about their next step and decide how and where they are planning to continue with their learning. It also gives the provision a good insight into who will be continuing on courses and how many places will be available for the general public in Autumn.

Tutors took part in training prior to the launch of this Tool, to familiarise themselves with it and decide how to best deal with queries from learners. Training was provided jointly by staff from Information and Guidance Service and BTEI.

Dramatic Creativity abounds in BTEI Limerick City!

BTEI Limerick City ran two drama classes in 2017, one in the North-side Family Resource Centre and the other in O'Connell Avenue. Both groups wrote, produced, directed and preformed original productions: "Lisdoonvarna" and "Behind the Scenes". The Hunt Museum kindly allowed learners to showcase their production in its venue. Classes and productions were thoroughly enjoyed and well attended by family and friends!

Another group of learners involved in Art & Design in BTEI Limerick City attended the Caravaggio Exhibition in the National Art Gallery in April. They also exhibited their own work in early May in the O'Connell Avenue Campus. For the exhibition learners designed their own 'Ranks' Mode Building and displayed their work from throughout the year to fellow classmates, family and friends. Learners did the catering for the exhibition themselves and any food left over was donated by them to the Simon Community.

Visiting venues like Art Galleries (national and local) and putting on an exhibition are all part of the learning in Level 3 Visual Arts Practice and Personal Effectiveness Modules.

LCETB Learner at National FET Learner Forum 2017.

Limerick City BTEI learner Pam Noonan participated in the The National Further Education and Training (FET) Learner Forum on Friday 7th April in Croke Park, Dublin. Pam has progressed through Community Education, Literacy and BTEI Part-Provisions in Limerick City since 2013. She is currently completing QQI Communications Level 5. Pam is a very committed, motivated and inspiring learner. This event marked the second meeting of the forum when 100 learners from across Ireland met to discuss their achievements and challenges in FET

Music Generation Limerick City

Music Generation Limerick City is bringing The Lola Montez Show to the Belltable on Friday, 12th and Saturday, 13th May 2017. The Lola Montez Cabaret is an incredible show, bringing together many of Limerick's most celebrated musicians. The show features Myles Breen as King Ludwig, telling the story of the real life Lola - a force of nature born in Castle Oliver Limerick before going on to lay a one woman swathe of destruction across Europe. She scandalised London, Paris, Vienna, being thrown out of two capitals, briefly ruling Bavaria and causing a revolution before fleeing to New York where she invented burlesque, toured the Wild West and attracted bigger audiences than Dickens before dying in poverty in

Hell's Kitchen aged just 42. However the big story around the show this year is one of the most extraordinary casts to have been assembled in Limerick. The musicians' team of Music Generation Limerick City form the backbone of the band, supported by an eclectic blend of singers, dancers, poets, musicians and actors. All monies raised will go to our projects with young people at St. Gabriel's Centre and the Children's Ark. <https://www.limetreetheatre.ie/show/lola-montez-experience/>

FET Support Services

Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival – 1st to 7th April 2017

This year's festival was a great success with over 200 events, making it the biggest yet. These events were held all over Limerick City & County. There was a wide variety of topics covered including: Digital skills, Parenting, Social Media, Children's activities, Mental Health Awareness, Business events, Sporting events.

Festival Press Launch took place on March 20th 2017

The festival was launched in the Foynes Flying Boat Museum by Noel Gleeson, Deputy Mayor of Limerick. Also speaking at the launch was Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Director of Foynes Flying Boat Museum.

Children from St. Senan's primary school participated in a 'Science of Flight' workshop facilitated by Maeve Liston, Mary Immaculate College.

Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival Showcase – 1st April 2017

The Showcase consisted of over 40 interactive activities, workshops, demonstrations and performances including science, genealogy, technology, media, language tasters, local history, drama, art, dancing, music.

Events Hosted by LCETB

- LCETB FET – Show and TEL(Technology Enhanced Learning) Events – part of All Aboard 2017
- Learning Limerick Event (Erasmus+ Dissemination Event)
- Further Education and Training Fair - Organised by LCETB Information and Guidance Staff in Limerick.

8. Finance, for adoption

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Galvin, seconded by Cllr. Marion Hurley, the Financial Report was adopted

On the proposal of Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, seconded by Mr. Sean Kennedy, the Draft Financial Accounts 2015 was adopted

On the proposal of Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy, seconded by Ms. Kate Harran De Parra, the Statement of Internal Control 2015 and Report to Minister for Education and Skills was adopted

The CE and the Board paid tribute to Ms. Mary Troy, Head of Finance, and her team for their work in this regard.

9. Capital Projects Update

Mr. Eamon Murphy, Buildings Officer, updated the Board with regard to various building projects in the region and circulated a report on same.

The CE and the Board paid tribute to Eamon and his team for their work in this regard.

10. Board of Management Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Marion Hurley, seconded by Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon, the Board of Management Minutes for:

- a) Castletroy College
- b) Colaiste na Trocaire, Rathkeale

were adopted.

11. Appointments to LIT Governing Body

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Galvin, seconded by Ms. Mary Flanagan, Ms. Ciara Smyth and Mr. Philip Desmond were appointed as student nominees to the LIT Governing Body

12. For Adoption

On the proposal of Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating, (a) Draft Educational School Tours/Trips and Extra-curricular Sporting Activities Policy and (b) Substance Misuse Draft Policy, with proposed amendment, were adopted.

13. Any other Business with the permission of the Chairperson

Mr. Tony Brazil expressed his disappointment that there was no further development in establishing an Adult Education Board. The CE advised that this was a national issue. Mr. Brazil also expressed his concern at the cut backs in budgets and advised that should cut backs continue, he envisaged huge difficulties for Limerick and Clare ETB.

The next meeting will take place on 18th July, 2017.

Signed: George O’Callaghan,
Chief Executive.



Signed: Chairperson 18th July Meeting