



MINUTES OF MEETING
Held on Wednesday, 20th April, 2016
In Limerick Training Centre, Raheen

Present: Ms. Joan Aherne, Chairperson
Mr. Tony Brazil
Cllr. Maria Byrne
Mr. Michael Cregan
Ms. Catherine (Kate) Harran De Parra
Cllr. Michael Donegan
Ms. Mary Flanagan
Cllr. Liam Galvin
Cllr. Mary Howard
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Mr. Sean Kennedy
Mr. Sean Mc Mahon
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon
Ms. Mary Margaret Valance

In attendance: Mr. George O'Callaghan, Chief Executive
Ms. Bernadette Cullen, Education Officer
Mr. Paul Patton, Head of Further Education and Training
Mr. Eamon Murphy, Head of Capital & Procurement
Ms. Mary Troy, Head of Finance
Mr. John O'Connor, Head of Corporate Affairs
Ms. Aileen O'Sullivan, Corporate Affairs (Recording Secretary)

Apologies: Cllr. Elena Secas
Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy
Cllr. Ann Norton
Mr. Donal O'hAiniféin
Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of ICT

1. Condolences

Votes of Sympathy were passed to the following;

- Ms. Mary Carroll (Head Office) on the death of her brother-in-law, Mr. Mike Carroll.
- The Burke Family on the death of Mr. Eamonn Burke (Retired Principal Teacher, Clare VEC and Teacher, Kilkee Community College)
- Mr. Jim Lyons (former CEO of Clare VEC) on the death of his brother, Mr. Eddie Lyons.
- Ms. Cathy & Richie Quinn (Caretaker Castletroy College) on the death of Cathy's mother, Ms. Elizabeth Fenton.

- Niamh Deegan (Limerick College of Further Education) on the death of her mother-in-law Ms. Norah Deegan, Nee Kenneally.
- Beth and Cian O'Donnell and the O'Donnell Family (students at St. Nessan's Community College) on the death of their father, Mr. Gary Richardson.
- Katie Slattery, (student at St. Nessan's Community College) on the death of her brother, Callum Slattery.

Vote of congratulations was extended to Mr. Sean McMahon on his appointment to the Teaching Council as Deputy Chairperson.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Minutes of Meeting held on 16th March, 2016, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Mr. Sean Kennedy.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

4. Correspondence

Department Correspondence

CL 0027/2016 Re: Post-1 January 2011 and Post-1 February 2012 New Entrants to
11th March, 2016 Teaching –Recognition of Previous Public Service in another EU Member
State.
Noted.

ETBI Correspondence

April, 2016 Re: ETBI Spring Newsletter.
Noted.

5. For Adoption Policies

The following policies, which were circulated in advance of the meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Liam Galvin, seconded by Cllr. Cathal Crowe,

- Customer Care Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Electricity Safety Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Hazardous Substance Policy
- Personal Protective Equipment Policy
- Data Access Policy
- Waste Management Policy
- Admissions Policy: Thomond Community College
- Code of Behaviour: Thomond Community College

6. For Consideration: Chief Executive's report

Senior Management Posts

The Public Appointments Service has advertised Senior Management Posts that have been allocated to Education and Training Boards. The process is a national one and the successful applicants will be placed on a national panel from which the current allocated posts will be filled. Vacancies which arise within 18 months of the establishment of the panel will be filled from the panel. The closing date for receipt of applications is April 28th 2016. The Posts will be filled at Principal Officer level but will be titled Director. LCETB has been allocated three Director posts comprising the following pillars – Organisational Support and Development, Schools, Further Education and Training.

Principal at Coláiste Mhuire, Rathkeale

Congratulations to Mr Kevin Cusack, Principal at Coláiste Mhuire, Rathkeale on his recent appointment as Principal of St Mary's Secondary School, Newport, Co Tipperary. We wish Kevin every success in his new role. The appointment process for the post of Principal in Rathkeale will begin shortly.

Local Community Development Committee

As part of the Reform of Local Government, 33 Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) have been established for the purposes of developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to community development. LCETB is represented on the Limerick LCDC by the CE and on the Clare LCDC by the AEO.

The functions of the LCDC include, inter alia:

- having primary responsibility for co-ordination, planning and oversight of local development spend,
- bringing a more coherent approach to the implementation of local and community development programmes and interventions, and
- driving meaningful citizen and community engagement in the scoping, planning, delivery and evaluation of local and community development programmes.
- As part of the reform process, all LCDCs are required to prepare a six year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The plan includes two elements:
 - a local economic element (prepared and adopted by the Local Authority), and
 - a community development element (prepared and adopted by the LCDC).

Limerick Regeneration Project - Local Strategic Advisory & Monitoring Group

LCETB is represented on the Local Strategic Advisory & Monitoring Group for the Limerick Regeneration Project. The Group comprises representatives of the various agencies that participate in and support the Regeneration Project.

EFQM Award

The Hospitality Education and Training Centre (HETC) has been awarded the EFQM Award as a Centre of Excellence. LCETB is the first ETB to be awarded this honour, also the first education and training provider nationally.

EFQM stands for European Framework Quality Management.

The objective is to sustain excellence and relentlessly promote excellence in everything from Strategic Planning, Management Reporting, Customer Perception, Employee Perception, Processes Management, Sustainability and inspire excellence in others.

Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom

The Planning Section of the Limerick City and County Council has sought further information in respect of the planning application for the new school in Croom. The Design Team are furnishing the information sought. Two observations were submitted in respect of the application. One from a neighbouring land owner is being dealt with and is a technical issue. The HSE also submitted observations on the planning application. A meeting has been held with the HSE representatives and the issues raised are being dealt with.

Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh

The contract for the purchase of the old Dawn Dairies site on Clare St. has been signed and is currently with the solicitors for the vendors, Kerry Group. The Service Level Agreement for the delivery of the new school building on the site is in preparation by the Department of Education and Skills and will be furnished to LCETB shortly

Freedom of Information

LCETB has made its Publication Scheme available on the website in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Education Act. The public may now access normally published information in one place through this portal.

Education

Patronage of the new Schools for Limerick

The process of identifying patrons for the two new schools proposed for development in Mungret and Castletroy was initially planned to commence in the Autumn of 2016. The commencement date for the process is now being brought forward with interested patrons being asked to attend a meeting with the Department of Education and Skills in April. It is expected that the parental process will be completed by June 2016. CE and EO have met with Educate Together and Catholic Federations of Schools in Limerick regarding patronage options.

Principals Meeting

A meeting with Principals was held on 12th April. This meeting focused on planning for the forthcoming academic year 2016/2017 and addressing key policy and operational areas. The Framework for Leading Teaching and Learning was discussed and adopted.

Thomond Community College

A number of joint Croke Park Hours sessions with Salesian and St. Nessian's staff have been held. A conjoint staff day will be held on Friday 14th April which is looking at in-school management teams.

A meeting of the Interim Board of Management of Thomond Community College was held on Wednesday, 6th April. Two draft policies have been submitted for adoption by the Interim Board of Management, the Code of Behaviour and the Admissions Policy.

Management Leadership and Learning – Whole School Evaluation

The EO attended the Board of Management presentation in Colaiste Chiarain Croom on Wednesday 13th April as part of the Management Leadership and Learning, whole school evaluation process.

Section 29 Appeal LCETB & Department of Education and Skills Hearings

Section 29 Appeal hearings regarding the Common Application System were held on 15th and 16th of March and 19th April. The Minutes of the eight Appeal Hearings were circulated for adoption. One of the parents has subsequently appealed to the DES and the hearing is scheduled for 20th April.

An Appeal Hearing with the Department of Education and Skills was held on Thursday 3rd March regarding the expulsion of a student from an LCETB school. The Department did not uphold the parental appeal.

Youthreach Staff Conference

An LCETB Youthreach staff conference was held on Wednesday 16th March in the Radisson Hotel, “*Staff Connect – Connecting People*”. The objectives of the Conference were to provide staff with an opportunity for professional development, to meet and get acquainted with those within the sector, focus on staff well-being and identify the content and methodology for future conferences and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Youthreach.

Bernadette Cullen, EO, LCETB, delivered the Conference Opening Address. The Key note speakers were Fr. Peter McVerry, and Harry Freeman. Fr. Peter McVerry of the Peter McVerry Trust is widely known for his work with the homeless in Dublin. Fr. Peter spoke about *Encouragement* and its importance in building relationships among marginalised and excluded groups. Harry Freeman spoke about positive human behaviour management. Gerry Griffin, National Co-ordinator for VTOS and Youthreach delivered the Conference Closing Address. Feedback from staff during the day was very positive. An evaluation of the conference was also conducted in order to identify the content and methodology for future conferences and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Youthreach.

Youthreach Staff Support and Supervision Programme

Youthreach Co-ordinators participated in part one of the Staff Support and Supervision Programme from March 22nd to 24th 2016 at the Limerick Education Centre. The programme is targeted at managers who have responsibility for staff working with service users within an education and health context. It complies with and is based on the standards required by HIQA and the HSE for staff working with vulnerable service users and children.

World of Work Feeding Ireland’s Future for Youthreach

Feeding Ireland’s Future in collaboration with companies in the Food and Grocery sector offered a unique opportunity for Youthreach participants to enhance their job seeking skills and to maximise access to employment opportunities through a “**World of Work**” session. Through CV workshops, interview preparation and interaction with experienced HR people, young people have the opportunity to find out exactly what employers are looking for in a job candidate. They

also get a chance to find out more about the wealth of opportunities and may even get to experience first-hand some of the variety of roles available in the food and retail sector.

In collaboration with Intreo and Wyeth Nutrition, Askeaton, Co Limerick, a “World of Work” seminar took place in Youthreach Education Centre, FET Campus, O’ Connell Avenue, Limerick on 4th March 2016. The 2 hour seminar consisted of:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Introduction | Youthreach Manager/Co-ordinator |
| • Presentation on Jobs Ireland | Intreo Representative |
| • Job seeking advice and guidance | Company Representative |
| • Q & A | |

This initiative provided a unique opportunity for Youthreach Learners to engage directly with HR and Industry professionals and to benefit from their expertise. Many companies have shown an appetite to further their relationships with the participants or Youthreach Centres which is fantastic. Other companies have expressed an interest in continuing FIF activities more often than once a year during our Skills for Work Week. A closing event in the near future will be scheduled after the new Minister for Social Protection is in place.

Individual Schools Achievements

Colaiste Mhuire Askeaton

Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards

David Boyce in 5th Year in Coláiste Mhuire was one of the 20 national finalists in the Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards. David and his parents and Principal Norma O’Brien travelled to Donegal on March 10th where David was presented with a Silver Medallion and €500. David was nominated by the Principal for all his work on the Student Council, the Green Schools committee and the Anti-bullying committee. David was instrumental in organising the school’s first Positivity week in 2015 and organised Ms Elma Walsh (mother of Donal Walsh RIP) to come and deliver Donal’s Live-Life message to TYs. David participated in the Askeaton Spring Clean last year and he organised a social function to raise money for the Butterfly Club in Newcastle West.

Coláiste Mhuire’s Got Talent

Coláiste Mhuire’s Got Talent returned to the Community Centre in Askeaton on March 10th. This is the 5th year of the competition and this year there were two categories in order to accommodate the range of talent in the school, *Singing* and *Music & Dance*. A great night’s entertainment was provided by an array of very talented students! The winner in the Singing category was *Robin O’Callaghan* who sang *Good Time* and the winner in the Music & Dance category, with a fantastic medley of traditional music, was *Grúpa Traidisiúnta* consisting of Conor Daly, Emma Daly, Katie Moynihan, Orla, Eileen, Elizabeth Scanlan, Patrick Lenihan, Natasha Costello and Ella Ward. The runner-up was Marta Varini who played a beautiful rendition of *Deux Arabesques* on the piano. Huge credit is due to the Talent Show Producer Ms Máirín McAuliffe who once again produced a great show.

Con Colbert’s Grand-Niece Ciara, presents the National Flag to the Principal

Ciara Colbert, grand-niece of Con Colbert, presented the National Flag to Principal Norma O'Brien following a trip to the State Flag Ceremony in Croke Park.

Schools' Proclamation Day

Coláiste Mhuire celebrated Schools' Proclamation day on March 15th with a packed programme of events in conjunction with Seachtáin na Gaeilge. The day started with all students lining the school corridors to sing Amhrán na bhFiann. Standing outside a wonderful replica of the GPO, built by TY students, the 1916 Proclamation was read to students by TY student Michael Gallagher. 5th Year English students re-imagined the Proclamation and put together the Coláiste Mhuire 2016 Proclamation which was read by Clodagh Guerin. Students enjoyed Céilí dancing, a Tráth na gCéist, Puc Fada and Throw the Welly competitions. The Student Council held a Bake Sale and they sold memorial badges from the Thomas Meagher Foundation. €550 was raised for Cancer research. There was a hugely enjoyable Céilí session in the GPA at lunchtime with staff joining students to dance to the wonderful Irish music played by our very talented traditional music players. The sun shone down as Principal Norma O'Brien, joined by former Principal Mrs Nora Hawkes and an tAthair Sean O'Longaigh, raised the National Flag. Both Proclamations were read again and the whole school sang the National Anthem, accompanied by our traditional musicians. It was a very enjoyable and memorable, once-in-a-lifetime occasion for all staff and students.

Junior Cert Business Awards

Students Caoilfhionn Cliffe, Dara Corr and Alicia Kehoe were awarded a Certificate of Recognition for achieving an 'A' grade in their Junior Certificate Business Studies Exam in 2015. The students attended a presentation held in the University of Limerick hosted by the Kemmy Business School UL and the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland.

Great Success for Coláiste Mhuire at the Student Enterprise Awards

Coláiste Mhuire enjoyed a great day at the Student Enterprise Awards for the Limerick region in the South Court Hotel on March 14th. Coláiste Mhuire entered three groups in the Intermediate Category of this competition and is delighted to have won three prizes on the day. A huge amount of work has been done by all three groups, guided by their teachers Ms Deborah Dalton and Ms Mairead McMahon. *Ruisce Bath Bombs* (Róisín O'Shaughnessy, Emma Keane, Ella Ward, Caoimhe O'Connell, Caitlin O'Shaughnessy and Clodagh Tuohy) received overall second prize in the competition with their lovely handmade, colourful and luxuriously fragranced bath bombs in distinctive shapes and sizes. *Lovewood Crafts* by Alan McGrath, Daniel Hayes, Eoin Condon, Eddie O Connor, Seán Hanley and David Massy received a Merit for their beautifully engraved wooden crafts of all colours and sizes. *Cábla Mála* made up of Seranne Gallagher, Muireann Donovan, Casie Fitzgerald, Robyn O'Neill and Ciara O'Connell also received a Merit for their mobile phone and lead holders.

Féilte – Festival of Education in Learning & Teaching Excellence

Teachers Lorraine O'Loughlin and Máire O'Brien have been accepted for *Féilte*, the Festival of Education in Learning & Teaching Excellence, which will be held in Dublin in October 2016, to showcase their DCT (Developing Critical Thinking) resource (launched by Minister Jan O'Sullivan last December). This will be their second time showcasing at *Féilte*.

Colaiste Ide agus Iosef, Abbeyfeale

As part of the coaching and games development initiative in Coláiste Íde agus Iosef 12 transition year students recently undertook a video analysis course through Avenir Sports. The students were tutored in the school by Simon Kavanagh of Avenir Sports and undertook a project through Limerick Institute of Technology. They had to use the software available, to analyse 2 school games that were recorded last year. Having successfully completed their projects the students spent last Wednesday getting to grips with the school's brand new video camera which can pan the whole pitch from a height of 25 feet giving a birdseye view of any game. The students can then download the recording to a school laptop where they can analyse the game to the specification of the coach in question.

Currently, Colaiste Ide agus Iosef are one of only three schools in the country using the software for G.A.A purposes and are the only school in the country to also possess the camera and software for our own use.

Castletroy College

Learn Storm powered by Khan Academy, Learn Storm is a 9 week maths challenge designed to build confidence and competence. It rewards progress and perseverance equally giving students of all abilities in maths an opportunity to succeed. As educators, one of the most important lessons we can teach our students is that they can learn anything. LearnStorm meets students where they are by celebrating both achievement and hustle. Not only do students earn mastery points for mastering maths skills, but they can also earn hustle points for hard work and perseverance. 30 second year students participated in Learn Storm 2016 from the end of January to the start of April as part of their maths and ICT class to pilot the initiative at Castletroy College.

Colaiste Chiarain, Croom

On Thursday the 7th of April the school's Young Scientists travelled to Intel in Shannon to part take in an inspirational talk given by the amazing Amber Bell. Amber Bell is a female astronaut working with NASA. The group were then given a guided tour around Intel and informed of various scholarships programs that Intel offers to students.

Desmond College, Newcastle West

Students Muireann Tobin, Aine Upton, Caoimhe Danaher and Leah Barry together with their teacher Ms. Culhane spent time over the Easter break in Kolkata where they visited many of the projects the HOPE foundation have set up including orphanages, rehabilitation centres, homes and hospitals. The girls raised €17,704 for the Charity.

Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh

Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh is celebrating 10 years of the College's development from when it first opened in 2006. The College has grown steadily since it opened with almost 600 pupils in attendance and learning through the medium of Irish. Students, parents, staff, both present and past, along with representatives from the College's Patron, Limerick and Clare Education & Training Board, will attend this concert to commence a year-long range of special events to mark the College's growth and development. The initial marking of the celebration will take place on Thursday 28th April at 8pm in the Lime Tree Theatre Mary Immaculate College.

Congratulations to the schools U15 Boys Rugby Team who played the High School in Clonmel in the Cleary Cup final in Clonmel. The boys battled hard throughout the game showing their strong

spirit of never giving up. Although the final score doesn't reflect the boys' effort and work rate throughout the match, they did their coaches, their school, their supporters and themselves immensely proud.

Colaiste Iosaef, Kilmallock

Many congrats to our golf team who were crowned Links Cup Champions for only the second time in the competitions history. The team comprised of Dylan Walsh (captain), Seán Barrett, Thomas Kirby, James Conheady, Seamus Connery, Shane Enright and Mikey Lynch. Well done also to James Conheady who won the Champion Golfer trophy, successfully retaining it from last year.

Colaiste na Trocaire, Rathkeale

Congratulations to the school athletics team who successfully retained the L.C.E.T.B Sports Day shield today.

St. John Bosco Community College, Kildysart

Congratulations to Ciara Kenny, Michael Donnellan and Adrian Meaney who received an award from the Kemmy Business School UL in conjunction with the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland. This is the 4th annual business award ceremony. Students from Clare, Limerick and Tipperary received an award for achieving a grade A in Business Studies in the Junior Certificate 2015.

Scariff Community College

Scariff are the All Ireland Junior Camogie Champions after beating Banagher in the final on Saturday the 19th of March. It was a wonderful performance from the team and a well-deserved victory.

The Schools Transition year drama 'A Mans's game' recently qualified for the All Ireland schools drama finals. Scariff are through to the last 8 schools in the competition after coming through the regional finals with flying colours. Over 40 schools entered the competition and we are very proud of the students now competing for a national title.

Further Education and Training

LCFE

SMedia Awards 2016 – Learner wins Photographer of the Year

1st Year Photography learner, Wally Cassidy, won News Photographer of the Year at the National SMedia Awards in Dublin.

External Training

LCETB transferred responsibility for relevant external training to TETB on 28 March 2016.

VTOS Work Experience

In February, over fifty VTOS learners from FET Centre - KRC participated in work placements in companies, colleges and retail outlets across the City as part of their QQI Work Experience Level 4 and Level 5 modules. Work Experience is an integral part of the Art, Craft & Design;

General Learning and Office Administration Awards. The feedback from employers was very positive and also encouraging in terms of the employment prospects of the learners concerned.

1916 Event KRC

A 1916 commemoration event was held at the Kilmallock Road Campus. The event consisted of a historical lecture by Frank Noonan, history teacher, entitled '1916 Rising - Fact and Myth'. VTOS learners also participated by reading the Proclamation and reciting some of Yeats' poetry. Many teachers and learners also dressed in period costume, which greatly added to the occasion.

Youthreach Flag Ceremony

Learners and staff from centres across the LCETB Youthreach Programme went to Croke Park on the 7th of March 2016 to receive the Proclamation of Independence and the Irish Flag. It was a very memorable experience. On Tuesday 15th March, the learners and teachers involved read the proclamation for all learners and staff in their centres.

YSI Den 25th February 2016 Life Time Lab Cork

In Life Time Lab Cork, ten project teams took part in a Dragon's Den-style pitch to a YSI Panel for a share of the €15k social innovation fund. The fund was created to assist teams to implement their innovative ideas to bring about positive change and increase the impact of their project work. Some also requested mentorship and support from the YSI Dragons in specialised areas such as marketing and finance.

The initiative challenges young people to work within their communities to identify areas of social need and to come up with and implement solutions for positive social change. The teams pitching at this year's YSI Den addressed a range of social issues including mental health, nutrition, homophobia, road safety and addiction.

Three students from Youthreach Miltown Malbay Megan McInerney, Reese Hallett and Martin Mongan travelled to Cork to pitch their YSI project to the YSI panel.

The title of the YSI project is "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass but learning to dance in the rain". The YSI class focused on raising awareness about mental health, positive coping skills and support services that young people could contact.

Overall it was a very successful day for the three students; they were awarded €400 from the YSI panel to go towards their project. They scored very high marks in their pitch and were commended for their project title and positive change that it will bring about in the community.

Two Day Family Learning Tutor Training

National training held in the Further Education & Training Centre, Clonroad Campus, Ennis for those interested in delivering Family Learning/Literacy classes.

12 people attended including 3 Norwegians who hope to deliver similar courses in their centre in Drammen. Feedback was very positive on sharing experiences and on course content covered e.g. history, research and theory, recruitment strategies, adult education methodologies, types of programmes, curriculum and lesson plan development, cultural inclusion, evaluation and progression, and a critical review of family learning.

National Adult Learning Week

National Adult Learning Week 2016 took place between the 22nd and the 28th of February. To mark this week a variety of adult learning events took place throughout Co. Clare from Healthy Cooking on a Budget, Active Citizen / Voter Education, Gardening for Spring and Getting to Know your Technology. Celebrations of Learning were held in Scariff, Kilrush, Ennis, Shannon and Ennistymon with over 1,000 certificates being presented to learners from the three part time programmes, CABES, Community Education and BTEI. A number of learners received multiple certificates having progressed from uncertified to certified learning within the LCETB. 312 of these certs were to BTEI learners with 87 full QQI awards presented. 100% of the recipients on the Healthcare programme in Kilrush and the Childcare programme in Killaloe are in full time employment.

Voter Education Active Citizenship Training

Voter Education Active Citizenship Training Programmes were delivered to a number of groups throughout the county in the run up to the general election on the 26th of Feb. Topics included;

- The history of the vote
- Why I should vote
- Registering to vote
- Getting to know my local candidates
- Naming my issues - for candidates/ canvassers who may call to my door.
- Who should I vote for – review of candidates running in the local area and how to best match my issues to one of those candidates.
- Understanding the election / voting process, count, transfers

There was a good attendance at these sessions and feedback was very positive.

Many thanks to the Vincentian Partnership who delivered a 2-day training programme to LCETB tutors in Jan 2016.

St. Patrick's Day

A joint initiative between CABES and Community Education networking with Scariff Community Council and the local CE Scheme saw a group of learners plan, design and construct a 1916 Commemoration Float which was displayed and won 2 first prizes in the annual Scariff St. Patrick's Day Parade. This project has been embraced by the local community and will be displayed once more as part of the Tuamgraney Harp Festival.

HETC

The Hospitality Education & Training Centre applied and was approved for the EFQM Excellence Model. EFQM is a means to motivate staff and encourage systematic improvement. It provides a focus for learning and training. Some benefits:

- Creating enthusiasm for improvement
- Developing a culture of excellence
- Developing strengths and areas for improvement

Music Generation Limerick City

Music Generation Limerick City (MGLC) has opened a new 'Creative Centre' – the first of its kind to come out of the national music programme instigated by U2 and The Ireland Funds and now entering its long term phase with its future secured by the Department of Education & Skills.

The Centre, at the heart of Limerick City, will act as a base for MGLC's range of after school and weekend sessions. These focus on self-expression, creativity and inclusion and are run by a team comprising many of Limerick's most exciting performers, including members of Windings, the Rusangano family, Naïve Ted and more. The mix of songwriting, production, rap and band mentoring enjoys extraordinarily high retention rates amongst teens – an age-group that statistically drop out of conventional music education.

Boris Hunka, co-ordinator of Music Generation Limerick City explains how this is achieved. "Our methodology is quite simple, creating a safe space for people to be creative and try things out. It works for national school children, it works for teenagers, and now we're seeing it work with adults".

The centre will also act as an informal venue, and will host a range of other arts organisations in the city, as part of the Creative Exchange model pioneered by the Limerick 2020 European City of Culture bid.

National Adult Learners Forum; Aontas

On February 26th 2016 the first National Adult Learners Forum was held in the Mansion House in Dublin. This was organised by Aontas, the National Adult Learning Organisation on behalf of Solas. The learners, who attended, represented all sixteen Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and included learners from Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses, Community Education Programmes, Apprenticeships, Back to Education Initiative, Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) and Youthreach programmes. Six learners represented Limerick and Clare ETB.

Martin Mongan represented Youthreach Miltown Malbay Co Clare. Martin is a first year student on the Youthreach Programme and is currently studying his LCA. He was nominated by the centre and represented the 10 centres within the LCETB

Those attending heard from Niamh O Reilly of Aontas and Fiona Hartley of SOLAS. Niamh O'Reilly said: "This new forum gives adult learners an opportunity to share their views at national level and to help influence policy". We heard various Learner's Stories which were very inspiring as well as some humorous insights on education and on empowering the learner voice by Christy Kenneally (Writer) before being encouraged to tell our own Learner Story. There were groups of six to seven with a facilitator and a scribe and each gave a summary of our own learning story. This set us up for the group discussions, which was the main part of the Forum.

Limerick Life Long Learning Festival

The Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, 16th – 22nd April 2016. The festival is in its 6th year comprising of an exciting line up of over 150 events, all of which are FREE and open to all. Thomond Park Showcase opened the festival on Saturday 16th April offering a wide range of

interactive events, activities and workshops – providing a wonderful snapshot of what the whole festival week entails.

The theme for this year's festival is 'Learning from each other in a changed Limerick' which provided us all with an opportunity to learn something new from others and makes positive changes in our lives, and the lives of those around us. As such, the LLL Festival programme aims to promote learning and enjoyment through involvement in the wide variety of art, cultural and sports activities and IT skills workshops.

7. For Consideration: Finance Report

On the proposal of Cllr. Cathal Crowe, and seconded by Cllr. Michael Donegan, the Finance Report was adopted.

Members expressed their concern at the reduced budgets for schools in recent years and the enormous pressure on school management to "make ends meet". The Finance Officer, outlined to Members that where schools were finding it extremely difficult, the shortfall, where possible, was being addressed by the Chief Executive and the Finance Officer. The Chief Executive advised Members that budgets were distributed to schools as fairly and equitable as possible and outlined some of the criteria involved in this decision and acknowledged the reduced budgets for schools, but reiterated that both himself and the Finance Officer were meeting with Principals and addressing the shortfall in school budgets and assisting schools re same.

It was proposed that the Chief Executive would write to the Minister with regard to the reduced non-pay budgets for schools.

Mr. Sean Kennedy referred to the moratorium on middle management positions in schools and requested that the CE write to ETBI with regard to addressing this at national level. He expressed his dissatisfaction on the continued moratorium on these vacancies and referred to the recent article by the General Secretary of ETBI wherein he stated the urgency to reform and enhance school management positions and expressed the view that the moratorium should be lifted immediately and that the middle management system that was operational in schools should be maintained as it has served its purpose well in schools. He felt that this statement from the General Secretary was less than helpful and that more consultation on ground with regard to reform should be forthcoming.

8. For Confirmation: Decision of Appeals Committee as per Section 29 of the Education Act 1998

On the proposal of Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr. Maria Byrne, the minutes from Appeal Hearings were adopted.

9. Nomination to Boards of Management

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Howard, seconded by Cllr. Maria Byrne, Mr. John Crowe was nominated to the Board of St. Anne's Community College, Killaloe.

The Chief Executive also outlined to Members that the Appeals Sub-Committee required further representation and on the proposal of Cllr. Maria Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Mary Howard, the following were appointed to the Appeals Sub-Committee; Ms. Mary Garvey, Mr. Sean Conlan

and Mr. John Fitzgibbon.

10. For Adoption: LCETB Submission to DES re an triu Sceim Teanga

Members of the Board expressed its concern regarding the costs involved in complying with legislation and it was proposed that the CE would write to the Minister outlining the concerns of the Board and the increased pressure this is putting on school budgets. On the proposal of Mr. Sean McMahon, seconded by Ms. Kate Harran De Parra, the Sceim Teanga was adopted.

11. AOB with the permission of the Chair

Cllr. Michael Donegan paid tribute to Staff involved in the LCETB Stand at the Limerick for Engineering Expo in Southcourt Hotel recently.

On foot of query re Circular Letter 24/2016, the EO confirmed that The teaching hours granted to schools for the purpose of supporting school management in the delivery of the Framework for Junior Cycle 2015 will be allocated additional to their Staffing Allocation.

Mr. Sean McMahon requested update with regard to Summer Works Scheme and the CE advised that there was no further information with regard to same and until the new government formation was completed, felt that it would be unlikely.

Cllr. Mary Howard expressed her concern with payments for attendance at Board of Management Meetings.

The meeting ceased at 5.45 p.m. and was followed by a presentation to Mr. Cathal King, Captain of Na Piarsaigh, and Mr. Pat Gleeson a member of the Na Piarsaigh team who won the All Ireland Club Hurling Championship 2016. The CE and Board Members paid tribute to Cathal and Pat and their colleagues and club mentors on this outstanding success.

Date for next meeting Wednesday, 18th May, 2016, in Colaiste Ide agus Iosef, Abbeyfeale.



(Signed) Joan Aherne
Chairperson.