



MINUTES OF LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

COVID -19 - LCETB MARCH BOARD MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM AND WAS NOT A FACE TO FACE MEETING

on Tuesday, 19th May, 2020 at 4.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Chairperson
Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy
Mr. Michael Cregan
Cllr. Michael Donegan
Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald
Cllr. Liam Galvin
Mr. Michael Guilfoyle
Ms. Catherine Hehir
Ms. Sheila Hickey
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Cllr. Joe Killeen
Cllr. Paul Murphy
Cllr. Ann Norton
Mr. Mark O'Dea
Mr. Donal ÓhAiniféin
Ms. Marian Petty
Cllr. Elena Secas
Cllr. Brigid Teefy

In attendance: Mr. George O'Callaghan, Chief Executive
Ms. Shelagh Graham, Director of Organisation Support and Development
Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Director of Schools
Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of ICT & Corporate Services
Ms. Joanne O'Brien, Recording Secretary, Corporate Services

1. For Consideration; Apologies/Condolences

Condolences:

A Vote of Sympathy was passed to the following;

- Ms Ellen Bradley, LCETB Head Office, Marshal House, on the death of her mother in law Ms. Josie Bradley.

- Ms. Breda O Driscoll (Ennis Adult Education Centre) on the death of her father, Mr. Walter Murphy.
- Ms. Liz Purcell (Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton) on the death of her father, Mr. Jeremiah Purcell.
- Mr. Robert Ward (Head Office), on the death of his Partner's father, Mr. Noel O'Loughlin.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interests

All Board Members confirmed no conflict of interest with any Agenda item.

3. For Adoption; Minutes of Meeting of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, held on 24th February and 24th March, 2020

On proposal of Cllr. Liam Galvin, seconded by Cllr. Mark O'Dea, the minutes of meetings held on 24th February and 24th March, 2020 were adopted.

4. For Consideration; Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Correspondence

Department Correspondence

CL0017/2020 27 th February, 2020	Re: Guidance on the Junior Cycle Subject Learning and Assessment Review Process.
CL0020/2020 27 th February, 2020	Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Arrangements for Teachers and Special Needs Assistants employed in recognised primary and post primary schools.
CL0021/2020 27 th February, 2020	Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Arrangements for all staff other than Teachers and SNAs employed by Education and Training Boards.
CL0022/2020 27 th February, 2020	Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Arrangements for all Public Service employees.
CL0023/2020 27 th February, 2020	Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Arrangements applying to learner payments in Education and Training Boards.
CL 0024/2020 27 th March, 2020	Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Delay Phase Arrangements for Teachers and Special Needs Assistants employed in recognised primary and post primary schools.

CL 0025/2020 27 th March, 2020	Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) - Delay Phase Arrangements for staff other than Teachers and SNAs employed by Education and Training Boards (ETBs).
CL 0026/2020 27 th March, 2020	Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) - Delay Phase Arrangements for all Public Service employees.
CL 0027/2020 1 st April, 2020	Re: COVID-19 Temporary assignment arrangements for certain staff in the education and training sector.
CL 0029/2020 17 th April, 2020	Re: Post-Graduate Certificate/Diploma Programme of Continuing Professional Development for Teachers working with Students with Special Educational Needs (Autism Spectrum Disorder).
CL 0030/2020 24 th April, 2020	Re: Special Needs Assistant Allocations for the 2020/21 School Year for Mainstream Classes in Primary and Post Primary Schools.
CL 0031/2020 April, 2020	Re: Grant Scheme for ICT Infrastructure – 2019/2020 School Year.
CL 0032/2020 April, 2020	Re: Grant Scheme for ICT Infrastructure – 2019/2020 School Year €10m Funding to Issue to Primary and Post-Primary Schools.
CL 0033/2020 30 th April, 2020	Re: Revision of 2011 Entrant Teacher Salaries with Effect from 1 March 2020 - Application of Additional Increments.
CL 0034/2020 30 th April, 2020	Re: Revision of Application of Additional Increments awarded in relation to New Entrants under the Public Services Stability Agreement 2018-2020.
CL 0035/2020 5 th May, 2020	Re: Prescribed Material for the Junior Cycle Examination in 2022 and Leaving Certificate Examination in 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Galvin, seconded by Cllr. Michael Donegan, all Circular Letters were adopted.

6. For Consideration; Chief Executive's Report Incorporating;

- a. Post Primary Education
- b. Further Education and Training

Post Primary Schools

Board of Management Training

Training for Boards of Management of Limerick and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Community National Schools, Mol an Óige CNS and Raheenwood CNS took place on 27 February 2020 in Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Three separate nights of training were scheduled for post-primary schools on 10 March, 11 March and 12 March (12 March was cancelled due to the announcement earlier that day by an Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD that schools would close on 12 March at 6.30 pm).

The training covered these areas;

- Role of the Chairperson & Secretary
- Effective Meetings-minutes & reporting
- Legislative Roles & Responsibilities of the BoM
- Child Protection

The table below outlines the schools and topics covered. Additional training will be provided once schools reopen in the Autumn.

Cluster Group: Limerick City Area				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Castletroy College, Castletroy ● Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom ● Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh, Sir Harry's Mall ● Mungret Community College, Mungret ● Coláiste Iósaef, Kilmallock ● Thomond Community College, Moylish ● LCFE, Mulgrave Street 				
Date	Venue	Topic	Duration	Board Members
9 March 2020	Castletroy Park Hotel, Co. Limerick.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Role of the Chairperson & Secretary ● Effective Meetings-minutes & reporting 	30 minutes (6.30 pm - 7.00 pm)	Chairperson & Secretary
7.00 pm to 8.30 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Legislative Roles & Responsibilities of the BoM ● Child Protection 	90 minutes	All Board Members including Chairperson & Secretary

Cluster Group: West Limerick Area

- Coláiste Íde agus Iosef, Abbeyfeale
- Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton
- Coláiste na Trócaire, Rathkeale
- Desmond College / Gaelcholáiste Uí Chonba, Newcastlewest
- Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher

Date	Venue	Topic	Duration	Board Members
10 March 2020	Longcourt House Hotel, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role of the Chairperson & Secretary• Effective Meetings- minutes & reporting	30 minutes (6.30 pm - 7.00 pm)	Chairperson & Secretary
7.00 pm to 8.30 pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative Roles & Responsibilities of the BoM• Child Protection	90 minutes	All Board Members including Chairperson & Secretary

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board is extremely grateful to all Board of Management members who attended the training and participated in the sessions.

Principals and Deputy Principals Meetings

A scheduled meeting for Principals and Deputy Principals took place on 5 March 2020. Part of the meeting was devoted to awareness raising of Covid-19 given that suspected cases were beginning to emerge in Ireland earlier that week. Schools received advice and guidance in accordance with the HSE and IPB.

The Schools Division compiled a Handbook for Teachers on distance learning during the first week of school closures.

This was distributed to all teachers in Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board schools.

Principals and Deputy Principals Meetings moved online to Google Meet and Zoom to support schools with contingencies for addressing school closures. Two meetings per week took place up to Easter and another online Zoom meeting took place on 16 April 2020 prior to schools resuming after Easter holidays.

Schools were supported with templates to send to parents/guardians on the latest updates from the HSE and the Department of Education and Skills and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

Regular contact with school principals and deputy principals has been on-going since 13 March 2020 to ensure that schools are supported as effectively as possible.

During Easter, a handbook was developed by the Schools Division to support teachers on the effective use of video conferencing applications.

These guidelines provide advice and best-practice for schools on the following;

- Virtual Meetings using Videoconferencing
- Ground Rules to agree with Parents/Guardians & Students
- Simple steps for Teachers to Manage Video Conferencing Classes
- Tips for Teachers when using Conferencing Tools
- Providing Feedback to Students
- Additional Education Needs & Best Practices for Educators
- Advice for Guidance Counsellors in Schools
- NEPS Advice & Resources during Covid-19
- Continuity of guidance provision
- Advice from ETBI Legal Services Support Unit
- Recommended Update to Acceptable User Policy regarding use of Video Conferencing
- Virtual Board of Management Meetings
- Child Protection Oversight Report in the context of board meetings held remotely
- Recommended Supports for Video Conferencing Applications
- References

Schools Newsletter / Blog

A Newsletter Blog which aims to support our Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board School Leaders, Teaching and SNA staff, at this challenging time was launched prior to Easter by the Schools Division.

The Newsletter/Blog provides supports to schools across these areas;

- Resources from our Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Support Team
The Support Team has been working on resources which Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board teachers can contribute to also. These resources are available via links on the Newsletter/Blog. They include Additional Education Needs, LCAP, Transition Year and the Staff Page of LCETB.ie.
- Students with Additional Educational Needs
We have created a Spreadsheet of teaching and learning resources for students with Additional Educational Needs. It has been created by our ETB Teacher Support Team and Additional Needs Coordinators. SENCOs may contribute to this spreadsheet at any time and have been emailed the link to do so. This sharing of resources is proving very beneficial for all. Conor Hartigan, who works in the University of Limerick Accessibility Office, has kindly agreed to contribute to this valuable resource also.
- Transition Year Students
This important group of students need a lot of guidance and encouragement during school closure. We hope the resources on this TY ideas board will keep students engaged in their

education and encourage them to use their recreation time constructively. It includes free online courses, talks, lectures, tutorials and virtual classrooms. We are extremely grateful to all TY Coordinators who are continuing to contribute to this resource.

- **Leaving Cert Applied Students**
An ideas board of educational resources for the LCA course has been devised by our ETB. This group of students need much support and we hope this board supports our teachers as they do this.
- **Teacher Wellbeing**
It is important to stay physically and mentally well at this time. Staff, including teachers can find information on CareCall via our Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Staff Page, should they need it.

This blog has been viewed by over 1,800 visitors since 2 April 2020. The link to the Newsletter/Blog is here: <https://lcebtstaffnewsletter.lcebtsschools.com/2020/03/newsletter-for-limerick-and-clare.html>

Other Supports for Schools in response to Covid-19

Continuity of Learning

Our schools developed and published comprehensive details and guidance on their Digital Learning Hub sections on school websites, which students are familiar with, as the main portal for accessing on-line classes and feedback from teachers. Staff received support and guidance from Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board on the most effective strategies to manage on-line learning. Several video conferencing meetings of Principals and Deputy Principals of all eighteen post-primary schools of our ETB have taken place since 13 March 2020 and this has proven invaluable in the sharing of best-practice and resources between all of our schools.

Acceptable User Policy (AUP)

Schools were provided with an updated Acceptable User Policy (AUP) to reflect the increasingly popular use of video conferencing platforms. Our schools only utilise platforms which fully comply with GDPR requirements.

Staffing Appeal

The Staffing Appeal for additional teaching resources for Post Primary Provision for 2020/2021 was submitted to the Allocations Section on 16 March 2020.

Youth Work

The Youth Work Team has been very busy with the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme 2020. The Team is using Microsoft Teams and Zoom for regular meetings with youth organisations and the Youth Work Coordination Group.

Meetings, Training and Supports for post-primary schools

Support seminars and training were provided to post-primary personnel in the following areas;

- Student Support Team Coordinators online meeting
- Online meeting of Special Education Needs Advisory Group
- Online meeting of Risk Register and Safeguarding Advisory Group
- Leading Inclusive Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LILTA) online meeting

Section 29 Appeal

- Three Section 29 Appeal Application forms were received in respect of non-enrolment. These appeals have been withdrawn.

FET Division – CE Report

Online Teaching & Learning

Following the closure of FET Colleges due to COVID-19, online teaching & learning was delivered across all FET Provision. This also extended to FET Support Services e.g. Information and Guidance. Both the FET Professional Development and Technology Enhanced Learning teams worked tirelessly to provide online training in the use of various online T&L platforms e.g. MS Teams. In addition, the Quality Assurance Support Service introduced procedures for alternative assessments (many conducted online) and revised Internal Verification and External Authentication processes.

Enterprise Engagement

The FET Enterprise Engagement Support Service is also actively involved in the Mid-West in response to the significant increase in those unemployed. Several online courses have been developed and are now offered e.g. Infection Prevention and Control. The latter has been developed not only for the Healthcare sector but also for the Hospitality and Retail sectors.

Full-Time Provision

PLC / VTOS / SST

VTOS Kilmallock Road Campus - A new Contact Centre Operations course commenced in February with a new group of learners. This twelve week course, developed from a partnership with Turas Nua, provides learners with the core knowledge and skill to work in a Call Centre. Ten new learners joined the existing Engineering Skills L4 programme. Timetables were adapted to ensure effective delivery. A new Key Skills group started in February (eight learners). This course provides an opportunity for learners to sample a number of skill areas, to help establish where their interest and aptitude lie.

- Apprenticeship / Traineeship

Hospitality - The following courses are currently in train – Food & Beverage Diploma, Supervisory/Management Level 6, Pastry Diploma, Culinary Level 4 Traineeship and Commis Chef Level 6.

An ex trainee, working for the Long Court Hotel, Newcastlewest, won Employee of the Year with the Irish Hotel Federation and will become the new Ambassador for Careers in Tourism. The IHF have mentioned where this learner did their training on many media channels and their website.

Get a Life in Tourism magazine features an ex trainee who is one of Ireland's youngest Master of Wines. His story was published outlining his training and career progression since leaving hospitality. This publication is sent out to all secondary schools.

Apprenticeship/Traineeship chefs are working and training in Hospitality with the service of hot meals to the frontline staff. This is welcomed by industry as this gives their employees the opportunity to be upskilled.

Youth Education & Training

O'Connell Ave Campus – some learners attended 'Cycle Against Suicide' a concert and awareness raising event in Dublin and others attended 'Blood Brothers' in Bord Gais Theatre for Junior Cert syllabus.

Two 5th year learners attended 'Web Wise Safe Internet Day' training in Google HQ, Dublin. 5th years and LCA1 group completed one week of work placement.

Kilmallock Road Campus – Briefing on Child Protection and Safe Guarding compliance has taken place. PDST delivered training on RSE & SPHE on revised LCA modules.

Mid Clare – Successful 'Moving on Seminar' event for learners held on 31st January. This is an annual event for Youthreach and CTC in Clare where learners who are completing their programmes this year get a chance to hear about further options in education and training.

As part of the FET Campus the provision received the Amber Flag for Positive Mental Health.

Very successful 'Valentine's Day' event took place where Youthreach provided food and had a raffle of gifts for learners in the campus.

Shanagolden Campus – A creative associate from the Arts Council started induction with staff and a project has begun.

It was planned that a Vocational prep and guidance community activist would visit the campus and facilitate meetings with learners about voluntary work as part of key assignments.

Training undertaken at campus included Wrat 5, QA Induction, Fire-Warden and DLP training

Part-Time Provision

- Vocational & Employee Skills

- Celebrations of Learning took place in Shannon, Kilrush, Ennis and Scariff during Aontas Adult Learner's week 2nd – 6th March.
- 25 principals and primary school teachers attended a two day Family Learning training in Ennis on 5th and 6th of March. The group visited a number of locations including

schools and centres to see Family Learning in action and how migrants are supported when learning English.

- Core Skills have designed a varied range of provision in partnership with the residents of Clare Lodge in Ennis and CISC. E.g. ESOL, Driver Theory, Prep for HACCP, Prep for work in Ireland. Additionally, Cambridge accreditation, a highly rated accreditation favoured by employers and higher education, is being provided via the AMIF (Asylum, Migrant Integration Fund) project.
- Eighty attended the '**Reading your Local Landscape**' showcase on February 18th at the Lakeside Hotel, Killaloe. This unique heritage course developed and delivered by a Heritage Consultant is an outcome of a heritage collaboration between Clare County Council, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Creative Ireland and The National Museum of Ireland. Certs were presented by Cllr Pat Burke. The County Librarian congratulated the group, telling them that the course was the embodiment of what Creative Ireland is setting out to achieve. Showcased on the night were fifteen truly diverse and interesting projects, developed and presented by the East Clare learners.
- It was planned that this innovative course would move to the Burren and Kilkishen next, and both courses were oversubscribed.

Community Education and Training

- Learners of West Limerick Institute of Sports & Fitness passed their Irish Water Safety Assistant Swimming Teacher course.
- The Vocational Training Programme delivered by the Brothers of Charity Ennis were finalists in this year's 2020 AONTAS Star Awards in the Sustainable Employment category and an awards ceremony was held in Dublin in March.

• Evening Provision

- In January 2020 LCFE Night School enrolled 1,094 learners and is running 87 courses with approximately 60% accredited courses and 40% hobby courses. The LCFE Cappamore evening intake was also successful with 98 learners enrolled.
- Following the success of the one day Excel training for Unity Credit Union Employees, LCFE Night School hosted two very successful follow on Excel Continuation training mornings for CU staff at Watch House Cross Library. Very positive feedback was received from Unity Credit Union Operational Manager. She said "The venue was fantastic and the staff were delighted that we could use the facilities in the area of our common bond ". Follow on training sessions in Excel and Word were requested. Online training may be possible.
- Noteworthy new courses at LCFE Night School were Administration Practice QQI L6, Family Support Worker Training QQI L5, MS Project Planner Training, Work Experience QQI L6 and Leadership QQI L6.
- Excellent online training using Microsoft Teams has taken place with Night teachers responding very favourably to its introduction – thanks to LCFE Adult Ed Team for helping with the mammoth roll out.

- Thank you to all frontline staff and three LCFE Night School teachers , teachers of Nursing Studies QQI L5, teacher of Medical Terminology QQI L5, and teacher of Infection Prevention & Control QQI L5 who have all continued to engage with and teach night learners online in conjunction with working on the frontline and in ICU.

- **Prison Education**

- Survey being carried out via simple questionnaire, which is being distributed to all inmates, to ascertain what materials they are most interested in receiving during the lockdown.
- 13 Education Units in the country are currently working together compiling useful materials and collecting them in volumes which are being printed in the Print Shop, Midlands Prison and distributed from there. The Head Teacher is involved in editing and collation.
- Charitable donation from the prisoners collected by Red Cross volunteers for HSE, Limerick Hospital
- QQI numbers up greatly from last year but unfortunately accreditation could not be facilitated at this time. It is very disappointing but unavoidable.
- A webcam is being set up in the Church which the inmates can access on their TVs and current talks with the Governor are taking place to see how the school will make use of this. Teachers will record classes/messages etc. on either MP4/Memory Sticks or the Education Unit is looking at ways that this can be played. Permission has to be granted.
- Prior to shut down, a set up meeting to help the prison establish greater links with outside agencies was to be arranged and this will be followed up asap.

Support Services

- Information, Recruitment & Guidance
 - Colleagues attended the DEASP Careers Fair in the South Court Hotel to support employers and employees with a range of flexible learning opportunities available through LCETB.
 - Colleagues collaborated with DEASP in information and guidance supports for new construction training programmes in Moyross Youth Academy.
- Enterprise Engagement Support Services
 - **Grants to Upskill Employees**
EESS presented information on FET training, Skills to Advance initiatives at a breakfast briefing for 100 employers in the Strand Hotel, Limerick on 27th February.
 - **New Learning Models for new World of Work - Human Capital Initiative**
EESS facilitated an industry briefing in partnership with Midwest Regional Skills on Jan 9th 2020.

Third level colleges outlined their plans for applications for Human Capital Initiative and EESS outlined the work of LCETB in relation to Pathways to Higher Education Authority.

- EESS participated in the setup of construction training with Regeneration in response to training for supply chains for new construction projects in Limerick.
- EESS made links with Analog, Molex, Dell, Avara and J&J for delivery of training for employees.
- EESS is participating in the Mid-West Regional Response Task Force to Covid-19. This response team has concentrated on three sectors impacted by pandemic unemployment, Hospitality, Retail and Customer Service. Meetings are chaired by Dennis Kelly, former VP of Global Operations, Dell. The meetings are attended by industry providers and education organisations involved in responding to the unemployment crisis as a result of Covid-19.
- EESS linked with Chief Executive of UHL and co-ordinated the delivery of online courses in Infection Prevention and Control QQI level 5 in response to requests from the hospital and community HSE services. This coupled with the social media campaign and the supports offered by the Guidance team has resulted in immediate employment for those who completed the course.

Professional Development

- **Hospitality:** Currently developing on line programmes for the Hospitality sector should be ready to go in two weeks
- **Quality Assurance**
 - Briefing meetings held with all FET coordinators and managers of support services and presentations to QA Council and LCETB senior management team.
 - Staff and learner surveys designed and currently online.
 - Part-time Learner AONTAS forum took place on 27/02 in Radisson Blu with 146 learners attended from Limerick and Clare. Very successful day and largest AONTAS event to date. LCETB commended by AONTAS on genuine commitment.
 - Desk review completed of all QA process and procedures under the QQI QAR handbook headings.
 - Two meetings of the QAR Task Group, including one very fruitful full day self-evaluation workshop. Another full day workshop was scheduled at end of April to identify key recommendations for the final report.
 - Hospitality featured on Irelands On Call Video made of the works and training that is currently been done in Hospitality during this pandemic

7. Governance – COVID-19 Update

The Chief Executive briefed Member on the measures and supports to date within the organisation and advised the Board that, in line with HSE guidelines, LCETB was now proceeding in line with Phase one. The CE advised that SOLAS has a new framework “skills to compete” in response to the dramatic economic downturn and unemployment rates and was responding with safer learning and remote working.

The CE informed the Board that safe learning was happening across the organisation, as was remote working and the CE paid tribute to all staff in relation to same.

The Board Members paid tribute to staff across the organisation and referred to the positive feedback that they had received, in particular the response to the cancellation of the Junior and Leaving Certificate and supports to students in this regard. The Board requested that their gratitude to staff across the organisation be recorded. The Board also expressed their appreciation to the Chief Executive and Senior Management for their leadership, which was very much evident.

The Board also paid tribute to all staff, especially those involved in supply of meals and making of PPE during this Pandemic.

Cllr. Mike Donegan queried supports to staff in relation to IT and the Chief Executive advised that extra resources were being actively sought to support remote working and supports for students and learners. Mr. Donal O'hAinifein stated that staff with devices that are out of date or using their personal devices etc. should be prioritised.

The CE advised Members that, while we are operating during unprecedented times, statutory deadlines e.g. allocations, reporting to DES, had to be complied with.

8. For Adoption;

a. Finance Report

On proposal of Cllr. Ann Norton, seconded by Cllr. Elena Secas, the Finance Report was adopted.

b. 2019 Annual Report

On proposal of Cllr. Ann Norton, seconded by Cllr. Michael Donegan, the 2019 Annual Report was adopted.

c. 2020 Service Plan

- Oversight Agreement (OA)
- Performance Delivery Agreement (PDA)

On proposal of Cllr. Elena Secas, seconded by Cllr. Brigid Teefy, the 2020 Service Plan, incorporating Oversight Agreement and Performance Delivery Agreement, was adopted.

d. Protected Disclosures Policy

On proposal of Cllr. Paul Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Ann Norton, the Protected Disclosures Policy was adopted.

9. Update re Glenroe Community National School

The Chief Executive referred to previous communication to the Board and stated that in outlined line with the policy intent of the Minister of Education and Skills, the Department intends to reopen Glenroe National school building as a Community National School under the patronage of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

The CE advised that Glenroe Community National School will result in the development of a policy on the graduated reopening of small rural primary schools which closed as a result of budget cutbacks between 2012 and 2015. The Community National School model will also add to the diversity of school choice in the area and bring the total number of Community National Schools under governance of Limerick and Clare ETB to three.

The previously closed Glenroe national School has been chosen by the Minister and his Department to take the lead in this pilot scheme. This project has the strong support of the local community, the Diocese of Limerick and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. These factors as well as the availability of a school building in good condition were important in the selection of Glenroe. The Chief Executive advised the Board that the school was in good condition than had been envisaged and paid tribute to the support and work of the local community.

This pilot scheme will be assessed on an ongoing basis to determine its viability and impact and at the end of an initial three-year period if successful will be a model for similar projects nationwide.

The Glenroe National School Working Group worked tirelessly and it is welcome news for the community of Glenroe and families will have a school located in the parish which will benefit parents/guardians and most especially, the children of our community.

Glenroe CNS is scheduled to open on 1 September 2020 but due to COVID-19, the Chief Executive stated that this could impact on the scheduled opening date.

10. For consideration

- a. Student Grant Scheme 2020
- b. Student Support Regulations 2020

The Board considered the Student Grant Scheme and Support Regulations.

The Board also wished Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald every success in her leadership role with the Hospitality Federation as President and in particular her appointment to the Government's Tourism Recovery Taskforce. Ms. Fitzgerald thanked the Board for its good wishes and acknowledged and paid tribute to the various Boards of Management and Mid West Task Group in supporting the hospitality sector and the students and learners within the region.

On conclusion of meeting the Chairperson thanked all Members for their participation in the meeting and extended every good wish to the Board and Staff to stay safe during current Pandemic crisis.

George O'Callaghan
Chief Executive.

Signed:


Chairman of Meeting held on 21st July, 2020