



MINUTES OF LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

COVID-19 - LCETB BOARD MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM

22nd February 2022

Present:

- Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Chairperson
- Mr. Michael Cregan
- Cllr. Michael Donegan
- Cllr. Sarah Kiely
- Cllr. Joe Killeen
- Cllr. Ann Norton
- Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy
- Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald
- Ms. Catherine Hehir
- Cllr. Gabriel Keating
- Cllr. Paul Murphy
- Mr. Mark O'Dea
- Ms. Marian Petty

In attendance:

- Mr. George O'Callaghan, Chief Executive
- Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training
- Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Director of Schools
- Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of Corporate Services and ICT
- Ms. Aileen O'Sullivan, Recording Secretary, Corporate Services

1. For Consideration; Apologies/Condolences

Apologies:

Cllr. Elena Secas
Ms. Shelagh Graham

A Vote of Sympathy was passed to the following:

- The family of the late Mr. Sean Rushe, former CEO, Co Limerick VEC.
- Ms. Catherine Horgan (Teaching Staff, Hazelwood College) on the death of her mother, Mrs. Margaret Horgan.

- Ms. Annette O'Donnell and family (Hazelwood College) on the death of her husband Mr. Pat O'Donnell.
- Ms. Edel Sweeney (FET O'Connell Ave) on the death of her father,
- Mr. Matthew Finn (Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher) on the death of his mother, Mrs. Maureen Finn.
- Ms. Geraldine Fallon (FET Centre Ennis & Scariff) on the death of her mother, Ms. Helen Fallon.
- Ms Aine Flynn (LCFE) on the death of her father Mr. Johnny Flynn.

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 18th January, 2022, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Cllr. Michael Donegan.

4. For Consideration; Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy expressed her thanks to the Board for the minutes silence held for her mother, Dolly, and for the letter of condolence sent by George O'Callaghan.

5. Governance:

- a. Business Continuity Plan incorporating COVID-19 Update

The Board was briefed on the challenges faced by the lifting of further restrictions, especially the wearing of masks, which is due to begin from next week. The CE advised that difficulties remain in relation to teacher and student absences and that some year groups had to remain at home but due to the enormous contribution of staff, all services continue. One of the biggest challenges is recruiting substitute teachers and instructors. Concerns were raised about the removal of masks and the impact that this may have on staff and students going forward, this will have to be closely monitored. The Board noted the tremendous work of Management and Staff and paid tribute to all Staff across the organisation.

The CE also briefed the board on the closure of schools in the Clare region due to Storm Eunice.

6. Correspondence

Department Correspondence

<u>CL 0001/2022</u> 31 st January, 2022	Re: Teacher Fee Refund Scheme 2021.
<u>CL0002/2022</u> 11th February, 2022	Re: Graduate Certificate in the Education of Pupils on the Autism Spectrum (AS) for teachers working with Pupils on the AS in Special Schools, Special Classes or as Special Education Teachers in mainstream Primary and Post-Primary Schools, 2022/2023.
<u>CL 0003/2022</u> 11th February, 2022	Re: Post-Graduate Diploma Programme of Continuing Professional Development for Special Education Teachers, 2022/2023.
<u>CL 0005/2022</u> 8 th February, 2022	Re: Revision of salaries of certain grades other than Teachers and SNAs employed by ETBs with effect from 1 February 2022.
<u>CL 0006/2022</u> 8 th February, 2022	Re: Revision of salaries with effect from 1 February 2022 for Clerical Officers and Caretakers employed in National Schools under the 1978/79 Scheme and Clerical Officers employed in Post Primary Schools under the 1978 Scheme.
<u>CL 0007/2022</u> 8 th February, 2022	Re: Revision of Salaries of School Secretaries and School Maintenance Staff in Community and Comprehensive Schools with effect from 1 February 2022.

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

Supporting students with Additional Education Needs

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board continues to respond to the need for increased provision and care for students with Additional Education Needs (AEN) and their parents and guardians with the considerable expansion of special classes and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Units over the last two years. Our ETB is aiming to provide a special class or ASD Unit in every school across Limerick and Clare over the next five years. All of our new schools include provision for two ASD Units. Our ETB is working very closely with the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) to improve access to special classes and ASD Units in Limerick and Clare. Special Classes will be available in all of the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board from September 2022.

The Chief Executive expressed his thanks to the Director of Schools for his work in this area.

Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2022

The Department of Education published information regarding changes to the state examinations for 2022.

The clarification provided for takes account of the disruption to teaching and learning experienced by the Leaving Certificate class of 2022 and outlines extensive changes to the written Leaving Certificate 2022 examinations. The overall set of results in 2022 will be no lower than in 2021, ensuring that the class of 2022 will not be disadvantaged. The Junior Cycle examinations will run in June as normal for the first time since 2019.

The decision to make the extensive changes to the examination papers has been taken to provide the Leaving Certificate students of 2022 with certainty and clarity and will provide the fairest pathway to successfully completing their post-primary education and enabling them to progress to further and higher education and training, apprenticeships and the world of work.

Full details of the extensive changes made to the examinations are available on gov.ie/LeavingCertificate and on the SEC website. Schools have been notified also who will communicate this to parents/guardians and students.

Parent Seminars

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Schools Division, in association with Professor Stephen Kinsella (University of Limerick) hosted a Webinar for Leaving Certificate students, parents/guardians, Guidance Counselors and Principals and Deputy Principals to outline the benefits of the newly developed Immersive Software Engineering course on offer at the University of Limerick on Thursday, 27 January 2022.

Professor Kinsella and a panel of speakers provided a brief overview of the entry requirements, the course, and the employment opportunities on completion.

There was also time for questions at the webinar.

Parents Council Training

The Schools Division has created a resource pack of training materials for Parents Councils. This training is available to Parents Council via Zoom and email. Training has been provided to three schools so far and the evaluations of the training have been extremely positive.

ETB Schools Shine at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2022

Several Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board school students who took part in this year's BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition were very successful in achieving a range of prizes at the event.

- Students from Desmond College brought home first place and third place honours at this year's virtual BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition.
- For the second year in a row students at Coláiste Chiaráin claimed the top prize in the Junior Category in the recent virtual BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition.

Supports for Transition Year Students

A series of webinars have been organised for Transition Year students as the TY programme continues to be restricted due to Covid-19. These webinars are accessible to all students whether they are at school or at home (due to Covid-19).

The International Rugby Experience

Mr Barry Hannon, CEO of the International Rugby Experience - a multi-level world-class visitor centre is happy to provide a 40 minute webinar via Zoom to Transition Year students on 15 February at 11.30 am.

Barry will give a presentation on the history of this museum, their plans, details on a competition he wants to run with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board schools and an opportunity for Q&A.

Consular Agency of France in Limerick

Mr. Loic Guyon - Honorary Consul of France will be presenting for 40 minutes to Transition Year students on the relations between France and Ireland and the links that exist for study, exchanges, employment etc.

This will take place on Thursday, 17 February 2022 at 2.00 pm.

This is relevant and of interest to all students regardless of whether they study French or not.

UL Health Sciences & Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Joint Schools Event

The Schools Division of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board has worked closely with the Head of UL Health Sciences and the UL Hospitals Group to organise the Junior Health Sciences Academy 'Early Careers' event which will be held on 1 and 2 March 2022 via Zoom. This is a virtual event, hosted by the Health Sciences Academy together with Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board and Limerick Education Centre, to provide information on careers and programmes of study in health.

The Health Sciences Academy is a partnership between the University of Limerick, UL Hospitals Group and Mid-West Community Healthcare. The Junior Health Sciences Academy is part of this partnership, aiming to support students in early careers, health promotion and leadership in health. We realise that Transition Year students cannot come to hospitals or other clinical settings for work experience. We have created this event to be as informative and interactive as possible, showcasing healthcare as an option for further study and career.

The Junior Health Sciences Academy 'Early Careers' Webinar will be held on 1st and 2nd March 2022, via Zoom.

What will students learn?

Students will hear from healthcare staff who are working in hospital and community settings describing their day, their career journey and advice for anyone interested in pursuing healthcare as a career.

They will also hear from students in University of Limerick who are studying health sciences programmes including -

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Medicine
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Speech and language therapy
- Human nutrition & dietetics
- Occupational therapy
- Psychology
- Paramedic Studies.

University of Limerick staff will also be on hand to give advice on programmes and entry requirements.

There will be guest interviews with local sports stars and students, sharing their experience of healthcare professionals and their journey.

On the event day, there will be opportunities for interaction with speakers through the Q&A function and other interactive tools such as polls etc.

Information is available on <https://www.ul.ie/hsa/upcoming-events>

Board of Management Training

Training for Boards of Management will take place on 28 March 2022 via Zoom.

The evaluations from last year's training were very positive and attendees were very happy with the use of Zoom to deliver the training. Resources from all of the Board of Management training events will be emailed to all members of school Boards of Management.

Principals Meetings

Regular meetings via Zoom have been ongoing with the Principals of our three Community National Schools and our Community Colleges.

Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP)

A meeting of the members of the steering group, the coordinator and Director of Schools took place on 9 February 2022.

The coordinator provide an update and information on the latest projects that the LCYP is offering in Limerick and Clare.

Youthwork

Minister O'Gorman announced consultation on the next national policy framework for children & young people on Thursday 27 January 2022.

The launch of this consultation is seeking the public's views on the next national policy framework for children and young people.

Minister O'Gorman published the final [Annual Report for the 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures \(BOBF\) National Policy Framework for Children and Young People'](#). The next national policy will run from 2023 to 2028 and will build on the successes of previous strategies in improving outcomes for children and young people living in Ireland. It will involve Government Departments working collaboratively with statutory agencies and services, and the community and voluntary sectors to achieve the five national outcomes outlined in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures.

This is the first of a range of consultations that will be carried out in the design and development of this new policy framework and will help identify the key issues for children, young people and their families. It will help to guide further consultations over the development of the new policy.

The Youth Work team is supporting the Limerick Parenting Calendar, January to June 2022.

The purpose of the Limerick Parenting Calendar is to have a schedule of parenting programmes, events and workshops all listed in one place. The Calendar includes parenting programmes, workshops and events only. Programmes for children and young people are not included. All programmes listed fulfill the function of supporting parents in their role as a parent.

The calendar only includes listings that are open for referral (unless otherwise stated). There are a wide range of parenting programmes that are available within services that do not feature here. For a comprehensive list of parenting and family support services, you can download the [Information on Parenting Support in Limerick](#) brochure.

The calendar is divided into the following categories:

- Parent Baby and Toddler Groups. 2
- Breastfeeding Supports. 2
- Antenatal Parenting Programmes. 3
- Parents of 0 – 5 Years. 4
- Parents of 6 – 12 years. 8
- Parents of 13 – 18 years. 10
- Topic-based Parenting Programmes. 13
- Parenting Supports and Workshops. 15

Under each category, the listings are subdivided according to geography:

- East Limerick
- Limerick City
- West Limerick

Go to www.loveparenting.ie for more information and links about children's health and wellbeing, parenting and family support services.

€9 million fund to support community groups impacted by COVID-19

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, announced a €9 million fund to support community groups impacted by COVID-19.

The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility or insurance bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities.

Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and to purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment.

The once-off fund will be allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme and will be administered locally by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

It is noted that the closing date for applications is 22 February and further information is available from Local Community Development Committees.

Creative Technologies Project

The Youth Work Team is supporting Kinia in promoting the Creative Technologies project. There are new training opportunities coming up in February and March in our Creative Technologies project sponsored by Creative Ireland. Each course is facilitated through two online video call sessions set a week apart. Each session will be 2 hours long (4hrs total).

There are 3 training courses available:

- STEAM (Introduction to Circuits and Maker activities)
- Digital Creativity (Introduction to Mobile Filmmaking)
- Computer Science (Creative coding with BBC Microbit)

The available dates and times for each are listed below. All participants will receive a Starter kit to the value of €250 with equipment for use in their work with young people. This kit will be based on the training course that they complete.

The training is available to staff and volunteers working with young people in out of classroom settings (e.g. youth work organisations, school completion programmes, family resource centres, etc.). It would be great if you could circulate this with your network and if you have any people that would be interested in taking on training.

To register and book a place, applicants should use this link: <https://kinia.clr.events/event/131989:creative-technologies-kinia-training>

This is a pilot booking system that we are using so if people experience difficulties with it they can contact me on paulamond@kinia.ie or by phone on 086 1535787.

Training Type: STEAM

Option 1: Weds 16th and Weds 23rd Feb - 10am to 12pm

Option 2: Weds 2nd and Weds 9th Mar - 10am to 12pm

Option 3: Weds 16th and Weds 23rd Mar - 10am - 12pm

Training Type: Digital Creativity - Introduction to Mobile Filmmaking

Option 1: Thurs 17th and Thurs 24th Feb - 10am to 12pm

Option 2: Thurs 3rd and Thurs 10th Mar - 10am to 12pm

Option 3: Thurs 24th and Thurs 31st Mar - 10am to 12pm

Training Type: Computer Science - Introduction to BBC Microbit

Option 1: Fri 18th and Fri 25th Feb - 10am to 12pm

Option 2: Fri 4th and Fri 11th Mar - 10am to 12pm

Option 3: Fri 25th Mar and Fri 1st Apr- 10am to 12pm

Further Education and Training Division (FET)

Full-Time Provision

VTOS

- Tavortafel 'Magic Table' is installed in association with the Kilrush Library both as a Training Resource for VTOS training provision at Kilrush Campus and the wider Community. Tavortafel developed this resource to address needs involving Intellectual Disability, Special Needs, Dementia etc. This project was funded through Active Inclusion Support Service.
- New full-time Level 5 Food Science full award and a new full-time Level 5 Applied Social Studies full award approved for Ennis Campus.
- Scariff Fashion Design and Ennis Graphic Design learners attended LSAD Portfolio Open Day.

Apprenticeships

- All apprenticeship classes are back to maximum capacity at Shannon Campus.
- The emergency provision is to be extended to Toolmaking, Metal Fabrication and Refrigeration.
- A new traineeship e-Bike technician is in the early stages of development.
- Implementation of Apprenticeship Action Plan is continuing and a new National Apprenticeship Office is being formed. There were 8,607 apprentice registrations in 2021. Apprenticeship population is now 24,212 of which 1,535 are female.

Youth Education & Training

- Year 2 learners at Kilrush Campus attended a week long online 'Moving On Seminar' information on the next part of their journey from Youthreach. QQI Level 4 learners completed First Aid Training and QQI Level 3 & 4 learners all completed Manual Handling Training.
- ICT upgrade at Kilmallock Road Campus with new PCs and Interactive Blackboards.
- Training is continuing to embed the work of the Learner Mentor Initiative (LMI).
- IAP's have been put into action with learners registered for evening courses and community activities.
- FAI-ETB Limerick have taken on a digital media and sociology learner from UL. The learner is an aspiring sports journalist and it has been arranged for him to publicise the FAI programme with a fortnightly article in the Limerick Leader.
- Eight learners have been recruited by Treaty United and two of them made their senior debuts v Shamrock Rovers in a pre-season friendly on Saturday, January 29th.

Outdoor Education & Training

- New provision under FARR 2022: Outdoor Education Pathways for TYs, Outdoor Education for FET learners, Community Education Outdoor Education.
- Continuation of LCETB FET Pathways to a career in Outdoor Education programmes for Youth Provision and resumption of full programme of Outdoor Education and Training Service for post-primary and primary schools, including residential programmes post COVID 19.

Music Generation

- A new Introduction to Community Radio Broadcasting Skills is being offered at Scariff Campus in partnership with Music Generation Clare.
- Music Generation Clare have recently partnered with the Streetwise branch of Brothers of Charity in Ennis to provide a new six week bodhrán education programme for young adults with an intellectual disability.

- Three Music Generation Clare musician educators delivering the QQI Level 3 accredited Music Course to Youthreach learners completed Part One of the QA induction on 1st February. They will complete Part 2 of this course in March.
- Two Music Generation Clare musician educators delivering the QQI Level 5 accredited Music Course to adult VTOS learners also completed Part One of the QA induction course on 1st February and will go on to complete both Part 2 and Part 3 of this course in March.

Part-Time Provision

Core Skills

- **Physics Level 3** started in Ennis – first time delivered in Further Education and Training in Clare.

ESOL Clare

- **Cambridge results** received for Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)/English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners across Clare and Limerick – all have been successful in the exams.
- **Cambridge C1 Advanced classes:** First time classes have been offered at this level. This qualification is accepted for entrance to most university courses.
ESOL Literacy Programme Expansion: Dedicated ESOL Literacy room with classes taking place four days a week at two different levels. ESOL cookery class and ESOL IT class available to ESOL literacy learners to address basic skills deficits due to disrupted educational backgrounds.

Community Education and Training

- Staying Connected Programme' in partnership with Carrigoran Wellness Centre shortlisted for Aontas STAR Award 2022. This IT based programme was designed, developed and delivered by CE Clare in an endeavour to combat social isolation and loneliness and to promote positive mental health amongst our most vulnerable older people living in South Clare during the 2021 COVID-19 lockdown.
- Kilrush Boat Building Programme – CE Clare in conjunction with local sailing club Seoil Sionna delivering an inclusive community training project, which involves the building of a St. Ayles Rowing Skiff. This locally based themed programme provides education and training opportunities to the community of West Clare and fora for exploring options around local employment opportunities/mini enterprises in an area, which has been identified as an unemployment blackspot in Co. Clare. Funding for materials received through MAEDF 2020.
- Social Media for Local Business – A programme aimed at small local community and voluntary groups /organisations/businesses who require upskilling on the use of various social media platforms (facebook, tik tok, Instagram, twitter) in an effort to promote their community/service/activity.
 Vocational & Employee Skills Development

Support Services

Information, Recruitment & Guidance Support Service

- IRGSS is delivering a suite of employee workshops to 150 personnel affected by redundancy in Rettig in Newcastle West. The guidance team have provided "information Tuesdays", delivered mock interviews, CV preparation, confidence building, staff development and the pointing and guidance towards traineeships and further and higher education options;
- IRGSS work closely with PAUL Partnership in the identification of information and signposting opportunities for long-term unemployed and those attending LES, Turas and SICAP programmes;
- IRGSS are currently working on delivering guidance provision in the new College of FET, Croom Campus.

Enterprise Engagement

- Following a meeting with the IDA and Regional Skills Forum, Enterprise Engagement set up initial meetings in Rettig for the delivery of information sessions for workers who will be made redundant. EESS tasked the IRGSS with the delivery of the provision;

- EESS has arranged Limerick and Clare ETB contributions to the CIF conference on March 1st. This is an opportunity for Limerick and Clare ETB to work strategically with the construction sector;
- EESS has participated in the strategic development of Level 4 and Level 5 Sustainability modules by SOLAS in response to the Green Action Plan. The modules have been approved by QQI and will be ready for delivery to industry in Quarter 3.

Skills to Advance

- **Retail & Hospitality**
The Skills to Advance team in conjunction with College of FET, Ennis Campus are delivering courses in Conflict Management, Project Management and Supervisory Management to 24 employees in the Retail and Hospitality Sectors to address the skills shortages in this area.
- **Childcare Sector**
The Skills to Advance team engaged with the Childcare Committee in Limerick and Clare, to promote learning provision to employees in the childcare sector. In conjunction with the College of Further Education, Raheen Campus STA are delivering the Early Childhood and Education Level 6 Major award to 40 learners.
- **Rettig**
STA has collaborated with the IRGSS in the delivery of upskilling modules to employees of Rettig in Newcastle West who will be made redundant in 2022. Employees in Retting have registered for the Introduction to Programming using Python.

Active Inclusion

- Coordinated the research and development on the FET Learner Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework and action plan, work on which is now complete and the document is due to go to the Quality Council Meeting on the 2nd of March 2022;
- Coordinated the development of the FET ESOL and Migrant Learner Framework which aims to provide a framework for the development of structures to support the planning and delivery of inclusive, effective teaching, learning and assessment to Migrant Learners who are accessing a wide range of FET courses, including ESOL;

Currently developing a new “Pathways” model to support the engagement of under-represented groups in FET.

For Adoption;

- Finance Report**
Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. Sarah Kiely.
- 2022 Service Plan**
Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating
- Nominations to Mol An Óige Community National School, Ennistymon, Board of Management**

Adopted on the proposal of Mr. Michael Cregan, seconded by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, Ms. Sinead Barrett was nominated as the teacher rep and Ms. Tabitha Halliday as the Parent rep to Mol An Óige Community National School, Ennistymon, Board of Management.

AOB

Cllr. Gabriel Keating and Cllr. Joe Killeen raised the issue of the huge shortage of people in the Hospitality sector and the need for apprenticeships in this area. The Director of FET explained that the issue is not with the number of places and the availability of training but with attracting people into this sector.

Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald explained that the Hospitality industry is vulnerable at the moment but that we are blessed to have the ETB structure in place. There is an ongoing campaign working with TY students and Adults to get people to choose this sector for training and employment.

The Chairperson congratulated Elaina on her leadership in this area.

The Director of FET on foot of a query from Cllr. Gabriel Keating advised him that all courses are running at full capacity. He also explained that SOLAS were collaborating with industry and enterprise to ascertain their training requirements.

The Board was also advised of a course being run by the Burren Outdoor Education Centre called Kayaking for Dads which has been undertaken by members of the Traveller community. This has resulted in other members of the traveller community taking up further education in the ETB.

Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy asked about a tour of the Ennis campus at some future date.

The Chairperson also raised the issue of having person-to-person meetings or a mix of hybrid meetings in the future.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 29th March, 2022 at 4 p.m.

George O'Callaghan
Chief Executive.

Signed:


Chairperson of Meeting held on 29th March, 2022.