



A meeting of Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board was held on Monday 28 February 2022 at 4:30pm via Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT

Cllr Robert McDermott (Chairperson)
 Cllr John Carroll
 Ms Mary Cotter-Bracken
 Cllr Clare Claffey
 Mr Shane Flesk
 Mr John Mollin
 Ms Maura Brophy
 Cllr Frank Moran

Ms Evelyn Dunne
 Mr Frank Smith
 Mr Niall Tully
 Ms Molly Buckley
 Mr Dave Cullen

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Joe Cunningham, Chief Executive
 Ms Marie Bracken, Director OSD
 Mr Rory Connolly, Corporate Services,
 Ms Rebecca Preston, Corporate Services

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairperson welcomed all Board members present and introduced Ciaran Hayes from CARO (Climate Action Regional Office). The Chair gave an insight into Ciaran’s experience to Board members. A warm welcome was extended to Ciaran and he brought Board members through his presentation. A discussion took place afterwards. All agreed that Climate Action will be a strong focus in our forthcoming Statement of Strategy 2023–2027.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Eddie Fitzpatrick and Neil Feighery.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS LOETB MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, which took place on 24 January 2022, were circulated to members. Members approved the minutes and they were signed by the Chairperson along with the previously approved minutes from 22 November 2021.

Proposed: Molly Buckley
 Seconded: Evelyn Dunne

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4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. GOVERNANCE

Risk Management

Marie Bracken, Director of OSD, informed members that the Risk Register was brought to the Audit and Risk meeting earlier that day and members recommended updates to the Board.

Conflict of Interest

As per Schedule 3, Paragraph 10, Section 3 of the (ETB) Act 2013 and the Agenda Notice, no conflicts of interest were declared.

6. Service Plan

The CE brought members through the Statement of Services section of the Service Plan 2022 and Marie Bracken discussed the Receipts and Expenditure sections. Marie informed Board members that the Service Plan was recommended for approval by the Board at the Finance Committee meeting earlier that day.

The Service Plan for 2022 was approved by the Board:
Proposed: Frank Moran
Seconded: John Carroll

7. Organisation Structure/Chart

The CE brought members through the Organisation Structure/Chart of Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board by way of an information update to the Board.

8. Oaklands Pitch Valuation

The CE informed members that a playing pitch is not part of the overall development plans for the new building project for Oaklands Community College. Development of a pitch at the site will require significant additional funding due to the ground conditions. The DoE asked that LOETB submit a proposal regarding the need for a playing pitch and a plan for funding same. The CE informed members that the existing school pitch across the road for the current school site could be offered for sale and that the proceeds could be put towards the new pitch development. A valuation of the existing pitch was carried out and based on current zoning could yield c. €850,000. Disposal of the site requires Board and DoE approval.

Members discussed this proposal in detail and agreed to the sale of the site.
Proposed: John Carroll

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Seconded: Frank Moran

9. Update on LSU Building

The CE informed members that Mollen Auctioneers had received a formal bid for the LSU Building, in the amount of €100,000, together with proof of funds. Previously, the site had progressed to sale agreed but the prospective purchaser subsequently withdrew their offer. The current offer is in line with the valuation previously carried out on the site. The members discussed options regarding the LSU Building and agreed that the sale of same should proceed given the amount of funding that would be required for any community or education use.

Proposed: Clare Claffey
 Seconded: John Carroll

10. Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG)

- Audit 2020 Report – Marie Bracken discussed the report with members. Denis Cromie from C&AG will be asked to attend an in-person meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee.
- Audit 2020 Management Letter – There was one finding from the Audit which has a rating of low and relates to the payroll shared service operated by ESBS. LOETB will raise the query with DoE as requested.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Item No	Correspondence From	Date / Ref No.	Details	Comments
1.	Department of Education	CL0001.22	Teacher Fee Refund Scheme 2021	Noted by Members
2.	Department of Education	CL0002.22	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	Noted by Members
3.	Department of Education	CL0003.22	Post-Graduate Diploma Programme of Continuing Professional Development for Special – Education Teachers, 2022/2023	Noted by Members
4.	Department of Education	CL0005.22	Revision of salaries of certain grades other than Teachers and SNAs employed by ETBs with effect from 1 February 2022	Noted by Members
5.	Department of Education	CL0008.22	New Public Holiday 2022	Noted by Members

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13/576.000

12. Performance Development Scholarship

The CE informed members of a proposal for LOETB to establish a Performance Development Scholarship (PDS) to support students progressing to recognized further and higher education institutions. The draft PDS terms and conditions were provided to members for consideration. The scholarships, which would be provided annually, would consist of 10 one-off payments of €1,000 each to successful applicants. This would be paid at the end of the first year on the successful completion of course examinations. The CE informed members that the proposal would require sanction by the Minister of Education further to Board approval.

The members discussed the proposal and agreed to establish the scholarship:

Proposed: Frank Moran
 Seconded: Mary Cotter Bracken

The CE will seek approval from the Minister of Education.

13. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

The following minutes of the Committees of the Board were circulated to members prior to the meeting for noting.

- Ard Scoil Chiarain Naofa 9 November 2021
- Portlaoise College 6 December 2021
- Portlaoise College 17 November 2021
- St Fergal's College 13 October 2021
- St Fergal's College 16 June 2021
- Dunamase College 17 January 2022
- Dunamase College 20 January 2022

14. FEEDBACK ON THE BOARD EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION

The results of the Board effectiveness evaluation were discussed. Members were asked to advise the Chairperson if there was any training that they require on any aspect of Board operations.

15. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

A vote of sympathy was passed to:

- To Caroline Groome, teacher in Oaklands, on the passing of her brother-in-law

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- To Jessica O'Brien, teacher in St Fergals, on the passing of her cousin
- To Fergal Leonard, teacher in St Fergals, on the passing of his cousin
- To Patrick Hamm, teacher in Portlaoise College, on the passing of his grandmother
- To Elizabeth Kinahan, acting Principal in Banagher College, and Marie Kinahan, teacher in Tullamore FET Centre on the passing of their father
- To Frank Walsh, head of Corporate Services, on the passing of his father-in-law
- To Siobhan Cooke, teacher Midlands Prison Education Unit, on the passing of her father
- To Trevor Brady, teacher in Midlands Prison Education Unit, on the passing of his mother
- To Leslie Buckley, Ard Scoil Chiarain Naofa, on the passing of her father
- To Christine Lawlor, teacher in Portlaoise College, on the passing of her uncle
- To Mel Doyle, Electrical Instructor Midland Skills Centre, on the passing of her father-in-law
- To Jessica Mullen, Professional Learning and Development Coordinator, on the passing of her uncle

16. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

A vote of congratulations was passed to:

- Coláiste Naomh Cormac on being in the Leinster final last week
- Dunamase College second year students on winning the South Leinster D final and winning the first silverware for the school
- St Fergal's College – on winning the Leinster semi final

17. AOB

- No items were discussed under AOB.

18. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT LOETB MEETING

The next meeting of the LOETB Board will take place on 28 March 2022 in Tullamore Court Hotel.

Signed: Robert de Permytt

Date: 29/3/22

Chairperson

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