



wwetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman
*Waterford and Wexford
Education and Training Board*

Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board

MINUTES

Of meeting held May 13th, 2025

Held at Wexford College of Further Education and Training, Y35 XR22

Tuesday 13th May at 4.00p.m.

Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB)

Minutes of Meeting held 13th May at 4.00p.m.

Board Members in attendance: Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan Chairperson, Cllr. Jim Codd, Cllr. Mary Farrell, Cllr. Blaise Hannigan, Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh, Cllr. Darragh McDonald, Cllr. Donnchadh Mulcahy, Cllr. Bridín Murphy, Cllr. John O'Leary, Cllr. John Pratt, Mr. Garrett Hickey, Mr. Pat Rath, Ms. Kate Miskella, Dr. Mary Meade, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr. Niall Finn, Ms. Foluke Adewumi.

Also in attendance: Dr. Karina Daly, Chief Executive (CE), Ms. Eimear Ryan (Director of Schools), Mr. Fintan O'Reilly, Corporate Services (CS) Manager, Dr. Lindsay Malone, (Director of Further Education and Training), Mr. Cathal Cremer, Finance Manager, Mr. Alan Quirke, (Director of Organisation Support and Development), Mr. Michael O'Brien, (Director of Organisation Support & Development)

Apologies: Cllr. Aidan Browne, Cllr. Michael Sheehan, Ms. Janine Flynn.

130525.01 APOLOGIES

Apologies as listed above were noted and included.

130525.02 CONDOLENCES

The Kelleher family, on the passing of their mother Ms. Catherine Kelleher wife of Mr. Donal Kelleher former CEO of Co. Waterford VEC.

Ms. Marie Esmonde, Services to Business, on the passing of her father Mr. Seámus Esmonde.

Ms. Bridie Lavery, Cleaning Services Ozanam Street, on the sudden passing of her husband Mr. Philip Lavery.

Ms. Susan Neville, Wexford BTEI Co-Ordinator, on the passing of her mother Ms. Emily Mary Power.

Mr. Jim Power, Apprenticeship Instructor, Waterford College of Further Education on the passing of his mother Ms. Ena Power.

The Doyle family on the passing of their Mother Cllr. Josephine Doyle, Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford who formerly served on the V.E.C.

130525.03 CONGRATULATIONS

Courtown Training Initiative for winning the ETBI Excellence Award for Further Education and Training.

WWETB on achieving the IBEC KeepWell Mark accreditation

WWETB for winning the award for Best Use of Educational Technology / ICT Initiative at the national Education Awards for the Virtual Hospital Room initiative.

Enniscorthy Youthreach who won first place in the St. Patrick's Mental Health Association "Frame of Mind" short film competition

130525.04 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Conflict of interest declaration forms were issued to the Board for completion and return *{to fulfil requirements as set out in CL0083/2024 Code of Practice for the Governance of Education and Training Boards}*. No conflicts of interest were declared.

130525.05 MINUTES

The minutes of the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) meeting held on 25th March 2025 were adopted.

Proposed Cllr. Blaise Hannigan; Seconded Mr. Garrett Hickey.

130525.06 PRESENTATION – MR. PAUL GLYNN - SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY

Mr. Paul Glynn, Principal of Creagh College, gave a presentation to the Board during which he provided an overview of the Schools of Sanctuary programme. He explained that a School of Sanctuary is a school that is committed to creating a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment that benefits everybody, especially families seeking sanctuary. It is a school that helps its students, staff, parents and the wider community to understand what it means to be a refugee and to extend a welcome to everyone regardless of their immigration status. Schools of Sanctuary is not a project, nor a short-term school initiative. It is a culture that schools achieve over time to ensure everyone feels welcomed, safe and included in the school and beyond.

Information was requested on any programmes in place that are developed to raise awareness and promote a greater understanding of the Travelling community's cultural diversity. Eimear Ryan, Director of schools said that a number of schools are working on the yellow flag programme which is developed and pioneered by the Irish Traveller Movement to promote a greater understanding and valuing of cultural diversity within school communities. It was agreed to revert at the next Board meeting on the number of schools working toward attaining the yellow flag.

Cllr Mary Farrell as Chair of the Board of Management at Creagh College commended Mr. Glynn and the wider school community on the hard work and achievements in ensuring a place of inclusion and safety for all.

Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan (Chairperson) on behalf of the Board thanked Mr. Glynn for his presentation and acknowledged the excellent work being done by him and his team. Cllr O'Sullivan on behalf of the Board also wished Mr. Glynn well in his forthcoming retirement.

130525.07 FINANCE

Mr. Cathal Cremer provided an update of the Finance Report for spend to date in comparison to the approved Service Plan. He advised there is currently a deficit between the Solas budget allocation and the approved service plan, and this will continue to be monitored.

Dr Karina Daly advised that she is confident the WWETB will be able to bridge some of the deficit and will continue to work closely with Solas on the matter. An update will be provided at the next Board meeting on 24th June, 2025.

The Finance Report was approved.

Proposed Cllr. John Pratt; Seconded Mr. Niall Finn.

130525.08 CORRESPONDENCE

Michael O'Brien advised that correspondence had been received regarding the alteration of the name and title of the Department and Minister to the Department of Education and Youth, and Minister of Education and Youth, effective from 2nd May 2025.

130525.09 GOVERNANCE

- (a) **Risk Management:** The risk report and risk register as circulated were approved.
Proposed Cllr. Mary Farrell; Seconded Ms. Kate Miskella.

(b) **Approval/ Renewal of Leases:**

Kilmacthomas Training Centre; on foot of a 10-year review of lease the baseline rental was increased by 18% as agreed in the original lease.

Meánscoil San Nioclás; on foot of approved planning permission, WWETB proposes to move forward with the purchase of a site to facilitate an extension of facilities at Meánscoil San Nioclás, sanction for this purchase received Board approval in 2018. This will allow for a fit out that will provide an additional 3 classrooms, an office and toilets.

Coláiste an Átha roof repairs; following a request for tender it was noted that the preferred bidder withdrew. The Department has been made aware and WWETB are hopeful of moving to the second bidder. Dr Karina Daly advised that there are currently funding delays on all projects.

The Board was updated on works to commence to further develop outdoor education facilities at Forth Mountain. Wexford County Council will construct a new boathouse and jetty for WWETB's outdoor education provision for water-based education and training activities as current facilities are not of sufficient standard for increased use. The indicative annual rent is in the range of €46,000 to €53,000 per year over a ten-year period or €33,000 to €38,000 per year over a 15-year period. WWETB will engage further with Wexford Co. Council on a rental agreement over a 10-to-15-year term.

Proposed by Cllr Jim Codd; seconded by Mr. Pat Rath and approved.

(c) **Nominations to the Board of Management**

The meeting was advised that Cllr Bridín Murphy had advised that unfortunately she was not in a position to accept the nomination to the Board of Management of Coláiste Abbáin.

- (i) Coláiste Abbáin: T.J. McDonald.
- (ii) Gorey Hill School: Mary Nolan.
- (iii) Meánscoil san Nioclás: Pádraig Ó Murchadha.

Proposed Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh; Seconded Cllr. Mary Farrell.

- (d) **Youthreach Board of Management – Draft Terms of Reference**
Adopted.

Proposed Mr. Niall Finn; Seconded Cllr. Mary Farrell.

130525.10 POLICIES

The following policies were noted by the Board.

- (i) Anti-Virus & Malware Policy
- (ii) ICT Change Management Policy
- (iii) Data Encryption Policy
- (iv) Password Policy

130525.11 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

The Chief Executives report as circulated was noted by the Board.

130525.12 BOARD/ COMMITTEE REPORTS (including Draft Reports)

The following reports (including draft reports) were noted by the Board.

- (a) Finance Committee – March Board Report
- (b) Dungarvan College – Coláiste Dhún Garbhán Meeting Minutes 10/04/25 Draft
- (c) Coláiste Abbáin Meeting Minutes 7/04/25 Draft
- (d) St. Paul's Community College Meeting Minutes 8/04/25 Draft
- (e) Creagh College Meeting Minutes 20/03/25 Draft
- (f) Creagh College Meeting Minutes 23/01/25
- (g) Waterford College of Further Education Minutes 9/04/25

130525.13 CIRCULAR LETTERS: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

{available: <https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/>}

Proposed Cllr. Mary Farrell; Seconded Dr Mary Meade

- (a) **0024/ 2025:** Criteria for Enrolment in Special Classes for Children with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) or Speech Sound Disorder.
- (b) **0023/2025:** Review of Enrolment in a Special Class
- (c) **0025/ 2025:** Information in relation to Standardised Testing and Other Matters – Academic Year 2024/25 and Subsequent Years
- (d) **0029/2025:** Multi-Annual Climate Action Summer Works Scheme (CASWS) 2026 onwards
- (e) **0028/ 2025:** Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate 2027 and Notification about the removal of restrictions on students studying Combinations of Classical Studies, Latin and Ancient Greek
- (f) **0031/2025:** Say Yes to Languages primary languages sampler module
- (g) **0027/ 2025:** Allocation of Assistant Principal Posts 2025/ 2026
- (h) **0026/ 2025:** Allocation of Assistant Principal Posts 2025/ 2026 (Post Primary)
- (i) **0030/2025:** Cost Limits for Primary and Post-primary School buildings.
- (j) **0031/2025:** Say Yes to Languages primary languages sampler module
- (k) **0027/2025:** Allocation of Assistant Principal Posts 2025/ 26
- (l) **0026/2025:** Allocation of Assistant Principal Posts (Post Primary)
- (m) **0030/ 2025:** Cost Limits for Primary and Post-Primary School Buildings

- (n) **0033/ 2025:** Update to the capturing/ entry of pupil ethnicity to the Primary Online Data (POD) and the Post-Primary Online Database (PPOD)

130525.14 PRESS RELEASES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

{available: <https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/>}

The following press releases were noted by the Board.

- (a) Minister for Education Helen McEntee announces €100,000 in music education grants
- (b) Ministers McEntee and Murnane O'Connor launch the Skip around Europe challenge
- (c) Minister McEntee and Minister Moynihan mark World Autism Awareness Day.
- (d) Minister McEntee launches Neart, the new programme of wellbeing and mental health supports in post-primary schools
- (e) Ministers explore opportunities to further enhance cooperation during visit to Middletown Centre for Autism
- (f) Minister McEntee encourages post-primary schools to apply for School of Excellence in Creativity Award programme
- (g) Minister McEntee confirms that from September nearly 1 million students will benefit from free schoolbooks
- (h) Winners of the Education for Sustainable Development Art Competition for Schools announced
- (i) Minister McEntee and Minister Moynihan announce 399 new special classes for 2025/26 School Year
- (j) Minister McEntee announces new policy measures to boost Teacher supply, including permanent contracts after one year.
- (k) Minister McEntee announces changes to Junior Cycle grade Bands
- (l) Minister Helen McEntee and Michael Moynihan announce New Special Needs Assistants Redeployment Scheme
- (m) Ministers McEntee and Moynihan welcome the opening of registration for the SNA Certificate in Inclusive Support and Care in Education by ATU, St. Angela's College
- (n) Minister McEntee announces a second year of the Physical Activity in Teaching and Learning Pilot Programme
- (o) Annual Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Forum held in Dublin Castle
- (p) Minister McEntee announces new upskilling programmes for post- primary teachers in Computer Science, French and Politics & Society

PRESS RELEASES: DEPARTMENT OF FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

{available: https://www.gov.ie/en/search/?type=press_releases&organisation=department-of-higher-education-innovation-and-science}

- (a) Minister Lawless meets Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during first ministerial visit to the state.
- (b) Minister Lawless announces €17.7 million research Infrastructure investment.
- (c) Minister Lawless engages with students and Stakeholders on reducing the cost of education.
- (d) Minister Lawless announces significant expansion of the student grant schemes to take effect from the new academic year

- (e) Minister Lawless: "Ireland will lead with talent, Science and skills in response to global trade disruption
- (f) Ministers Lawless and McEntee announce €6.5 Million funding for 40 initiatives to inspire STEM Public engagement
- (g) Minister Lawless announces major expansion in Aircraft mechanic apprenticeship places
- (h) Over €2.8 million announced by Minister Lawless to promote inclusive higher education environments
- (i) Minister Lawless launches results of latest National Employer Survey
- (k) Minister Lawless attending events to mark Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement
- (l) Minister Lawless congratulates Armagh Observatory Birr Castle Demesne and Dunsink Observatory in Joining Ireland's UNESCO Tentative list
- (m) Minister Lawless to address the Teacher's Union of Ireland Annual Congress 2025
- (n) Minister Lawless addresses TUI Annual Congress
- (o) Minister Lawless announces findings from the National Survey of Apprentices 2024 – 2025
- (p) Minister Lawless welcomes discussions at Government Trade Forum
- (q) Minister Lawless obtains Government approval to Amend National Training Fund act, unlocking Funding package of €1.5 billion
- (r) Minister Lawless meets Ibec to discuss skills and Innovation in face of global uncertainty
- (s) Minister Lawless officially opens the new Áras Geal Building in Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin), Blanchardstown Campus
- (t) Minister Lawless welcomes Project Appointments for new Library and Learning Centre at Mary Immaculate College Limerick

130525.15 A.O.B.

- Cllr Mary Farrell asked why parking is generally not available for students at schools. It was advised that available space at schools varies from place to place. Currently there is no provision for student parking, only staff parking. This is something that needs to be quantified to establish a broader understanding of the issue. It will be raised at the Principals meeting.
- An area meeting will be arranged before the next Board meeting where it is also proposed that student parking can be addressed.

250325.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting concluded. Next meeting date is Tuesday 24th June 2025 at 4.00pm, Waterford Training Centre, Y35 RC82.

Signed: Lola O'Sullivan

Date: 24th June, 2025

Documents circulated:

Agenda: meeting of 13/05/25
 Minutes of WWETB meeting held 25th March 2025
 Conflict of Interest Declaration Forms
 Risk Register / Risk Report
 Terms of Reference for Youthreach Board of Management
 Policies – Anti-Virus & Malware Policy
 ICT Change Management Policy
 Data Encryption Policy
 Password Policy

Chief Executives Report
Finance Committee March Board Report