



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 12th, 2026

Held at the Brandon House Hotel, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

Tuesday 12th May at 3.00p.m.

Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) *Minutes of Meeting held 12 May at 3.00p.m.*

Board Members in attendance: *Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan Chairperson, Cllr. Jim Codd, Cllr. Blaise Hannigan, Cllr. John Pratt, Cllr. John O'Leary, Mr. Pat Rath, Cllr. Mary Farrell, Cllr. Michael Sheehan, Dr Mary Meade, Mr. Niall Finn, Ms. Foluke Adewumi, Cllr. Patricia Byrne, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr. Garrett Hickey, Ms. Kate Miskella, Ms. Janine Flynn, and Ms. Margaret Darrer Laura.*

Also in attendance: *Dr. Karina Daly, Chief Executive (CE), Mr. Michael O'Brien, (Director of Organisation Support & Development), Ms. Eimear Ryan (Director of Schools), Mr. Mark Devereux (Director of Organisation Support & Development), Mr. Fintan O'Reilly, Corporate Services (CS) Manager and Ms Kate Organ.*

Apologies: *Ms. Caitriona Cullen (Director of Further Education and Training), Cllr Paddy Kavanagh, Cllr. Donnchadh Mulcahy and Cllr. Aidan Browne.*

120526.01 APOLOGIES

Apologies as listed above were noted and included.

In accordance with the recently amended standing orders, Cllr Lola O'Sullivan (Chair) asked all members attending remotely to confirm:-

- Cameras would be kept on for the duration of the meeting.
- That they could see and hear the meeting.
- That there were no other persons present.
- That they were not recording the meeting or using any AI enabled functionality or technology.

120526.02 CONDOLENCES

Fabian Flood, teacher in WCFE, on the passing of his brother Kenneth Flood.

John Connolly, Principal Selskar College, on the passing of his mother, Ann Connolly.

The family of Janine Fay (Cummins), retired teacher, Dungarvan College.

The family of Michael (Mick) Farrell, retired teacher, Selskar College.

Vickie Dunne, BTEI Tutor, on the passing of her mother, Maura Dunne.

The family of Volodymyr Serheiev, student at Enniscorthy Community College.

Ann Marie McCormack, teacher at Coláiste an Átha, on the passing of her mother, Margaret McCormack.

The family of Jack Egan, student apprentice, Wexford Training Centre.

Margaret Howard, learner support, Tramore, on the passing of her mother, Ann Howard.

120526.03 CONGRATULATIONS

Lorraine Redmond, Human Resources, Ardcavan on the recent birth of her baby boy.

WWETB Staff Inter-Firm team on winning the Inter-Firms All-Ireland Senior Hurling title after beating Tirlán 3-18 to 1-13

120526.04 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 conflict of interest was declared.

120526.05 MINUTES

The minutes of the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) meeting held on 24th March 2026 were adopted.

Proposed Cllr. John Pratt; **Seconded** Cllr Patricia Byrne.

120526.06 FINANCE

(a) Finance Update

Ms. Kate Organ provided a financial update to the Board. She confirmed with a third of the year now completed, expenditure across the main funding bodies is broadly in line with expected figures. Schools (Main Scheme) have spent 34% of their budgeted allocation for the year and FET (SOLAS funded) has spent 33%. Capital expenditure is expected to increase over the next couple of months with the commencement of some larger capital projects, St. Catherine's being the main contributor. The C&AG presented to the Audit and Risk committee on the 29th of April meeting and informed the committee that the audit field work is due to commence in June this year. Ms. Organ confirmed that in terms of procurement, the SMIS system is progressing well in schools, data has moved over and schools will go live with the new provider Tyro in May 2026.

(b) Service Plan 2026

Mr. Michael O'Brien advised Board members that the Department of Education and Youth requested an amendment to the service plan that includes two additional actions. This followed a request from the School Completion Team in relation to ETBI and ETB's working in collaboration with the Department and TESS to support the establishment of a new employment framework for the SCP workforce. Mr. O'Brien confirmed there are 7 SCP's in WWETB's are a (2 in Waterford and 5 in Wexford). The second action followed a request that related to garda vetting from the Child Protection Unit who sought assurance that appropriate procedures for child protection and safeguard are in place in line with the Child Protection Procedures for Schools, 2025. Mr. O'Brien confirmed that all schools have until the end of 2026 to implement these changes and WWETB are on track to meet this deadline. The board approved the updated actions.

Mr. Pat Rath raised the issue of the levels of absenteeism and how this is monitored and reported within schools. Cllr. Blaise Hannigan advised that some schools provide their Boards of Management with reports on absenteeism every quarter as well as annually. Ms. Eimear Ryan, Director of School confirmed she would write to all Principals and request that an update on absenteeism is included on the agenda of all board of management school meetings. She will also raise the matter at the next Principals meeting.

Proposed: Cllr John O'Leary; **Seconded:** Cllr. Mary Farrell.

120526.07 PRESENTATION

Mr. Ian O'Gorman, Climate and Sustainability, Assistant Principal Officer gave a presentation to members outlining how WWETB plans to achieve its 2030 energy efficiency improvement targets. He outlined a range of ongoing initiatives across WWETB schools and centers aimed at reducing CO2 emissions. He also highlighted key risks and challenges, in particular potential proposals by DFHERIS and SOLAS relating to integrated building energy performance and energy usage. Under these proposals, the sanctioning of new and renewed lease agreements could require all ETB properties to

achieve a BER rating of A3 beyond 2030. This may result in WWETB being required to vacate certain premises without suitable alternative accommodation options being available.

Mr. O’Gorman also advised that a tender process is underway for the installation of smart metering and noted that WWETB have access to SOLAS devolved funding that can only be used for green related projects.

There was a discussion around shared electricity, smart meters, the age of some existing buildings as well as a spike in energy in one school on Christmas Day. Cllr Michael Sheehan asked if what was presented reflected the full list of schools. Mr. O’Gorman clarified it was the top ten and said he would provide a full list to the Board after today’s meeting.

The Chair of the Board, Cllr Lola O’Sullivan, thanked Mr. O’Gorman for his informative presentation and indicated she would welcome the opportunity to invite him to a future Board meeting next year for a further update.

120526.08 CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Michael O’Brien advised board members that Cllr Bridín Murphy had made contact to say she intended to resign from the Board; however, no correspondence has issued from Wexford County Council. Mr. O’Brien will follow up with the Council.

120526.09 GOVERNANCE

(a) Risk Management

Mr. Michael O’Brien, updated members on the OSD risk register (previously the corporate risk register), noting that OSD specific risks have been extracted and ICT risks transferred to the ISMS risk register. Three new risks were identified. These included delays in sanctioning replacement posts, staff and student safety risks arising from the employment of staff without garda vetting and the potential unavailability of suitable buildings for FET delivery due to energy-efficiency requirements. A further risk relating to an increased cyber-security threat during Ireland’s Presidency of the Council of the EU (July-December 2026) was currently being developed and would be included in the risk register.

Mr. O’Brien advised that the Audit and Risk Committee received an update on the risk register at its meeting on the 29th of April. He noted that he will revert to a future board meeting with an update on the risk register for schools and Further Education and Training (FET). Mr. Richard Hayes, SETU, welcomed the inclusion of a cyber security risk noting the increasing sophistication of emerging threats.

(b) Approval/Renewal of Leases

Mr. Fintan O’Reilly, Corporate Services Manager, updated members on the renewal of a lease at Gonzaga House, 23 Weafer Street, Enniscorthy Further Education and Training Centre, Co. Wexford. He advised that the property had been rented for the last 10 years and the current lease is up for renewal in November 2026. WWETB proposes to relinquish a section of the lease that includes one additional room on the premises and renew for a 5-year term with a break clause after 3 years. Mr. O’Reilly also advised members of an 11.5% rent increase on the property. Renewal of the lease and rent increase was approved.

Proposed Mr. Path Rath; **Seconded** Ms. Barbara Darrer Laura

(c) Nominations to Board of Management

- (i) Kennedy College – Board of management nominee
Ms. Aoife Crowe

Proposed Cllr Michael Sheehan; **Seconded** Cllr. Jim Codd

(d) Presentation on Committees

Following a request from Cllr Michael Sheehan at the 24th of March, Board meeting, Mr. Michael O'Brien gave a presentation and high-level overview of WWETB committees and their current membership. Board members were asked to consider if they were aware of any candidates, that may be suitable to sit on Board committees.

(e) Scholarship – Bridgetown College

The Chief Executives report prepared under Section 24(4)(a) of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013 in connection with the proposed establishment of a scholarship scheme at Bridgetown College was considered and approved.

Proposed Dr Mary Meade; **Seconded** Cllr. Michael Sheehan

120526.10 POLICIES

The following policies were noted by the Board.

- a) Security Login and Monitoring Policy
- b) Internet Safety Policy (Rev. 2)
- c) Blended Remote Working Policy (Rev. 2)
- d) Cyber Security Policy
- e) Remote Access Policy
- f) Removable Media Policy
- g) Retirement Policy (Rev. 2)
- h) Vulnerability and Patch Management Policy
- i) Security Training Policy

120526.11 COMMITTEE REPORTS / MINUTES TO BOARD

The following committee reports and minutes were noted by the Board.

- (a) Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting of 11th February 2026.

Committee minutes were noted by the board.

120526.12 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT #2

The Chief Executives report as circulated was brought to the board's attention with a number of key highlights discussed at the meeting. Ms. Eimear Ryan provided an update to members regarding the Department of Education and Youths request for assistance in the provision of special school places. There was some discussion regarding proposed modular expansion of Gorey Hill School and the potential impact on existing greenspace currently used by Gaelscoil students. Ms. Ryan confirmed she has engaged with both the patron body and the Principal of the Gaelscoil regarding the concerns raised. At present, Gorey Hill provides special education

and support to 37 students and is the first special school internationally to be recognised as a Champion School of Sanctuary. There are currently 10 children on the waiting list. Mr. Pat Rath in his capacity as Chair of the Board of Management at Gorey Hill, emphasized the significant level of need and commended the exceptional work being carried out by the school. He noted that the school plays a vital role in providing children with meaningful opportunities to reach their full potential.

Mr. Michael O'Brien provided an on plans underway for development of a tertiary campus at Ballynagee, Wexford. He advised that WWETB are continuing to work with SETU on a business case submission that will be submitted by July. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been agreed with SETU. Further updates on developments will be provided at future board meetings.

120526.13 BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING MINUTES

- (a) Bridgetown Community College BoM Minutes 04.02.26
- (b) Bridgetown Community College BoM Minutes 25.03.26 - Draft
- (c) Creagh College BoM Minutes 22.01.26
- (d) Creagh College BoM Minutes 19.03.26 - Draft
- (e) Bunclody Community College BoM Minutes 05.03.26
- (f) Kilnamanagh CNS BoM Minutes 15.01.26 & 30.01.26
- (g) Selskar College BoM Minutes 03.03.26
- (h) Coláiste Abbáin BoM Minutes 21.01.26
- (i) Kennedy College BoM Minutes 14.04.26 - Draft
- (j) St. Pauls Community College BoM Minutes 10.02.26
- (k) St. Pauls Community College BoM Minutes 16.04.26 - Draft
- (l) Coláiste An Átha BoM Minutes 23.02.26 - Draft
- (m) Selskar College BoM Minutes – 21.04.26 - Draft
- (n) Enniscorthy CC BoM Minutes 25.02.26
- (o) Enniscorthy CC BoM Minutes 22.04.26 - Draft
- (p) WCFE BoM Minutes 23.04.26 – Draft

Board of management minutes of meetings were noted by the Board.

120526.14 CIRCULAR LETTERS: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION and YOUTH

{available:

- a) **0011/2026:** The Special Education Teacher (SET) allocation for 2026/27 school year (Primary).
- b) **0012/2026:** The Special Education Teacher (SET) allocation for 2026/27 school year (Post-primary).
- c) **0013/2026:** Co-ordination hours to support schools with planning and co-ordination of the Special Education Teaching supports.
- d) **0015/2026:** Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme: Continued Implementation of the Scheme (2026/27) in Primary Schools and Special Schools
- e) **0016/2026:** Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme: Continued Implementation of the Scheme (2026/27) in Post-Primary Schools.
- f) **0025/2026:** Staffing arrangements in Primary Schools for the 2026/27 school year.
- g) **0026/2026:** Staffing arrangements in Voluntary Secondary schools for 2026/27 school year.
- h) **0027/2026:** Staffing Arrangements in Community and Comprehensive Schools for the 2026/27 school.

- i) **0028/2026:** Staffing Arrangements in Education and Training boards for the 2026/27 school year.
- j) **0029/2026:** Revision of Ancillary Services Grant rates for Recognised Primary and Special Schools in the Free Education Scheme.
- k) **0030/2026:** Revision of Schools Services Support Fund Grant Rates for Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme.
- l) **0034/2026:** Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma of Teacher Professional Learning for Teachers working with Students with Special Educational Needs – Autism.
- m) **0035/2026:** Say Yes to Languages primary languages sampler module.
- n) **0036/2026:** Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate Examinations in 2028 and a reminder about the removal of restrictions on students studying combinations of Classical Studies, Latin and Ancient Greek.
- o) **0037/2026:** Senior Cycle Redevelopment (SCR) Implementation Support Measures – Senior Cycle Co-Ordinator
- p) **0038/2026:** Senior Cycle Redevelopment (SCR) Implementation Support Measures – SC Level 1 and Level 2 Programmes Co-Ordinator
- q) **0041/2026:** Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate Irish Examination in June 2027 and June 2028.
- r) **0042/2026:** Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations – Update on Training and Monitoring and Oversight arrangements.
- s) **0043/2026:** Joint Data Controller Arrangement Between Department of Education & Youth and Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teaching Staff of Post-Primary Schools, Special Schools and Chief Executives of ETBs.
- t) **0045/2026:** DESI Plus scheme: appeal process.
- u) **0048/2026:** Information in relation to Standardised Testing and Other Matters – Academic Year 2025/26 and Subsequent Years.
- v) **0050/2026:** Implementing the Action Plan for Irish in English-Medium Schools, Post-Primary
- w) **0051/2026:** Implementing the Action Plan for Irish in English-Medium Schools, Primary

Mr. Michael O'Brien brought the Boards attention to Circulars 0037/2026 and 0038/2026 He advised that WWETB is at times finding it difficult to create interview panels and asked Board members to make themselves available if possible.

120526.15 PRESS RELEASES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION and YOUTH

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

- a) Minister for Education and Youth Hildegard Naughton announces €100,000 in music education grants.
- b) Ministers Naughton and Moynihan welcome publication of assessment guidelines for Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes at Senior Cycle.
- c) Significant milestone for future of Ireland's education system as first meeting of the Convention on Education takes place.
- d) Minister Naughton announces €48 million investment in new DEIS Strategy and DEIS Plus Scheme.
- e) Minister Naughton announces appointment of the new Board of An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta including the addition of a student representative.
- f) Minister Naughton announces appointment of the new members to the National Council

- for Curriculum and Assessment.
- g) Minister for Education and Youth welcomes strong participation in the national Primary School Survey as parents and school communities have their say on the future of primary schools.
 - h) Four New Special Schools Announced to Deliver for Children with Additional Needs.
 - i) AI in Schools External Advisory Taskforce to be established.
 - j) €2 Million investment to Support Children and Strengthen School Responses to Behaviours of Concern.
 - k) Ten Youth Climate Projects funded with €500K investment.
 - l) Ministers Announce New Special and Inclusive Classes for 2026/2027 School Year.
 - m) Minister Naughton announces the appointment of Commissioners to the Commission of Investigation into the Handling of Historical Child Sexual Abuse in Schools.
 - n) Creative Connections Programme expanded to support additional schools in creativity and the arts.
 - o) Minister Naughton visit to Christian Brothers College in Kilkenny to unveil plaque marking the official opening of its new campus.
 - p) Minister Naughton cuts the ribbon on new special classes in Co. Roscommon as she praises commitment to ensuring learners feel supported to reach their full potential.
 - q) Ministers Naughton and Murnane O'Connor congratulate all those taking part in national Active School Week 2026.
 - r) Agenda for Convention on Education agreed by Government.
 - s) Minister Moynihan urges parents to register for School Transport ahead of 8 May deadline.
 - t) Minister Naughton welcomes publication of Inspectorate's 'Perspectives on Bullying Behaviour 2025'
 - u) Minister Naughton visiting schools in Limerick and pays tribute to dedicated staff and students.

120526.16 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) National Student Accommodation Strategy to support delivery of 42,000 student beds.
- b) Minister Lawless warns of "Critical Skills Turning Point" as he launches National Skills Roundtable.
- c) Minister Lawless launches Springboard+ 2026 courses
- d) Minister Lawless welcomes launch of procurement process for new world-class supercomputer.
- e) Minister Lawless appoints Brigid McManus as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Skillsnet Ireland along with new Board Directors.
- f) Minister Lawless announces major expansion of Student Grant Supports as SUSI opens for 2026/27 applications.
- g) Minister Lawless TUI Annual Congress 2026 – Keynote Speech.
- h) Minister Lawless appoints Dr Barry O'Connor to the Board of SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority.
- i) Ministers Lawless and Harkin announce launch of new and innovative Business & Operations apprenticeship.
- j) Minister Lawless launches AIReady.ie to Upskill One Million People in AI.
- k) Minister Lawless secures Government approval for legislation enabling first All-Island University group between Dundalk Institute of Technology and Queen's University Belfast.

120526.17 A.O.B.

- Cllr Mary Farrell raised an issue around the provision of lunch for interview panel members. Mr. O'Brien confirmed he will follow up on this matter.
- Cllr Mary Farrell noted difficulties using Core to submit expense claims. Mr. O'Brien advised laptops are currently being arranged for Board members and that consideration is being given to adopting a nationally procured governance system. In the interim, he stated he would liaise with Mr. Cathal Cremer regarding a member of the Finance team who can assist with processing expense claims.

120526.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will take place on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 3.00pm, at Wexford College, Whitemill Industrial Estate, Wexford Y35 XR22.



Signed: _____

Date: 19th June, 2026

Documents circulated:

Agenda: meeting of 12/05/26
Minutes of WWETB meeting held 24th
March 2026
Conflict of Interest Declaration
Forms
Service Plan 2026 (amendment)
OSD Risk Register and Report
ISMS Risk Register and Report
Scholarship – Bridgetown College
Security Login and Monitoring
Policy
Internet Safety Policy (Rev. 2)
Blended Remote Working Policy
(Rev. 2)
Cyber Security Policy
Remote Access Policy
Removable Media Policy
Retirement Policy (Rev. 2)
Vulnerability and Patch
Management Policy
Security Training Policy
Minutes of the ARC Committee
Meeting of 11th February 2026
Chief Executives Report #2
Board of Management Meeting
Minutes