



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 June 24th, 2025

Held at Waterford Training Centre, X91 PX02

Tuesday 24th June at 4.00p.m.

Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB)

Minutes of Meeting held 24th June at 4.00p.m.

Board Members in attendance: *Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan Chairperson, Cllr. Jim Codd, Cllr. Blaise Hannigan, Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh, Cllr. Donnchadh Mulcahy, Cllr. Bridín Murphy, Cllr. John O'Leary, Cllr. John Pratt, Mr. Garrett Hickey, Mr. Pat Rath, Ms. Kate Miskella, Ms. Janine Flynn, Cllr. Michael Sheehan, Dr. Mary Meade, Ms. Margaret Darrer, Mr. Niall Finn, Ms. Foluke Adewumi.*

Also in attendance: *Dr. Karina Daly, Chief Executive (CE), 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. Mary Farrell, Cllr. Darragh McDonald, Dr Richard Hayes.

240625.01 APOLOGIES

Apologies as listed above were noted and included.

240625.02 CONDOLENCES

Mr. Will McCarthy, Waterford Training Centre, on the passing of his mother Ms. Mary McCarthy.
Ms. Rosarii Curran, Adult and Community Education Services, on the passing of her brother
Mr. Philip Molloy.

Ms. Aileen Hayes, Selskar College Wexford, on the passing of her sister Ms. Noeleen Williams.

Ms. Amanda Montague, Enniscorthy Community College, on the passing of her father Mr. William Henry Victor Moyle.

Mr. Michael Freyne, Kennedy College, on the passing of his father, Mr. Seamus Freyne.

240625.03 CONGRATULATIONS

Daniel Alexander Shebela from St. Augustines Post Primary School Dungarvan submitted his entry into SOLAS/NAO Generation Apprenticeship schools competition. Daniel has been selected as winner of Category 1 – create a physical A (the symbol for apprenticeships). The NAO/SOLAS plan on presenting Daniel with a certificate on May 20th, 2025.

WWETB were joint winners with Cumas New Ross at the Co. Wexford Business Awards on Friday 23rd May, winning the County Wexford Equity, Diversity and Inclusion award. The application was led by Marie Esmonde, Senior Training Advisor.

Katie Nolan from Enniscorthy Community College submitted an entry to the Oireachtas Essay Competition and was highly commended in the Leinster category.

Bunclody Community College has been recognized with the prestigious European 'Digital School' status for their outstanding contributions in digital teaching and learning.

Andrew Scanlan, St. Declan's Community School, Kilmackthomas on winning 1st place in the senior boy's javelin at the All-Ireland Schools athletics competition.

Matt Duro, Bridgetown College on winning 3rd place in the junior boys 200 meters race at the All-Ireland Schools athletics competition.

Waterford City and County Council, in collaboration with partners, including WWETB have been accredited as a World Health Organisation European Healthy City and County, joining a prestigious network of cities across Europe recognised for their commitment to placing health, equity and sustainability at the centre of local governance and development.

* Ms. Kate Miskella requested the board extend get well wishes to Principal Michael Weafer, Selskar College, Wexford.

240625.04 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.

240625.05 MINUTES

The minutes of the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) meeting held on 13th May 2025 were adopted.

Proposed Cllr. Blaise Hannigan; **Seconded** Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh.

240625.06 PRESENTATION – MR. SEAMUS CONBOY, DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS, ETBI.

Mr. Seamus Conboy, Director of Schools, ETBI, gave a presentation to the Board during which he provided an overview of Community National Schools (CNSs) and explained that the CNS model was established in 2008 under the patronage of local Education and Training Boards. CNSs are co-educational, multi denominational schools that follow the national curriculum as prescribed by the Department of Education and Youth (DEY) and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

Research statistics from a 2022 opinions survey aimed at assessing the appetite for CNSs as well as census data from 2022 indicate that Waterford and Wexford have diversified and based on CSO figures the numbers of children who will be seeking access to schools in the coming years is increasing.

A series of questions from Board members followed on topics including belief values, core values, opportunities for rural schools, school ethos and the ability of the current primary school system in coping with future demands.

Mr. Conboy advised that the Department of Education and Youth plans to conduct a survey in September 2025 for all parents of children aged between 0-12 years old. This will be with the aim of identifying insights as to whether parents would like their primary schools to remain Catholic, Church of Ireland or multi-denominational.

Dr Karina Daly, Chief Executive advised that CNSs are about parental choice and it is important that data generated through consultation and research is used to plan for a landscape that is changing.

Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan (Chairperson) on behalf of the Board thanked Mr. Conboy for his presentation.

240625.07 FINANCE

Mr. Cathal Cremer provided details of the request for approval for an application for overdraft facilities of €3M for 2026. Approved.

Proposed: Cllr. John Pratt; **Seconded:** Cllr Paddy Kavanagh.

Mr. Cathal Cremer provided a financial update to the Board and confirmed that in June 2025 SOLAS has communicated a national deficit of c. €40M for apprenticeship funding. Discussions are ongoing with the National Apprenticeship Office (NAO) and SOLAS. Currently, the plan nationally is to delay/re-schedule the provision of Phase 2 programmes given the gap in funding available and funding required for the delivery of phase 2 apprenticeship programmes for the remainder of 2025.

WWETB has delayed/re-scheduled provision of programmes that were due to commence in July and August 2025 as per the national plan and is awaiting an update from SOLAS and the NAO regarding the revised national plan for delivery. While this is disappointing news for WWETB and the ETB sector in general that Phase 2 provision will be impacted, WWETB will implement a revised financial plan to allow for the delivery of as many apprenticeship programmes as possible within 2025.

It was agreed that a presentation would be arranged for the Board at the 9th of September meeting on the apprenticeship programme and how it works, including details of the various phases undertaken by an apprentice.

240625.08 CORRESPONDENCE

No items raised under correspondence.

24062.09 GOVERNANCE

(a) Risk Management:

No items raised under risk management.

(b) Approval/ Renewal of Leases:

No Board updates regarding renewal of leases.

(c) Nominations to the Board of Management

Kilmanagh Community NS

Michael O'Brien called for a WWETB nominee to replace Mr. Pat Rath on the Board of Management at Kilmanagh Community National School. Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh was nominated.

Proposed: Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan; **Seconded:** Mr. Garrett Hickey

Youthreach

Mr. Michael Wall was nominated.

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

(d) Annual Report 2024 and Chairpersons Comprehensive Report (to accompany Annual Report).

Adopted.

Proposed: Mr. Niall Finn; **Seconded:** Ms Janine Finn.

Chairpersons Comprehensive Report

Michael O'Brien advised the Board of a minor amendment to the document circulated. Under Section 3 – Appendix 13 should read Appendix 12.

Adopted.

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

(e) **Service Plan 2025**

A new section - 1.2.1 included by the Department of Education and Youth was circulated to the Board.

Proposed: Dr Mary Meade; **Seconded:** Ms. Margaret Darrer

240625.10 POLICIES

The following policies were noted by the Board.

- (i) Clear Desk and Screen Policy
- (ii) Protected Disclosures Policy [revised]

240625.12 BOARD/ COMMITTEE REPORTS (including Draft Reports)

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

- (a) St. Declans Community College Meeting Minutes – 08/04/25 Draft
- (b) St. Pauls Community College BOM Meeting Minutes – 06/05/25 Draft
- (c) St. Pauls Community College BOM Meeting Minutes – 06/05/25
- (d) St. Pauls Community College BOM Meeting Minutes – 08/04/25
- (e) St. Paul's Community College BOM Meeting Minutes – 10/06/25 Draft
- (f) Dungarvan College BOM Meeting Minutes – 21/05/25 Draft
- (g) Dungarvan College BOM Meeting Minutes – 10/04/25 Draft
- (h) Kennedy College BOM Meeting Minutes – 11/03/25
- (i) Kennedy College BOM Meeting Minutes – 19/05/25 Draft
- (j) Bunclody Community College BOM Meeting Minutes – 27/02/25
- (k) Bunclody Community College BOM Meeting Minutes – 08/05/25 Draft
- (l) Enniscorthy Community College BOM Meeting Minutes – 03/06/25
- (m) Coláiste Abbáin, Adamstown BOM Meeting Minutes – 26/05/25 Draft
- (n) Coláiste Abbáin, Adamstown BOM Meeting Minutes – 07/04/25

240625.12 CIRCULAR LETTERS: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

Proposed: Ms. Margaret Darrer; **Seconded:** Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh

- (a) **0032/2025** Special Needs Assistant Allocation 2025/26.
- (b) **0034/2025** Graduate Certificate in Autism Education for Teachers working with Autistic Pupils in Special Schools, Special Classes or as Special Education Teachers in Mainstream Primary and Post Primary Schools, 2025/2026.
- (c) **0035/2025** Post-Graduate Diploma Programme of Teacher Professional Learning for Special Education Teachers 2025/2026.
- (d) **0038/2025** Prescribed material for Junior Cycle English for the student cohorts

commencing Junior Cycle in 2025, 2026 and 2027 and presenting for examination in 2028, 2029 and 2030.

- (e) **0039/2025** Approach and key measures to support the Forward Planning for Special Education Provision for the 2026/2027 school year and beyond.
- (f) **0041/2025** Publication of Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.
- (g) **0042/2025** Grant Scheme for ICT Infrastructure 2025.
- (h) **0043/2025** Recruitment of Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) Supplementary Assignment Arrangements for the 2025/2026 school year.
- (i) **0044/2025** Banning the use of and access to personal mobile phones by pupils during the school day.
- (j) **0045/2025** Restricting the use of and access to personal mobile phones by students during the school day.
- (k) **0046/2025** Funding scheme for secure mobile phone storage solutions.

240625.13 PRESS RELEASES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

- (a) Minister McEntee requests patron bodies to review admission policies for schools with special classes for autistic children and young people.
- (b) Minister McEntee encourages schools to express an interest in participating in Say Yes to Languages module in 2025/26.
- (c) Statement from Minister for Education and Youth, Helen McEntee on Senior Cycle Redevelopment
- (d) Ministers McEntee and Moynihan announce the publication of the Report on Focus Groups with Teachers on the role of the Special Needs Assistant (SNA).
- (e) Minister McEntee announces new part-time course for post-primary teachers in guidance counselling.
- (f) Minister McEntee publishes Small Schools Project Evaluation.
- (g) Minister Helen McEntee announces new measures to tackle school absenteeism.
- (h) Minister McEntee welcomes publication of curriculum resource on Mother and Baby homes.
- (i) Minister McEntee announces publication of updated Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025.
- (j) Minister Helen McEntee announces €65 million in minor works and ICT funding for schools.
- (k) Minister McEntee launches 'Foraois' pilot project to bring Irish language to life outside the school gates.
- (l) Minister McEntee and Minister of State Moynihan announce new measures to support forward planning for special education provision for the 2026/2027 school year and beyond.
- (n) Minister for Education welcomes announcement by Teachers 'Union of Ireland (TUI)'.
(o) Minister Helen McEntee welcomes a new Summer Meals Pilot to help tackle holiday hunger.
- (p) Ministers McEntee and Moynihan extend best wishes to over 140,000 students as State examinations get underway today.
- (q) Statement from the Minister for Education and Youth on Senior Cycle Redevelopment.
- (r) Minister McEntee confirms 28 schools to undergo major energy and decarbonisation retrofit works this Summer under the REPowerEU Programme.
- (s) Minister McEntee issues new guidance on mobile phone use in schools, supported by €9m funding.

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 to sign European Quantum Pact.
- (b) Minister Lawless launches tertiary degree courses for the 2025/2026 academic year.
- (c) Minister Lawless officially opens new Digital Media Building in the Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire.
- (d) Minister Lawless signs Associate Membership Agreement on behalf of Ireland with the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN).
- (e) Minister Lawless outlines his vision for higher education, research and skills at IUA Future of Ireland event.
- (f) Minister Lawless receives government approval to initiate programme to attract global talent to Ireland.
- (g) Minister Lawless announces sustainable funding to support access, participation, and success in higher education for under-represented groups.
- (h) Minister Lawless officially opens the new STEM building in Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), Athlone Campus.
- (i) Minister Lawless launches ELEVATE at IADT in major boost for Ireland's creative economy.
- (j) Minister Lawless launches new Pharmacy programme.
- (k) Ministers Lawless and Harkin approve next phase for College of the Future projects in Galway and Dublin.
- (l) Minister Lawless attends EU Competitiveness Council in Brussels.
- (m) Minister Lawless marks commencement of works on new Library and Learning Commons at University of Galway.
- (n) Minister Lawless launches Springboard+ 2025 highlighting 'Futureproofing' as a key motivator for potential applicants.
- (o) Tánaiste Simon Harris and Minister James Lawless announce the five teams to progress to the next phase of the Research Ireland – Defence Innovation Challenge programme.
- (p) Minister Lawless invites applications for €65.8 million Targeted Enhancement Fund.
- (q) Major cross-government Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) initiative announced.
- (r) Government approves major expansion in Health and Social Care Profession training places.
- (s) Dáil passes motion clearing Ireland's associate membership of CERN.
- (t) Minister Lawless addresses annual British Irish Chamber of Commerce (BICC) conference).
- (u) Ministers Lawless and Harkin announce awarding of more than €1 million in funding to key projects tackling literacy, numeracy, digital and financial literacy needs across Ireland.

240625.14 A.O.B.

- Cllr Paddy Kavanagh as a member of the Board of Management in Enniscorthy CC, raised the item of funding to provide a stage in the school. It was advised that this can be addressed at the principals meeting.

- Cllr Michael Sheehan asked when the extension at Youthreach in Wexford would begin. Michael O'Brien advised that the project is currently on hold pending review. The Board will be updated at the next meeting as to whether the project will proceed.
- Cllr Lola O'Sullivan advised that she had attended ETBI to discuss Youth budget funding for 2026.
- Cllr Jim Codd asked how close the turning of the sod for Bridgetown College is. Fintan O'Reilly advised the tender process will begin shortly but the earliest a contractor will be approached will be early in 2026.

240625.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting concluded. The next Board meeting will take place on Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 4.00pm, Wexford College, Whitemill Industrial Estate, Y35 XR22.

Signed: Lola O'Sullivan

Date: 9/9/25

Documents circulated:

Agenda: meeting of 24/06/25
 Minutes of WWETB meeting held 13th May 2025
 Conflict of Interest Declaration Forms
 Finance Update
 2024 Annual Report & Chairpersons
 Comprehensive Report.
 Amendments to Service Plan 2025
 Policies – Clear Desk & Screen Policy
 Board of Management Minutes for St.
 Declan's CC, St. Pauls CC, Dungarvan College,
 Kennedy College, Bunclody Community
 College, Enniscorthy Community College and
 Coláiste Abbáin, Adamstown.