



A meeting of Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board was held on Tuesday 27 September 2022 at 4:30pm at the Information Hub, Lyster Square, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

PRESENT

Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald (Acting Chairperson)
Cllr Willie Aird
Cllr Barry Walsh
Mr Jim Cashen
Mr Shane Flesk
Ms Molly Buckley
Cllr John Carroll
Cllr Neil Feighery

Mr Dave Cullen
Ms Evelyn Dunne
Cllr Caroline Dwane-Stanley
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick
Cllr Pdraig Fleming
Mr Frank Smith
Mr Niall Tully
Cllr Clare Claffey

IN ATTENDANCE

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Chairperson Cllr. Robert McDermott, Cllr Frank Moran, Ms Mary Cotter Bracken, and Ms Maura Brophy.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS LOETB MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, which took place on 26 July 2022 were circulated to members. Members approved the minutes and they were signed by the Chairperson.

Proposed: John Carroll
Seconded: Evelyn Dunne

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. GOVERNANCE

Risk Management

The Chairperson informed members that the Risk Register was reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 16 September. They were satisfied with same and recommended it to the Board for approval. Members approved the Corporate Risk Register.

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.

5. FINANCE

The Annual Financial Statements 2021 were reviewed by the Auditors and were re-signed by Vice Chairperson Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald on completion of the audit.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Item No	Correspondence From	Date / Ref No.	Details	Comments
1.	Department of Education and Skills	CL0050.2022	Parent's Leave Scheme for Registered Teachers in recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.	Noted by Members
2.	Department of Education and Skills	CL0051.2022	Parent's Leave Scheme for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.	Noted by Members
3.	Department of Education and Skills	CL0052.2022	Revised Motor Travel Rates effective from 1st September 2022 Payable to Staff in Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Members of ETBs and of ETB Statutory Committees	Noted by Members
4.	Department of Education and Skills	CL0053.2022	Revised Domestic Subsistence Allowances effective from 1st September 2022 Payable to Staff in Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Members of ETBs and of ETB Statutory Committees	Noted by Members
5.	Department of Education and Skills	CL0055.2022	Exemptions from the Study of Irish – Revising Circular 0053/2019	Noted by Members
6.	Department of Education and Skills	CL0056.2022	School Self-Evaluation: Next Steps September 2022 – June 2026	Noted by Members
7.	Department of Education and Skills	CL0058.2022	Arrangements for inspectorate engagement with Post Primary Schools	Noted by Members
8.	Department of Education and Skills	CL0059.2022	Building Momentum - A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2022 Implementation of Sectoral Bargaining with effect from 1 February 2022 for post primary teachers – Payment of PME/HDip Allowance	Noted by Members

7. DRAFT POLICIES

There were no draft policies for adoption.

8. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

The following minutes of the Committees of the Board were circulated to members prior to the meeting. Members noted same.

Audit & Risk Committee Meeting 8 July 2022

Finance Committee Meeting 29 March 2022

Finance Committee Meeting 8 July 2022

Coláiste Naomh Cormac 7 April 2022

Coláiste Naomh Cormac 16 June 2022

Portlaoise College 16 June 2022

9. APPOINTMENT TO BOM AT CLONASLEE COLLEGE

The Chairperson informed the Board that Ms Deirdre Ryan has been appointed as the Female Teacher Representative to the Board of Management at Clonaslee College.

Proposed: Molly Buckley

Seconded: Neil Feighery

10. STRATEGY STATEMENT 2023 - 2027

Marie Bracken provided an update to members on the development of the forthcoming Strategy Statement 2023-2027.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Schools Directorate

Schools

Leaving Cert Results

Congratulations to all students who received their Leaving Certificate Results on 3 September. Results from schools were excellent and we wish our students well on the next stages of their individual journeys.

ETBI Seminar and Symposium

Principals and Deputy Principals attended the ETBI Seminar for Principals & Deputy Principals on Monday 23 August. ETBI hosted a Symposium on one-hour class for all ETB schools on 30 August. There were 2,000 participants from ETB schools. LOETB was well represented with contributions and presentations from Helen Spencer and Jane Doherty in Portlaoise College and Declan Qualter, LOETB Schools' Support Coordinator.

Local Creative Youth Partnership

Funding has been made available for some Schools to support schools' reopening and forming connections with creative projects

PEDL (Programme for Enhancing Digital Literacy)

LOETB has received additional funding to support PEDL (Programme for Enhancing Digital Literacy) for parents. This initiative is being piloted in Portlaoise College, Oaklands Community College, and Ard Scoil Chiaráin Naofa Clara to support parents in improving their digital skills so they can continue to support their child with blended learning.

Ethos

School Ethos Team Leaders will lead a team exploring the role of the ETB core values in their school and join an LOETB Ethos Professional Learning Community (PLC). The focus of this PLC will be to enable each School Ethos Team Leaders to familiarise themselves with the ETBI Core Values and Patrons Framework. Support and guidance will also be provided around undertaking a school self-evaluation of Ethos using this framework in your own school. The PLC will meet five times over the course of the year with the first meeting planned for October.

Inclusion Project

The project is an ETBI and Mary Immaculate College Collaboration called 'Provision Mapping in Schools Pilot Initiative 2021'. This initiative is being facilitated in all ETBs by Dr Johanna Fitzgerald, Head of Department of Educational Psychology, Inclusive and Special Education, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. The pilot schools for LOETB are Tullamore College and Clonaslee College. A number of our schools will have staff participate in training for Inclusion Coaches.

Youth Services

UBU Your Place Your Space 2021 / New Greenfield Projects 2021

DCEDIY is making an annual budget of €120,000 available for six new UBU projects in a number of ETBs including LOETB. The purpose of this budget is to allow for the development of one new service in Laois or Offaly to meet the needs of young people (vulnerable, marginalised and at risk) as identified in the Area Profile Needs Assessment and Service Requirement Tool. LOETB is currently at Stage 3 of Call for Service / Interviews. Interviews will be held on Monday 20 September 2021.

UBU New Services National Selection 2022/2023

DCEDIY have announced subject to the availability of funding that ETBs can make an application for a UBU New Services National Selection for inclusion on the panel for 2022 and 2023. Each ETB selected will be awarded €120,000 (full year costs) for the establishment of a new or augmented UBU service within their functional area. LOETB submitted an UBU New Service National Scheme Application to the DCEDIY on 17 September 2021

Local Youth Club Grant Scheme 2021

DCEDIY allocated LOETB €73,991 for this Grant Scheme to administer to successful Local Youth Club / Group applicants. The scheme supports voluntary youth club activities for young people, with priority given to young people between the ages of 10 and 21. This grant was advertised on LOETB's website and in the 26 April 2021 edition of the Leinster Express and Tullamore Tribune. LOETB received 27 applications, from which 26 are successful. We are currently in final stages of processing for payments in October 2021.

Youth Capital Funding Scheme 2021 for Youth Services and Clubs/Groups

DCEDIY allocated LOETB €43,969 for this Grant Scheme to administer to successful targeted staff led youth services and youth clubs / groups applicants for 2021. Under this Grant Scheme, the Youth Club Equipment Grant Scheme 2021 was made available to youth clubs / groups for eligible expenditure up to a maximum of €500 incurred over the period 1 January to 31 December 2021. There were 25 applicant awarded grants, with an overall total value of €15,315.79 (*this included one of the Youth Capital Funding Scheme applicants that was under €5K). Under this Grant Scheme, the Youth Capital Funding Scheme 2021 was made available to DCEDIY funded youth projects (UBU Your Place Your Space schemes and Youth Information Centres) for small to medium capital grants (minor works and/or equipment). There were *3 applications applicant awarded grants (value €16,986.44 for two applicants) Overall €32,302.23 of the total allocation €43,969, was allocated. The unallocated monies will be returned to the exchequer.

Resilience and Effectiveness Initiative is a UBU Your Place Your Space

DCEDIY allocated LOETB €17,500 for this initiative to administer to successful UBU Funded Organisations / Projects. The Resilience and Effectiveness Initiative is a UBU Your Place Your Space initiative to support UBU Funded Organisations to deliver a more efficient and comprehensive service to young people, while ensuring that they have sufficient resilience to operate effectively in the medium to long term. LOETB received Resilience and Effectiveness Initiative Expression of Interest from all 3 UBU Funded Organisations / Projects in Laois and Offaly and all 3 were successful, and collectively will receive €17,500 annually and € 5,833 pro rata for 2021).

COVID-19 Minor Grant Scheme for Youth Services and Youth Clubs

DCEDIY allocated LOETB €15,892 for this Grant Scheme to administer to successful targeted staff led youth services and youth clubs / groups applicants for 2021. Under the terms of COVID-19 Minor Scheme grant funding of up to €4,000 may be made available to youth services currently in receipt of targeted funding (UBU Your Place Your Space funding) and grant funding of up to €400 in current may be made available to youth clubs eligible to receive funding under the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme. Closing date for returning applications is 27th of September 2021.

Music Generation

September Enrolments 2021

MGL and LSM programmes have resumed in Laois Music Centre (over 600 students each week), and MGL programmes in schools and centres across Laois have also resumed. In 2020-2021 MGL had 29 programmes running outside of Laois Music Centre, the current academic year has seen huge growth, as of 20 September we are operating 45 programmes outside of LMC, and still growing.

Culture Night, 17 Sept 2021

MGL presented Chris Stout (fiddle), Catriona McKay (harp) and Leonard Barry (uilleann pipes) aboard The Bandwagon for Culture Night 2021 on the grounds of Laois Music Centre.

The Impossible Dream and the Portlaoise Plane Home-coming, 12 September 2022

A wonderful story of a variety of agencies and individuals working together to honour Portlaoise's aviation connections, the Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra performed excerpts of new music created in collaboration with Martin Tourish on the grounds of Laois Music Centre on Sunday 12 September, to great public response, alongside the dramatic display of the Portlaoise Plane on our grounds.

Re: Centering Laois – Jack L and the Bandwagon in Stradbally on Sunday 26 September

We are currently partnering with the Arts Office of LCC and Dunamais Arts Centre to deliver a Faoin Speir/Arts Council project to towns across Laois. First up is Stradbally on Sunday 26 September, where Jack L will perform, with special guests including MG Laois musicians, and also a programme of events on The Bandwagon on the Courthouse Green.

The Third River

MG Laois spear-headed a successful application to the – ‘Co-operation with Northern Ireland’ from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The project idea is to come together with Music Generation Carlow and St Joseph’s Brass Band Strabane, on a musical collaboration. The project will include newly commissioned music, and a collaborative live-streamed concert featuring young musicians from Music Generation Laois. The concert will stream from multiple venues on Wednesday 29 September at 7.30pm. The 3 venues are the Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise, The George Bernard Shaw Theatre in Carlow, and the Alley Theatre in Strabane.

FET Directorate

Expansion of facilities at NCTC, Mount Lucas - Update

LOETB have appointed the Design Team for the expansion of facilities at the National Construction Training Centre. The project is being overseen by a Project Management Group from SOLAS, LOETB, DETE, DHLGH and DFHERIS. A Technical MMC Advisor has also been appointed to support the Design Team, and to lead the consultation process with all stakeholders in the sector. The first meeting of the Design Team took place on 20th September in Mount Lucas and the consultation process is due to begin immediately. Phase One of the project will incorporate the design and construction of the Demonstration Park Housing Unit pads and is due for completion in Q1 2023.

Expansion of Apprenticeship facilities in Tullamore

SOLAS have confirmed funding for the expansion of Electrical Phase 2 apprenticeship provision in Tullamore. The new site, located in Kilcruttin will provide an additional 60 (5 classes) apprenticeship bays and allow for a throughput figure of 120-180 annually. LOETB have appointed a consultant for this project and will move to design and planning as soon as possible. It is our intention to have our first intake in Q1 2023.

FET Staff Workshops and Gathering

All FET Staff will attend a staff day on Monday 17 October. The day will be used to officially launch LOETB's second Inclusion week, and our ‘Greening FET’ strategy. During the day, staff will be updated on our major developments and be given the opportunity to offer views and opinions on the shape of our service over the next 3-5 years. FET Staff workshops are also being held as part of our consultative approach to further developing our services for learners. Key themes include:

- Leading Learning
- Building Sustainability
- Promoting Partnership
- A Progressive Organisation

These sessions will inform the priorities in our new Statement of Strategy 2023-25.

LOETB Inclusion Week

Our second Inclusion Week will take place from Monday 17th – Friday 21st October.

This is a celebration of Inclusion and Diversity in the workplace and highlights positive good practice throughout the whole of LOETB. Following last year's success, we hope to offer a more extensive schedule of events, over the course of these 5 days.

LOETB colleagues and learners will showcase some of the wonderful inclusive projects & initiatives that are happening across our FET centres, schools, services, in the community

and within our prison education units. Staff and students can participate in a variety of 'Lunch and Learn' sessions, and access videos and workshops on topics such as:

- Digital Accessibility Resources for FET
- Promoting Diversity, Anti-racism and Intercultural Learning
- Supporting Learners' Anxiety Post Pandemic
- Developing an Inclusive Mindset for Teaching
- Supporting Learners with Autism
- Mindfulness
- Incorporating Universal Design for Learning (UDL) into the classroom
- Supporting People with Mental Health Difficulties
- Promoting Gender Balance & Diversity

We will also launch an awareness campaign for partner agencies to promote Adult Literacy and Community Education throughout Laois and Offaly throughout the week.

LOETB Innovation

LOETB recently signed our second Strategic Performance Agreement with SOLAS. This agreement sets out targets for our FET Service. In order to reach these, we intend to deliver a range of innovative projects in the next 12-24 months. These include:

The Tertiary Education Model

LOETB have commenced work with TUS (Athlone & Limerick) and SETU (Carlow) to co-develop and co-deliver courses at Level 5 and 6. These Technological University awards will be direct access (as Year 1) for our learners into Higher Education.

Greening FET

LOETB will launch our 'Greening FET' initiative on Monday 17th October. This initiative will focus on the following:

- Training all Staff in Sustainability and Climate Action
- Integrating Sustainable Living into our FET curriculum
- De-Carbonising our FET Building stock (significantly reducing our carbon footprint)
- Supporting Industries and Communities in our region to become more sustainable and climate friendly

Access, Pathways and Outcomes

The next stage of FET integration in LOETB is further developing pathways from our communities, through our service and into employment or HE. The LOETB FET Inclusion and Pathways managers will lead this process ensuring that all FET learners have equity of access and the ability to clearly plan their learning journey.

Future Skills Needs and Employer Clusters

LOETBs Enterprise Engagement Team are now building Regional Employer Clusters to create greater efficiencies in training identification and delivery. We will further enhance these clusters to identify our Regions future skills needs.

OSD Directorate

Human Resources

The following posts have been filled since the last ETB meeting

30 teaching posts

1 x Deputy Principal Banagher College
 1 x Deputy Principal St Fergal's College
 11 x SNA posts
 1 x Youthreach Resource Worker, Adult Literacy
 1 x Attendant, Oaklands CC
 1 x Acting Grade V
 1 x Centre Manager, Mountmellick FET Centre
 1 x Regional Literacy Co-ordinator
 3 x Grade III
 2 x Electrical Instructors

FET Construction Instructor Cover Panel
 SNA Panel
 Substitute Teacher Panel
 Bus Escort Panel

Posts advertised and interviews to be held
 English and Resource Post – Tullamore College
 Substitute Teacher panel

Report on Pensions to date since 01/01/2022

Pension Description	No.
Members Retired/Pensions issued	8
Widow/Widower Pensions issued	3
Members/ Widows to return pension forms	4
Total Pensions issued to date:	7

Leaver Statements Report for 2022	Total Numbers
How many staff members have left since 1 Jan 2022	76
How many Leaver Statements we have issued since 1 Jan 2022	6

Leaver Statements Report 2013 - 2022	Total Numbers
How many Total staff members have left since 1 Jan 2013	445
How many Leaver Statements we have issued since 2013	67
How many not able to issue (as they are <u>Timesheeted</u>)	304
Currently processing members who started in 2020 and 2022	74

Benefit Statements up to 31-Dec-2021 issued 30 June 2022	Total Numbers
Total active Single Pension Scheme members on 31/12/2021	478
Benefit statements issued on 30 June 2022	91
How many not able to issue (as they are <u>Timesheeted</u> or not matching with DPER)	370
How many processed but not able to issue due to error in CORE	17

We have sent instruction to NSSO to apply pension increases to all LOETB retirees up to and including 1 Oct 2021 increases, (details submitted 14/09/2022). We are updating service on our new Core system for members aged 60+ where total number is 76 and members aged 55+ where total number is 95. So far, we have completed service for 49 members on Core System. In 2022, we have written for previous service to be transferred over to LOETB for 31

members with 18 completed. In 2022, we have transferred out service for 25 members and 3 are being processed.

Salaries Paid since the last meeting

Date	Amount €	Number of Staff
22/07/2022	1,207,539.93	890
05/08/2022	1,111,563.91	919
19/08/2022	1,185,834.42	972
02/09/2022	1,063,929.24	840

Corporate Services

ICT

Relocation of Finance and HR to new office completed (Phase 1)

ICT liaising with builder for phase 2 and 3 of Head Office move

Portlaoise FET Centre now operational at new site at Ridge Road

Dunamase College now using Scoil Mhuire (School of Music site) for additional classrooms

Lyster Square Information Hub fit out complete (new phones due onsite week starting 27 September)

ICT liaising with builders for unit 3 in Midlands Skill Centre

Private network being installed in ESB training Centre in Portlaoise to enable instructors to print and conduct research

New classroom for Tullamore FET Centre completed

New classroom for Portarlington FET Centre completed

New prefab classroom for Ard Scoil Chiaráin Naofa, Clara completed

Office data migration on hold due to the above projects but will recommence at the end of October

Regular maintenance, prevention and replacement requests on an ongoing basis across schools, centres and offices.

Corporate Services

Finance and HR function have moved into new administration offices in Portlaoise, with continued development of the facility on a phased basis. Phase 1 of this development now almost complete aside from some minor snags and moving-in requirements.

Communications Officer continued focus on developing visual consistency across social media platforms, and the promotion of timely media releases to support the FET sector. Current work also includes the production of video shorts for a number of FET services across the organisation.

There is ongoing work in the area of rebranding to ensure LOETB meets the requirements of an Coimisinéir Teanga, the Charities Regulator etc. This is being undertaken on a phased basis in tandem with facility rebranding.

Risk register reviewed and updated. Reviews of internal policies, processes and procedures continue on an ongoing basis.

Capital Projects and Buildings Works

Clonaslee College

Additional Accommodation ASD 2022 & 2023 - Approval received from DoE.

Additional Accommodation Classrooms 2023 – Approval received by DoE

Tender for Design Team Consultants up on eTenders Response date end September 2022

Science Room/Classrooms works completed end August – snag list only

St Fergal's College

Application re Gym Facility sent to DoE. Awaiting response from DoE

Summer Works Scheme 2022 approval received from DoE – Awaiting Tender Report from MCOH

All Weather Pitch – Consultant appointed. Consultant to prepare Tender Documents Planning has been lodged.

Approval received on 9 September 2022 for Modular Accommodation through the Department Framework, RFT for consultant on eTenders.

Portlaoise College

Phase 1 Reconfiguration Classrooms – Works Completed

Athletic Track – Works completed – waiting on ESB to be connected by ESB Networks

Soccer Pitch Development – Works commenced 7th September 2022

Ball Nets – to be installed 26th September 2022

Dunamase College – Tower Hill

Reconfiguration Classrooms – Works completed end August 2022.

Modular Accommodation – meeting to be arranged with Consultant

New Site – Stage 1 report gone to DoE, awaiting DoE approval.

Oaklands Community College, Edenderry

New School - meeting with DoE on 6 October to review Stage 2a

Additional Accommodation ASD – Reconfiguration Classrooms works completed – Works on installation ASD Additional Room to start end September 2022

Ard Scoil Chiarain Naofa, Clara

ASD Room – Works completed and installed

Awaiting completion of site surveys for new site at Drayton Villas

Stage 1 report prepared

Coláiste Naomh Cormac Kilcormac

Traffic Calming Works – Works completed end May 2022

OT Student Works – Works completed end August 2022

Additional Accommodation – application sent to Department July 2022

Tullamore College

Render Works started 4 July 2022

Guttering Works to commence mid-September 2022

Emo NS

Conditions of Engagement to be signed 15th September 2022 – this will complete the procurement of Consultants

Shanganamore NS, Athy, Laois

Tenders for Design team Consultants currently up on ETenders – response date end September 2022

Further Education Projects

Projects at Mountmellick, Banagher and Edenderry FET Centres

Mountmellick/Edenderry completed. Banagher to be completed end September 2022
Axis Business Park Unit 24e, Axis Business Park Unit 23e, works completed – waiting on final account to be agreed

Abbeyleix FET Centre/Mountmellick FET Centre – Refurbishment of Toilets – Letters of Intent/regret sent to Contractors

Birr OEC- Refurbishment of toilets –Works completed

2 Park Villas, Portlaoise – Plumbing issue resolved by Landlord

Lyster Square – few snags to be sorted – Final Account being prepared

Abbeyleix FET Centre – Painting works completed end August 2022

Mountl Lucas – Design Team Consultant – currently being evaluated

Mount Lucas Project 2022 – Design Team Conditions of Engagement to be signed,
Design team to be completed 16th September

Banagher FET Centre – Line Marking to be completed mid-September

Kilcruttin Electrical Apprenticeship – Consultants to be evaluated

Procurement

Procurement Section are currently working on the following projects for Tendering:

- Waste Management – Greyhound Waste appointed
- Stationery – Stakelums Ltd appointed
- Electrical Apprenticeship Materials – NEW Ltd appointed
- Equipment Kilcormac/Clonaslee – Contracts awarded Delivery in progress
- Building Materials – Roynane Ltd appointed
- Website- 6 responses received – currently being evaluated
- Pest Control – currently finishing off evaluation
- Working on OGP Digital Data/School Books New Library Resources details sent to schools
- OGP Framework Provision of PPE Consumables & Equipment extended to 3/02/2023
- OGP Occupational Health services = Medmark appointed
- OGP Digital Data Framework – currently being evaluated
- OGP Employee Assistance Framework – extended Spectrum Wellness

Finance

Budgets

Ongoing monthly monitoring of all school and centre budgets is being carried out.

A new template, Cost Centre Reports, is near completion for school and centre budget reporting. This report pulls information directly from our financial management system, SUN, and will replace the current excel based Monthly Analysis Reports. It is hoped to issue the new report in early October with to end of September information.

Current Summary of finances to end of August 2022.

Summary of Workings to End August 2022

ITEM	Opening Grant Cash Balance	Adjustment to Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing Grant Cash Balance	% of Overall Total
Main Scheme Pay Grant	182,617	(3,273)	20,015,841	(20,542,829)	(347,643)	-10%
Main Scheme ONP Grant	323,089	35,959	1,298,192	(1,523,766)	133,474	4%
Associated Main Scheme Grants	1,707,895	9,041	1,407,361	(1,060,139)	2,064,159	57%
Capital Schedule	2,361,653	(45,000)	1,873,293	(2,358,359)	1,831,587	51%
Further Education & Training	487,195	0	25,081,404	(26,775,937)	(1,207,338)	-33%
Youth Affairs	17,942	0	389,666	(428,890)	(21,282)	-1%
Agency	1,151,603	1,125	1,472,462	(1,269,627)	1,355,564	37%
Self Financing	(6,443)	2,148	586,304	(769,470)	(187,462)	-5%
Third Party Funds	0	0	10,598	(10,598)	0	0%
		0			0	
Totals	6,225,551	0	52,135,121	(54,739,615)	3,621,059	

Joe Cunningham
Chief Executive
27 September 2022

Members thanked the CE for his detailed report and a discussion took place thereafter.

A member enquired about the number of tutors from Offaly in relation to Music Generation Offaly and if there options available for children with disabilities. The CE informed the members that the majority of the tutors in Music Generation Offaly were from Offaly and that the new programme would be inclusive of those with special needs.

Members congratulated the CE on the facilities in Mount Lucas and stated that the Tertiary Education Model is an excellent opportunity for students. A member enquired about the possibility of writing to Minister Harris in relation to increasing the salary for Apprenticeship tutors. The CE acknowledged that there was a difficulty in recruiting Instructors and that rates of pay was an issue. He informed members that, as this was a national matter, he would contact ETBI in the first instance.

The CE informed the members that the pension increases have been updated and sent across to NSSO.

A member expressed concern in relation to accommodation and capping of enrolment numbers at Dunamase College. The CE acknowledged the members concerns and pointed out that he had raised the same concerns with the Dept. of Education at a recent meeting. Progress is being made on the new building; the Dept. recently approved the initial school design and the project now moves to detailed design. The plan is for the new school to be available in August 2026. The current facilities at Railway Street and Tower Hill are being fully maximised, but that additional temporary accommodation would be installed in the yard at Tower Hill in advance of the next school year. Enrolments will have to be managed by the school in line with available accommodation until such time as the new building becomes available. In response to a query on the development of the Aonad, the CE said that every effort is being made to ensure the sustainability of the Aonad. He noted that, at times, there are challenges recruiting teachers with capability to deliver as Gaeilge but he is confident it will continue and grow and that, ultimately, the focus would shift to the establishment of a standalone Gaelcholáiste in Portlaoise.

Members noted the recent staffing appointments and commended the HR recruitment team on their hard work. The CE also thanked Board members who served on interview boards during the busy recruitment period.

Members wished to compliment the CE and the staff in LOETB Schools and Centres for the recent exam results. LOETB staff were credited by members for their hard work noting the increase in enrolment numbers year on year.

12. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

A vote of sympathy was passed to:

- To Kenneth Crann, Principal of Colaiste Naomh Cormac, on the passing of his mother.
- To Peter Stewart Dolan, Teacher at Colaiste Naomh Cormac, on the passing of his father.
- To Dolores O'Brien, Teacher at Portlaoise Institute, on the passing of her mother.
- Cllr. Liam Quinn, Teacher at Oaklands Community College, former LOETB Chairperson and Board Member on the passing of his mother.

13. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

A vote of congratulations was passed to:

- LOETB students and their teachers on their Leaving Certificate results
- Zac Touhy on winning the AFL Premiership with Geelong Cats.
- Jordan Conroy on his winning a Bronze Medal with Irelands Mens Rugby Team at the Sevens World Cup in Australia.
- To all former LOETB Students who have represented Ireland in rugby and soccer of late.
- To Coláiste Naomh Cormac, Kilcormac on their 50th Anniversary.

14. AOB

- A member asked that LOETB support the upcoming DLD (Developmental Disorder Day) Awareness Day on 14 October 2022. The CE committed to supporting the Awareness Day.
- A member had a query in relation to the issues some Ukrainian students are facing regarding transport to school. The CE informed the members that there is funding available for Ukrainian students for transport but that Bus Eireann is responsible for arranging same. The member also commended Dominic McEvoy for his tireless work in relation to this matter.

15. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday 29 November 2022 at 4.30pm,
venue TBC

Signed: *catherine Fitzgerald*
catherine Fitzgerald (Nov 29, 2022 18:02 GMT)

Nov 29, 2022
Date: _____

Chairperson