

BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA LAOIS & UIBH FHAILÍ
Laois & Offaly Education and Training Board

A meeting of the above Board was held on Friday, 23 August 2013 in Portlaoise Adult Education Centre, in pursuance of notice.

Present:

Cllr. Noel Bourke, Cllr Molly Buckley, Cllr. John Carroll, Mr. Declan Costello, Cllr. Eamon Dooley, Ms. Vivienne Keenan, Mr. Brendan Killeavy, Mr. Denis Magner, Ms. Shelia Maloney, Ms. Mary McLoughlin, Cllr Tony McLoughlin, Ms. Miriam O'Callaghan, Cllr. Liam Quinn

Cllr Mary Sweeney, Cllr Kathleen O'Brien, Cllr John King, Cllr. Paul Mitchell, Cllr. Ben Brennan, Cllr. Rotimi Adebare, Cllr. Lisa Delaney, Monsgrn John Byrne PP, Ms. Irene Murray, Ms. Linda Bergin, Ms. Winifred Champ-Cox, Mr. Gerry Quinn, Cllr. Matthew Keegan

Apologies:

1. Apologies

- Cllr. Sinead Moylan Ryan, Cllr. Sinead Dooley, Cllr. John Leahy

2. Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were passed from the Committee to the following:

- Ms. Crescentia Phelan, Staff Member, Head Office, Portlaoise on the death of her Aunt, Ms. Christina Roche.
- Cllr. Eamon Dooley, Deputy Chairperson of Laois and Offaly ETB, and his wife and family, on the death of his mother in law, Ms. Jane Wynne.
- Mr. Pauric Corcoran, Tullamore College on the death of his father, Mr. Michael Corcoran.

3. Votes of Congratulations

- Laois Ladies Minor Football Team on winning the All – Ireland Championship.
- St. Colmcille Pipe Band on winning the World Championships
- Tullamore Rugby Club on its recent success

4. Minutes from the last Meeting

- The minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on the 12th July 2013, copies of which were circulated, were taken as read and signed.

Proposed by: Cllr John King

Seconded by: Cllr Noel Bourke

5. Matter arising from Minutes

No further matters were discussed

6. Finance**• Report on Finance Sub Committee Meeting**

- Chairperson of the Finance Sub-Committee, Cllr Eamon Dooley, gave a report on the recent Finance Sub-Committee Meeting. The Minutes of the Finance Sub Committees of Co. Offaly VEC and Co. Laois VEC were adopted.
- Cllr Dooley informed Members that tenders had been sought for the provision of temporary accommodation and ancillary works at Oaklands Community College and the successful tenderer was Roadmaster. The funding approved for this project is €19,188.00 per annum (on 2-year lease) with additional works of €39,151.73 by the Department of Education and Skills.
- It was noted by the Committee that Members voiced their concerns on the basis of health and safety, at the proposed extension to Oaklands Community College on their existing site. It was agreed by all members that a green-field site would be far more satisfactory.
- Members acknowledged the work of the CEO in relation to this project.
- The CEO noted the concerns of members and agreed a green-field site would be preferable. She confirmed that she will be attending a meeting next week on this matter and would continue to try for a better alternative.

• July Monthly Return

- A copy of the Monthly Return for Laois and Offaly ETB was circulated to each member.
- **Approval sought from Members to seek a conditional overdraft facility:**
Due to the retrospective funding of some programmes by the DES to the Laois & Offaly ETB, access to an overdraft facility needs to be in place between now and the end of the year in order to address emergencies, but the amount should not exceed €1.5million.

Proposed by: Cllr John King

Seconded by: Ms. Winfred Champ-Cox

7. Correspondence

- **Circular Letter 0039/2013 - Department of Education & Skills - Payment in respect of Substitution for the academic year 2012/2013 in Prisons - NOTED**
- **Letter from State Exams Commission – RE: Proposed change to the issue date of Junior Certificate Results - NOTED**
 - This was discussed amongst Members. It was unanimously agreed by the Members that the Junior Certificate Results be issued on a Friday. However, if this cannot be achieved this year, Thursday would be the preferred day, for this year only. It was also agreed that the results should issue a week earlier; members felt that this was important in relation to subject choice. It was also

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agreed that a letter be sent to the Examinations Commission confirming the proposed course of action.

- It was also noted by Members that underage drinking occurs at this time and this was a real concern. It was noted that this was certainly a topic for discussion and an action plan at another time.

- **Letter from Department of Education & Skills – RE: Travel & Subsistence costs in respect of Board/Committee Meetings – NOTED**
 - The CEO confirmed that the minimum number of ETB Meetings must be adhered to in order to keep costs down. Therefore, unless there are pressing issues to be discussed, there will be 6 meetings in a calendar year.

- **Letter from Department of Education & Skills – RE Contract Extension for CEO – NOTED**

- **Letter from Department of Education & Skills – RE: Oaklands Community College – NOTED**

- **Nomination of ETB Representative on Evaluation Committee of Offaly County Enterprise Board. Current Rep: Edward McEvoy**

Nominee Appointed: CEO
 Proposed by: Ms. Vivienne Keenan
 Seconded by: Cllr Molly Buckley

8. Dates & Times of ETB Meetings

- 6 meetings per year
- Meetings are to be on the 2nd Monday of the nominated month
- 1 more meeting is required in 2013, which is to be held on Monday 11th November in Portlaoise
- There are to be 3 held between the New Year and May, all of which will be held in County Offaly.

9. Appointment of Acting CEO

- The CEO confirmed that the Acting CEO from 1st September 2013 will be Mr. Joe Cunningham. The Board congratulated Joe and wished him well in his appointment.

Proposed by: Ms. Irene Murray
 Seconded by: Cllr. Eamon Dooley

10. Any Other Business

- Regulation of Business of an Education & Training Board - schedule 3 enclosed in each member's folder for discussion at the next meeting.

Chairman
Initials

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- Presentation to CEO, Ms. Anne O'Keeffe – a presentation was made to the CEO on the occasion of her retirement by Members of the Board. Members conveyed their thanks to her for her tireless work for the betterment of Educational Services in Laois. Ms. O'Keeffe, in turn, thanked the Board for all the help and support shown to her over her tenure as CEO with Laois VEC and more recently Laois and Offaly ETB.
- The opening of the Adult Education Centre will be held following the meeting.

Signed: Mary Sweeney
Chairperson

Signed: Anne O'Keeffe
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 11/11/2013

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