

**MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING OF DUBLIN AND DÚN LAOGHAIRE
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 15TH JULY, 2013 IN
THE BOARD'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN, 24**

Present:	Cllr. Gerry McGuire	Cathaoirleach
	Cllr. Donal Marren	Leas Cathaoirleach
	Cllr. Cormac Devlin	
	Cllr. Therese Ridge	
	Cllr. Gerry Horkan	
	Cllr. Dermot Looney	
	Cllr. David McGuinness	
	Cllr. Ken Farrell	
	Cllr. Joan Maher	
	Cllr. Caitríona Jones	
	Cllr. Pat Hand	
	Cllr. Guss O'Connell	
	Cllr. John Bailey	
	Cllr. Maria Bailey	
	Cllr. Niamh Breathnach	
	Cllr. Carrie Smyth	
	Cllr. Michael O'Donovan	
	Mr. Don Tipping	
	Mr. William Dockrell	
	Ms. Deirdre Doherty-Ryan	
	Mr. John O'Reilly	
	Mr. Pat Ward	
	Ms. Liz Kelly	
	Ms. Inez Bailey	
	Ms. Aideen Mulcahy	
	Mr. Tony Clements	
	Cllr. Patricia Stewart	
	Mr. Thomas Taylor	
	Cllr. Emma Coburn	
Apologies:	Ms. Frances Kelly	
	Cllr. Jane Dillon-Byrne	
	Mr. Martin Clohessy	Finance Officer
In Attendance:	Mr. Paddy Lavelle	Chief Executive Officer
	Dr. Marie Griffin	Education Officer
	Ms. Deirdre Keyes	Education Officer
	Mr. Paul McEvoy	Head of Organisation Services
	Ms. Eileen Cullen	Assistant Principal Officer (finance)

At the outset Paddy Lavelle, CEO, took the Chair.

A vote of sympathy was extended to Ms Frances Kelly, member of the Board, on the recent death of her son-in-law. A minute's silence was observed.

1. Introductions

The CEO welcomed members to the first meeting of the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board marking an historic juncture in the history of education and training in the country. The CEO addressed members as follows:

“It’s a great honour for me to have been appointed to the post of CEO in DDLETB. This amalgamation of County Dublin and Dun Laoghaire VECs will be beneficial for all of our learners and staff. It provides a consolidation of the great strengths of both VECs, their immersion in their respective communities, their drive to provide opportunities for people in the most productive ways, and their capacity for innovation in responding to the many needs in the area.

Dun Laoghaire VEC has been a leader especially in terms of PLC provision for many years. Community involvement, responding to gaps in the labour market, and developing new areas for course provision have been part of the landscape. County Dublin VEC has grown hugely over the past two decades, particularly in relation to new schools. It is a very innovative provider with significant support structures in place for staff and students. Its scale permits the exploitation of positive opportunities to support students and learners across all services. I have no doubt that there will be a synergy from this coming together. The benefits to both will exceed our hopes and ensure that we will provide better services throughout the Board’s area.

This is a creative moment in the history of Irish education. It is a reform of substance since it reverses the separation of training and education. The partitioning of the two led to unreasonable and irreconcilable expectations of training and education. Leading with the question: “how can we have training without education?” helps clarify our thinking. Ireland needs people with a broad, lifelong developmental perspective. Industry demands flexible workers. Workers who, when one area hits crisis, can adapt and retrain. The capacities required for this are high educational levels matched to high skill levels. One without the other brings workers down a blind alley. VECs have always maintained a general educational focus in programmes and have believed in holistic education principles. Beginning with literacy and numeracy, we understand the skills development is driven by a personal motivation. Motivation is tied to a personal sense of purpose. The whole person needs to be engaged from the beginning in the education and training journey.

The merger will benefit the people we serve. As the three FÁS training centres transfer in, we will be strengthened further. The competence and processes in FÁS may differ but will ultimately enhance our ETB. As in all mergers, we will take time to get to understand one another. When I see the richness of engagement now before merging, I am heartened. FÁS staff have been genuinely welcoming, very open and positive about our future working together. They have come through a difficult period when their organisation’s good work was demeaned because of the bad actions of a few. They are

hopeful that the ETB will be a fresh start for us all and they are committed to working towards our common goals in the ETB.

For this new Board there are many tasks ahead. I wish you all well in our deliberations. I know that I am surrounded by professional colleagues who will ensure that our governance standards are kept high and that the Board will be soundly supported in its work.”

2. Message from the Minister for Education and Skills.

Members noted the following message from the Minister

At the outset, I want to restate my appreciation for the significant contribution to the development of our education system made by the VEC system and the fine record of accomplishment of Vocational Education Committees throughout this country in providing high quality education to learners of all ages.

County Dublin VEC and Dun Laoghaire VEC have stepped up to the plate over the decades in making provision and taking on tasks others would not so readily embrace. You have pioneered in making alternative provision and programmes for those not in mainstream provision and of course you have provided the bedrock for those needing a second chance and in the area of adult education in particular.

The merger of County Dublin VEC with Dun Laoghaire VEC will position the new Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB to continue this work and to meet new challenges into and beyond the 21st century. I am proud to have had the opportunity to bring about this reform which will bring about an exciting and dynamic future for the sector and a future in which you will have an enhanced role in delivering both education and training.

We live in the most challenging of times, but we are meeting those challenges head on. Together we are streamlining a dynamic Education and Training Sector which will be positioned to deliver as much for ordinary people and for our country in the 21st century and to deliver in a manner consistent with the noble tradition of delivery by the Vocational Education system over the past 8 decades.

I want to wish you well in your endeavours as we look towards the future.

With every good wish.

3. First Meeting/Membership

- 3.1 Education and Training Boards Act 2013.
- Sections 9(5), 9(6), 67.

Members were apprised of these sections of the Act as follows:

Section 9(5) – As members of County Dublin and Dun Laoghaire VECs prior to establishment day for the ETB they became members of Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board until the next post election meeting.

Section 9(6) – Fixing of a date (1st July), by the Minister, as establishment day for ETBs

Section 67 – Transition for membership in terms of a vacancy occurring on the Board in the period from establishment day to the next post election meeting.

4. Election of Chairperson.

The CEO invited nominations for the position of Chairperson. The following were nominated:

Cllr. Donal Marren proposed by Cllr. John Bailey, seconded by Mr. Tony Clements

Cllr. Gerry McGuire proposed by Mr. Pat Ward, seconded by Cllr. Michael O'Donovan

The CEO called for a ballot on the nominations which resulted as follows:

Cllr. Donal Marren 12 votes

Cllr. Gerry McGuire 17 votes

The CEO declared Cllr. Gerry McGuire elected to the position of Chairperson.

Cllr McGuire took the chair and thanked members for their support

5. Election of Deputy Chairperson.

The Chairperson invited nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson. Cllr. Donal Marren was proposed by Cllr. Niamh Breathnach and seconded by Cllr. Carrie Smyth. As there were no further nominations Cllr. Marren was deemed elected as Deputy Chairperson.

6. Regulation of Business/Reserved Functions/Committees

- 6.1 Education and Training Boards Act 2013.
 - Sections 12, 13, 44, Schedule 3

Members were briefed on these sections of the Act and noting the following:

Section 12 – List of reserved functions

Section 13 - Executive functions; every function of an Education and Training Board that is not a reserved function shall be an executive function which shall be performed by the Chief Executive Officer.

Section 44 - Establishment of committees and continuation of subcommittees which were established under the VEC to perform the functions of a board of management or functions which are the same as or substantially the same as functions exercised by boards of management in relation to centres for education, education or training facilities, children detention schools, prisons or facilities maintained by other public service bodies, where the Board provides education or training.

7. Standing Orders.

Standing orders, as circulated, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McGuire, seconded by Cllr. John Bailey.

8. Appointment of Finance Committee

Members noted a request from the Department that the appointment of both the finance and audit committees be deferred to a later meeting, pending the issuing of guidance on same. However, it was noted that the 2012 annual accounts of Dun Laoghaire VEC have not, as yet, been approved by its finance subcommittee. To facilitate the completion of the accounts it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McGuire, seconded by Cllr. Cormac Devlin that a finance committee, in the form of the finance subcommittee of Dún Laoghaire, will meet in early September for the sole purpose of reviewing the 2012 accounts of Dun Laoghaire VEC.

9. Appointment of Audit Committee

It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McGuire, seconded by Cllr. Cormac Devlin that an audit committee, in the form of the audit committee of Dun Laoghaire VEC meet in early September for the sole purpose of reviewing Dún Laoghaire VEC's Statement of Internal Financial Control (SIFC) for 2012 and associated documentation.

10. Minutes

10.1 Co. Dublin VEC, 17th June, 2013

Reference in the minutes to Cllr. Carrie Smyth being appointed as Mayor of Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council instead of Cathaoirleach was noted.

Subject to this amendment the minutes were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McGuire, seconded by Cllr. Carrie Smyth.

10.2 Dún Laoghaire VEC, 27th June, 2013

The minutes were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. Gerry Horkan, seconded by Mr. William Dockrell.

11. Report of Dún Laoghaire Youth Committee meeting held on 9th July, 2013. (Appendix A)

The report was adopted on the proposal of Mr. Tony Clements, seconded by Mr. William Dockrell.

12. Report of Co. Dublin Youth and Sport Committee meeting held on 20th June, 2013. (Appendix B)

The report was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Pat Hand, seconded by Mr. Pat Ward.

13. Addendum 15th July, 2013

Standing Orders: It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Michael O'Donovan, seconded by Mr. Pat Ward to suspend standing orders to facilitate consideration of the following addendum:

13.1 Section 29 Reports x 2.

Members noted two reports for Castleknock Community College.

The reports were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Ken Farrell, seconded by Cllr. David McGuinness.

13.2 Section 29 Committee

To facilitate section 29 appeals, in the medium term, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McGuire, seconded by Mr. Don Tipping to form the following panel, comprising persons who have undergone training, from which appeals committees will be formed:

Members: Cllr. David McGuinness, Ms. Aideen Mulcahy, Cllr. Ken Farrell, Cllr. Caitríona Jones, Ms Deirdre Doherty Ryan, Mr Pat Ward,

Cllr. Joan Maher, Cllr. Guss O'Connell, Mr Don Tipping, Cllr. Gerry McGuire, Mr John O'Reilly.

Principals: Mr John Cronin, Ms Sharon McGrath, Ms Pauline Duffy, Mr Des Newton, Ms Diane Birnie

Training for all members of the Board will be scheduled at the earliest opportunity. An outline of the type and range of cases will be provided to members at a future meeting.

13.3 Crèche – Dún Laoghaire

The CEO reported on the precarious nature of the crèche facility and its non-viability going forward. He highlighted the estimated deficit on the programme for this and subsequent years based on the current and anticipated level of enrolments. The views of the current manager and her staff, in terms of the difficulty in maintaining the service with the significant cut in State funding, was reported. The CEO advised that the crèche could not remain open and indicated his intention to close the facility with immediate effect. It was noted that the staff, all of whom have contracts of indefinite duration (CIDs), will be protected by the Haddington Road Agreement. They will be offered voluntary redundancy or placement on the national redeployment panel. Those who opt to remain in employment will be assigned other duties within the organisation. An early decision is also vital in terms of providing parents who have enrolled children for September sufficient time to make alternative arrangements.

Members from Dun Laoghaire expressed dissatisfaction at the CEO's decision considering that as recently as the last VEC meeting a strategy for keeping the crèche open was agreed, in the context of a change in the crèche's rules and constitution. Notwithstanding, the CEO confirmed that the crèche could no longer operate on a self-financing basis and funds from other programmes could not be utilised to meet future anticipated deficits.

It was agreed that a schedule, outlining the current and estimated financial position of the crèche, would be circulated to members at the earliest opportunity.

The meeting then concluded

Signature of Cathaoirleach: _____