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BP-26-021

Minutes of Board Meeting of Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB)

Date: 25th February 2026

Time: 4:00 pm

Venue: DDLETB Head Office and MS Teams

Present:

Brigid Manton, Charlotte O'Donovan, Claire McGing, Colm Kilgallon, Councillor Angela Donnelly, Councillor Dean Mulligan, Councillor Jacqueline Burke, Councillor John Walsh, Councillor Michael Clark, Councillor Mick Duff (Cathaoirleach), Councillor Pamela Kearns, Councillor Thomas Joseph, Councillor Yvonne Collins, Dara Fitzpatrick, David O'Connell, Ken Farrell, Sarah Widaa, Wayne Carey.

Apologies: Nichola Spokes, Councillor Eimear Carbone Mangan

Absent: Councillor Ted Leddy

In Attendance:

Caitríona Murphy, Chief Executive; Paul Turner, Director of Organisation Support and Development; Mark McDonald, Director of Schools; Joanne McCloskey, Director of Further Education and Training; Thea Jordan, Public Affairs Officer; Maja Eisenbart, Governance; Mairead Walsh, Head of Treasury; Ross Lynam, Head of Buildings and Capital Projects.

Documentation:

Uploaded Electronically

Welcome

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Mick Duff welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Apologies/Condolences

Apologies from Nichola Spokes and Councillor Eimear Carbone Mangan were noted. Condolences were extended to all families of staff who have been bereaved since the last Board meeting.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

3. Matters for the Resolution of the Board

3.1 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th November 2025 were adopted.

Proposed: Cllr. Michael Clark, **Seconded:** Dara Fitzpatrick

3.2 Boards of Management Members Appointments

- Seeking one nomination of ETB Representative to the Board of Management of Coolmine Community School. Sarah Widaa has volunteered.
Proposed: David O’Connell **Seconded:** Pamela Kearns
- The appointment of Walter Doolin as Archbishop Nominee to the Board of Management of Collinstown Park Community College
Proposed: Mick Duff **Seconded:** Pamela Kearns
- The appointment of John Gilmore as ETB representative to the Board of Management of Collinstown Park Community College
Proposed: David O’Connell **Seconded:** Mick Duff

3.3 Service Plan 2026

An overview of the 2026 Service Plan deliverables was presented by the Director of FET, Director of Schools and the Director of OSD. The Head of Treasury provided an overview of budgeted 2026 expenditure. The Finance Committee approved the 2026 Service Plan during their meeting on the 18th February. The Board approved the 2026 DDLETB Service Plan. The service plan will be submitted to the Department of Education in advance of the 1st March submission deadline.
Proposed: Cllr. Michael Clarke, **Seconded:** Ken Farrell

4. Matters for noting by the Board

4.1 Youth Work Committee Meeting Minutes – Noted

4.2 Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee – Deferred to the March meeting.

4.3 Minutes of the Finance Committee – Deferred to the March meeting.

4.4 Committees of the Board – Noted

4.5 Correspondence from the Department – Circulars - Noted

4.6 Dual Purpose Centres & Funding

The Chief Executive provided an update on 2026 funding of the dual purpose centres, informing the Board that the situation is still ongoing. Communication is ongoing with Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council and the Department of Education and Youth with more formal updates planned for the March meeting.

4.7 Special Schools Update

The Board was briefed on the potential of two new special schools and the expansion of the existing special schools within DDLETB for September 2026 as proposed by the Department of Education and Youth. It was acknowledged that expansion of the special schools is necessary, however, concerns

were raised by Board members in relation to staff shortages in the current special schools along with a need for additional resources in Head Office. DDLETB continue to work with the NCSE in regard to a shortage of SNAs in a number of schools. It was agreed by the Board that Belmayne Community Special School as well as Lucan Community Special School will prepare a report of staffing for the March Board meeting. Board members expressed concerns that our special schools are currently under resourced based on the needs of the students. Board members also expressed the need for a second special school in D15.

Board members discussed recent coverage of proposed reduction in SNA numbers in community national schools. No DDLETB schools were to be impacted by this announcement.

4.8 IBEC Keep Well Mark

Paul Turner briefed the Board on the recent IBEC Keep Well Mark award received by DDLETB for outstanding efforts regarding staff wellbeing. The Board was informed that the IBEC accreditation will remain valid for 2 years after which DDLETB will be re-audited.

5 Matters Submitted by the Executive

5.1 Reports from Chief Executive

Chief Executive and Director reports circulated in Board pack in advance of meeting and were verbally presented to the Board.

5.2 Finance Report

Finance report circulated in Board pack in advance of meeting and noted by the Board.

Mairead Walsh presented the Finance report to the Board. Discussed 2026 FET funding allocation and agreed to make a case to SOLAS for additional funding.

Board members were updated on the recent announcement that STAG has entered voluntary liquidation. DDLETB are currently providing assistance to impacted learners.

5.3 Buildings Report

Building report circulated in Board pack in advance of meeting and noted by the Board.

Ross Lynam presented the report to the Board.

Concerns were raised in relation to ongoing electricity outages in the St Kevin's Community College prefabs. Documents and relevant correspondence have been submitted to the Department of education and Youth to secure replacement units.

A query was raised in relation to the application for a new building in Coolmine Community School. A letter of support from DDLETB was submitted to the Department of Education and Youth a number of months ago.

An update was provided in relation to electrical works needed at St MacDara's Community College. Ross Lynam has informed the Board that an emergency works application is under development for this work.

Ross Lynam has provided an update in relation to the National Rehabilitation Community Hospital School, informing the Board that discussions are ongoing between DDLETB and the hospital to better accommodate the needs of the school.

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An emergency works applications for the Castleknock Community College has been submitted to repair two sections of the roof.

5.4 Staff Profile

Appointments and promotions; retirements - noted

5.5 Policies - noted

Risk Register – noted

Director of OSD has briefed the Board on the minor changes done to the risk register since the November Board meeting. AI has now been added to the Risk Register. New Microsoft licencing software is being implemented to address the growing cyber security risks.

6 Matters Submitted by the Board

6.1 Seeking further clarification on the emergency works for Castleknock Community College

Concerns have been raised in relation to the outstanding emergency works in Castleknock Community College and the damage to various classrooms which raises Health and Safety concerns. Ross Lynam has acknowledged these concerns and informed the Board that numerous applications for emergency works have been submitted to the Department of Education. The Board was informed that this matter will be escalated further.

7. Date of Next Meeting

25th March 2026 at 4:30pm