



KWETB Board Meeting

Minutes of the Board of KWETB held on Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 10.30a.m.

Venue: Online

Present: Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick in the Chair, Cllr. Tom Fortune, Mr. David O’Gorman, Cllr Íde Cussen, Mr. Stephen Horan, Cllr. Anne Ferris, Ms. Siobhain Grogan, Cllr. Evie Sammon, Cllr. Peter Hamilton, Cllr. Paul O’Brien, Cllr Patsy Glennon, Cllr. Kevin Duffy, Mr. Noel Merrick, Ms Kerrie Sheehan and Ms Deirdre O’Connell.

In attendance: Dr. Deirdre Keyes CE, Mr. Joe Kelly Director of OSD, Mr. Ken Scully, Director of Schools, Mr. Ken Seery, Director of FET, Dr. Áine Murphy KWETB, Ms. Orla Kealy KWETB, Ms Catherine Doran, KWETB.

Apologies: None received

Absent: Ms. Aoife Ní Chéileachair, Mr. Ronan Mills, Ms. Caoimhe Molloy, Cllr. Nuala Killeen, Cllr Lourda Scott and Cllr. Bernard Caldwell



Minute ETB 01-02-2024

No. 1 Conflicts of Interest/Disclosure of Interests

The Chair requested for statements of conflict of interests. Board members declared no conflicts of interest.

Minute ETB 02-02-2024

No. 2 Apologies, Sympathies & Congratulations

No Apologies were received for today's meeting.

The Board offered sympathies to the families of;
Kevin Browne, former Deputy Principal at Scoil Chonglais, Baltinglass

The Board held a moment of silence as a mark of respect.

The Chair then welcomed the two new members to the Board, Deirdre O'Connell as our ICTU nominee and Kerrie Sheehan, our new parent representative. Kerrie's former contribution to the KWETB Audit and Risk Committee as a member the past 4 years was acknowledged and thanked by the Chair on behalf of the Board.

Minute ETB 03-02-2024

No. 3 Adopting the Minutes of previous meetings

3.1 Minutes of Board meeting 23rd January 2024.

Proposed: Cllr Peter Hamilton

Seconded: Stephen Horan

Minute ETB 04-02-2024

No. 4 Matters Arising from the Minutes
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No matters arose from the minutes.

Minute ETB 05-02-2024

No. 5 Matters for approval, noting or adoption
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5.1. Adoption

The draft annual Service Plan 2024 was brought for adoption to the Board today. Introducing same, the CE noted that the 2022 financial accounts were laid before the House of the Oireachtas and confirmed as finalised two weeks ago. This followed the audit by the Comptroller and Audit General and the submission of same just 6 weeks prior. The CE thanked the Finance Committee, the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) and the Board for their contribution in this process.

The CE provided a general overview to the narrative body of the plan noting items such as governance and internal control oversight assisted by the ARC, acknowledging the demographic growth and challenges which accompany same regarding accommodation for schools and centres. FET expansion of services supporting integration of the new FET College of the Future was noted as a large focus as



well as many other objectives as set out by SOLAS and Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS). The CE noted the organisations commitment and progress with equality, diversity and inclusion.

The Chair of the Finance Committee, Noel Merrick, followed with a summary of the significant financial elements to the 2024 service plan. The Finance Committee were taken through the projections for the year at their meeting last week. The FC Chair noted this plan is based on a cash in, cash out basis and excludes surpluses remaining in KWETB accounts from the previous year. This explains that the current surpluses will account for the perceived deficit in the plan presented today. The FC Chair brought attention to a number of pertinent figures projected for the year and the provisional figures received from the Department of Education (DE) and in some instances the variance between these. The pay and instruction cost increases projected was noted as a variance to the provided figure from the DE, although he assured that the DE meet these costs once the ETB stay within their staffing allocation. Cllr Peter Hamilton supported the plan and information provided as a member of the Finance Committee also.

Mention was provided to the current action in relation to identifying equality and human rights issues, under the work of the equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) working group, to which the next strategy statement consultation will also contribute in further identification of actions under EDI.

The Service Plan template is provided by the DE which we then complete and submit. It was clarified that the school places challenges are managed at school level with Executive assistance, however the Service Plan does address capital spending regarding confirmed DE approved projects. KWETB review the capital projects in train for 2024 and base the expected spend off this, allowing for a 30% contingency figure. The Board were informed that projected figures are subject to change with circumstances throughout the year, which is reported to the Finance Committee and further reported to the Board via the committee reports.

Cllr Tom Fortune, although he had not viewed the plan provided to the Board, does not agree with the naming of the plan presented as he feels this is not service plan, rather a financial plan and does not support the approval for this reason.

The FC Chair noted to the Board that the service plan remains in draft until accepted by the DE and that the Finance Committee recommend the adoption of this draft Service Plan 2024 to the Board.

Proposed: Cllr Peter Hamilton

Seconded: Cllr Anne Ferris

Minute ETB 06-02-2024

No. 06 Members Business/Questions

6.1 Moladh faoin bPailistín / Proposal re Palestine

Member Siobhain Grogan brought a proposal supporting a ceasefire in Gaza, which other members had also added their names to and spoke in support of.

After a discussion, it was agreed to amend the proposal to the following statement.




The Board of KWETB wished to minute that it supports the call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. This is particularly in the light of our core value as an education organisation supporting the rights of all children to an education in their community in a safe and caring environment and to be treated equally and with respect.

The board were very cognisant of their reserve functions but considered this to be an important issue to have noted.

Minute ETB 12-02-2024
No. 12 Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting;
Tuesday 26th March at 10.30a.m. TBC.

Signed: 

Date: 25/04/2024

Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick
Chairperson of Kildare and Wicklow ETB