

hjbBOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

MONDAY 8th JUNE 2020

MINUTES OF THE 15th MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT TYNDALL COLLEGE A SUB-COMMITTEE OF KILKENNY & CARLOW EDUCATION & TRAINING BOARD - MONDAY 8TH JUNE 2020

Attendance:

- Mr. Seamus Donohoe, Chairperson
- Mr. Gerry McGill, (Principal) Secretary
- Mr. Dermot O’Boyle, Staff Representative
- Ms. Audrey Howard Bowles, Staff Representative
- Mr. Fergal Browne, ETB Representative
- Ms. Andrea Dalton, ETB Representative
- Mr. Thomas O Donohoe, Parents Representative
- Mr. Brian Redmond, Community and Business Representative
- Mrs Mary Broderick, Parents Representative

Invited Guests:

- Ms. Pauline Egan, Director of Schools KCETB
- Ms. Emer Morrissey, Deputy Principal

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

No Apologies



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Deputy Principal
Ms. Emer Morrissey

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3. Minutes of the fourteenth meeting of the BOM of Tyndall College

On the proposal of Ms. Andrea Dalton, seconded by Mr. Thomas O'Donohoe, the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted

4. Matters Arising

- a. No Matters arising

5. Whole School Evaluation

- The Whole School Evaluation took place on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, and Wednesday 11th March, 2020.
- Inspector, Ms. Kate O Carroll, stated that a wrap up meeting would be scheduled as soon as possible with Mr McGill and Ms Morrissey.
- Staff reported that feedback, following lesson observations, was positive.
- It may be some time before we get the final report.

6. Secretary's Report

a. Teaching and Learning and Covid-19

- All students were set up online in Microsoft Teams, prior to the school closure. Staff have been teaching remotely. Concerns were expressed from early on regarding lack of engagement.
- In an effort to address the issue of engagement by students, staff put a booklet together for every student in 1st, 2nd, and 5th Year (LCA & LCVP), at common level, with revision at the end. 3rd years also got a booklet but had higher and ordinary level where applicable. These were posted out to all the students with a return addressed envelope.

b. ICT Issues

- Mr. McGill researched the reasons for lack of engagement and found that in many homes, students did not have access to suitable devices and were using their mobile phones. They could not open Microsoft applications. The other was around using 4G and running out of data.



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- The Digital strategy team is working to address this deficit in the coming academic year. They will contact all parents. There is also the possibility of getting Carlow Credit Union involved so that every house would have a device with a screen and keyboard.
- Additional digital funding, was made available during Covid-19. Initially for Leaving Cert students, this funding will now be used to target supports for students in ICT.
- Mr. Fergal Browne, highlighted that nationally there is anecdotal evidence to suggest lack of engagement by students, notably at post primary, who did little or nothing even taking ICT issues into account. He expressed concern about how to get students, particularly those going in to exam years, into the habit of learning again.
- Mr. Dermot O’Boyle, stated that while access to computers and broadband were major issues, he also felt that peer pressure not to engage was a factor. He said that in Tyndall College’s case, the hard copy booklets helped students to engage in their learning. He also stated there was a learning curve for teachers and this learning will benefit teachers, in helping students engage, particularly if there is a second wave of Covid-19.
- Ms. Audrey Howard Bowles, said that the booklets did a lot to help parents support their students, as they could see and understand the work students were being asked to do.

c. End of Year Reports

- Have been completed and will be posted to all parents.

d. Leaving Certificate Calculated Grades

- Online portal for students to register was completed by all Tyndall College Students
- All Leaving Certificate - (Leaving Cert Established, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and Leaving Certificate Applied) – teachers, met Tuesday 2nd June 2020, in school and conducted the subject alignment process. The paperwork was completed and submitted to the Principal.
- The Department of Education, sent the confirmed subject levels to the school, on Monday 8th June 2020.
- The exam aids have been granted and will start work this week.



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- Ms Andrea Dalton, asked if all Leaving Certificate students, had registered on the online portal. Mr McGill, contacted all students to remind them to register. It was also put up on the college's social media sites. Mr. McGill, was in a position to confirm that all Tyndall College Leaving Certificate students (Established, Vocational Programme & Applied Programme) are now registered.
- Ms. Pauline Egan, acknowledged the work teachers have done as part of the calculated grades model, which had put an additional two weeks work on teachers and she thanked them for their work and dedication.

e. DEIS Plan

- The current DEIS plan is complete and work is well underway on the new plan.

f. School Self Evaluation SSE

- Report on Student Voice and Co-Teaching is available in the packs supplied to the members

g. School Improvement Plan

- The next School Improvement Plan is in the works and should be ready for August 2020

h. School Tours

- The school has received the refund for the senior tour. The money is with KCETB and will be returned to parents.
- The company, organising the 2nd year tour, has gone into liquidation. Ms. Howard-Bowles, is trying to reclaim the money paid.

i. Cancelled Events

Owing to Covid-19, we were unable to hold the Awards Day and Leaving Certificate Graduation. There is a team in place ready to plan and organise them when the time is right. Some schools held these events online, but this was not possible in Tyndall College's case, owing to the aforementioned ICT issues, that students were experiencing.



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j. Assistant Principles

- The roles and responsibilities report, from each AP, is in the BOM member's pack.
- In the coming academic year, there are to be two new AP's appointed, 1 AP1 and 1 AP2.

k. Enrolments

- There are currently 130, incoming 1st Years registered.
- The numbers had fluctuated slightly as the first year assessment day 13th March 2020 was cancelled due to Covid – 19 lockdown.

l. Transfers

- Large numbers of students have applied to transfer into other year groups.
- A number of the applications have been processed. Of these some students are relocating to Carlow and other wish to transfer from other schools in Carlow.
- There is uncertainty around if and how many international students will be coming next year, owing to Covid-19.

m. Recruitment

- Currently there are 18 fixed term posts being advertised by KCETB for Tyndall College
- 4 of these relate to maternity leave.
- 12 teachers are re-interviewing, who are in year 1 contract. Appointments are on open competition and advertised by KCETB.
- The allocation of teaching staff has risen from 48.37 to 55.95 in one year.
- As Tyndall College has been approved for a 3rd ASD class, the allocation for SNA's will go from 6.5 to 8.5

n. Wellbeing

- A lot of work has happened to support students and parents during lockdown, Mr. McGill thanked staff for all they have been doing online and in person. Year Heads have been making calls to families to connect with the students. School Completion SCP, Home School Community Liaison HSCL and the Guidance Counsellor, have been doing major work to support families.



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- School Meals happened in Tyndall College 30th March to the 29th May. Mr. McGill thanked the many staff who assisted with this. The school operated a drive through system that worked very well. The Department of Education stated that school meals had to stop as of the 29th May, 2020, even though there was some money left.
- Tyndall College recorded a version of “Stand By Me”, by Ben E. King and was put up on the college’s social media sites, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. It got over 18 thousand views. Mr. McGill, thanked Ms. Quinn and Ms. Kassam, for arranging it. A number of students got together online and reciprocated with a song, to thank the school.
- The SPHE team put a wellbeing newsletter together over 7 weeks, with contributions from staff and students. This was led by Mr. Matthew Hughes. This has been very positively received and was put up on TEAMS and social media for all to view.
- Leaving Cert Students, now leaving the college, continue to be supported and assisted, notably in applying for CAO and Further Ed.
- Many families will continue to get support over the summer
- Ms. Andrea Dalton, raised the issue that for many families, school is a haven. They know their students are supported and cared for, and that the college needs to be cognisant of this moving forward.
- Ms. Andrea Dalton, thanked teachers for the work they have been doing during lockdown and that they are to be commended. Mr. McGill, acknowledged that there has been massive learning for all during this time and that more training is needed for students. Currently students one class per week with an ICT teacher. Mr. McGill, acknowledge the massive learning for all during this term.
- Ms. Andrea Dalton, raised concerns around a number of issues that will need to be addressed on returning to school. The college would have to be mindful of and give consideration to the following:
 - 5th year students going into 6th year, who have missed out on a large chunk of time from their course and this coupled with lack of engagement, was a worry moving into Leaving Certificate year.
 - For incoming 1st years, who are missing out on the final stages of primary school and making the move to post primary will need supports and minding to help them adjust.
- In response to the concerns regarding incoming 1st years, Ms. Audrey Howard-Bowles, stated that Tyndall College induction programme was being tailored to take this into account that there will be a looking back to move forward to support these students.



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- Ms. Pauline Egan, raised the point that Care Teams, in KCETB schools, have been meeting and tracking student engagement and working with families through this time. The HSCL has been gaining invaluable insights and information about situations families are dealing with and identifying students that will require additional supports when they do return to school.
- Ms. Mary Broderick noted that many students are looking forward to coming back to school and that they are missing the routine.
- The Chairperson, Mr. Seamus Donohoe, thanked and congratulated the school on behalf of the Board of Management for increase in student numbers, staffing and the work that was being done to support the students at all times but none more so than during the Covid-19 lockdown.

7. Policies

The New Tyndall College Admissions Policy was presented to the Board of Management.

- Two inserts
 - Definition of multi denominational school in an ETB context to section 2
 - Section 4 in relation to application of a student for admission if that student pose a risk to health and safety.
- Ms. Andrea Dalton and Mr, Fergal Browne, queried the catchment area set out in the policy, and looked to have the schools in Graiguecullen named in the catchment section. This was agreed. Educate Together and St Fiaccs are now part of this and no longer come under the heading of Carlow Town Schools.
- Ms. Andrea Dalton, sought clarification relating to where the policy stated that students must be 12 years of age on the first of January. Mr McGill clarified that students can be 11 years of age when enrolling but must be 12 years of age during the school year.

On the proposal of Mr. Fergal Browne, seconded by Ms. Mary Broderick, the policy was adopted.

8. Parents Association

- Understandably, activity has been quite during the Covid-19 lockdown.



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9. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- Nothing to report

10. Anti-Bullying

- Nothing to report

15. AOB

- The Chairperson thanked Mr. Thomas O' Donohoe, as this is his final meeting as a member of the BOM. Mr. Thomas O' Donohoe thanked the Board and thanked the school for looking after his daughter.
- Mr McGill thanked the BOM for their work this year, notably during the inspection and during Covid- 19. As soon as he has information on the coming school year, he will share it with the BOM.
- At the present time focus is on working on the Leaving Certificate calculated grades and on recruitment for 2020-2021.
- Mr. Fergal Browne, highlighted that work is being done on the footpaths on the Kilkenny Road. He also stated that there is hope that owing to Covid-19 and new government talks, that cycle lanes may become a reality.
- Ms. Andrea Dalton, continues to request bins for walkway out to the college, to address the issue around litter on the Kilkenny Road.

It was decided in light of current uncertainty that a date would not be set for the next BOM meeting at this time.

Date of Next

SIGNED: _____
CHAIRPERSON

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____
SECRETARY

DATE: _____



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