

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING**

**TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022**

**MINUTES OF THE 23<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT TYNDALL COLLEGE  
A SUB-COMMITTEE OF KILKENNY & CARLOW EDUCATION & TRAINING BOARD –  
TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**Attendance:** Mr. Seamus Donohoe, Chairperson  
Mr. Gerry McGill, (Principal) Secretary  
Ms. Audrey Howard Bowles, Staff Representative  
Ms. Mary Broderick, Parent Representative  
Mr. Brian Redmond, Community Representative  
Mr. Fergal Browne, ETB Representative  
Ms. Andrea Dalton, ETB Representative  
Mr. Dermot O’Boyle, Staff Representative

**Apologies** Ms Pauline Egan. Director of Schools, KCETB  
Mr. Chris Chapman, Parents Representative

**Invited Guests :** Ms. Maria Quinn, Deputy Principal



**Principal**  
Mr. Gerry McGill

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**Deputy Principals**  
Ms. Emer Morrissey, Ms. Maria Quinn

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**email:** tyndall.info@kilkennycarlowetb.ie

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1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following members:

Ms Pauline Egan. Director of Schools, KCETB

Mr. Chris Chapman, Parents Representative

3. Minutes of the twenty third meeting of the BOM of Tyndall College

On the proposal of Mr. Dermot O'Boyle, seconded by Ms Andrea Dalton , the minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> BOM were adopted.

4. Matters Arising

No matters arose.

5. GDPR

There was nothing to report under GDPR.

6. Correspondence

- No correspondence received.



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## 7. Secretary's Report

### Learning & Teaching

- Mock Examinations are complete for the Leaving Cert & Leaving Cert Applied Students.
- Mock Examinations for Junior Cycle students to commence on Wednesday 23rd of March and be completed by Friday 1st April.

Mr. McGill informed the Board that the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle were going ahead as planned in June. This year he was unable to accommodate both mock examinations at the same time, due to Covid 19 restrictions and the day to day supervision and substitution cover required. He explained that the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students also required a little more time after their Christmas examinations, which they found stressful.

- Learning and Teaching initiatives

Mr. McGill informed the Board that following on from Mr. Ray Ryan's presentation to the board at the last meeting, the Learning and Teaching team were, on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March, aiming to introduce a Learning and Teaching initiative where they encourage staff to share best practice in their classrooms. This will be known as Star Week, where they invite colleagues into their classrooms to share their Learning and teaching practices.

#### How it works

If staff sign up to participate, they offer up one lesson where they are comfortable for colleagues to come in and experience the learning environment. Colleagues attend the lesson for a maximum time of 10 minutes. The staff member can decide if they want colleagues in at the beginning, middle or end of their chosen lesson.

Its purpose is to identify good teaching strategies and to encourage a collaborative culture among the staff.

### Incidental Special Education Needs Inspection

Mr McGill shared his incidental SEN inspection notes with the Board for all members to read.

- He informed the Board that Ms. Sinead Greene was the visiting inspector and she observed mainstream classroom lessons and special class lesson.
- The inspection focused on three areas of the continuum, learner outcomes, learner experiences and teachers individual and collaborative practice.
- It was noted in the that student voice was a very strong focus with the inspector. "Behaviour was excellent and supported by teachers who modelled exemplary respect and social interactions with their students and the value of student voice was integral to the lesson".



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- Mr McGill stated it was also a very affirming experience for Ms. Mary Bolger and her SEN team, who had worked for a number of years in building the SEN department.
- Child Protection Checks were complete.
- Overall we received very positive feedback with practical recommendations.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Mr McGill informed the board that face to face Parent Teacher meetings would be taking place over the coming weeks as follows:

- 5th & 6th Year combined, 14th of March.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year on the 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year meeting has already taken place online.
- 1<sup>st</sup> year meetings to take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 29<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Restorative Practice**

- Restorative Practice Training is ongoing and Mr McGill thanked Ms. Pauline Egan, Director of Schools for assisting in allocating additional places to Tyndall College to engage in this process.

### **Enrolments 2021-22**

- Currently we are at 807 students.
- As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 2021, we had 790 students.

#### First Year 2022

Mr McGill informed the Board that the enrolment process for 2022-2023 was now complete. 180 students have been accepted, with a waiting list. The consultation process with other schools is now complete. He explained the dual enrolment process and his communication with the other principals regarding this matter. He anticipates movement up and down on the waiting list number, but opined that all students seeking school places would be accommodated in the various schools.

#### ○ Transfers & Relocations

Mr McGill informed the Board that he expects applications. Currently 90 applications have been received. This is a combination of students who are relocating to Carlow, international students and local transfers. Projected enrolment for next year is 930 students.

### **Recruitment 2022-23**

- This is a process which will commence in May/June 2022.
- Ms Pauline Egan, Director of Schools, has signed off on job share applications and career break applications for 2022-23. Mr McGill informed the Board that he coordinates closely with the HR department in KCETB, to interview teachers in early June and especially teachers with subjects that are difficult to fill.



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### Extra-Curricular

- Basketball
  - The girls basketball team are South East, U16, winners.
  - The U14 boys and girls basketball competitions are ongoing.
- Soccer
  - The junior boys won the South East Leinster, Division 2, competition.
  - The first Year Cup soccer has just commenced.
- Mr. McGill informed the board of a variety of activities happening on site over the past number of weeks, these included:
  - Seachtain na Gaeilge
  - Fairtrade Fortnight
  - International Women's Day
  - Driver Ed Programme for TY students, running consecutively on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March.
  - School Trips are back on and Mr McGill envisages they will be up and running over the next number of weeks.
  - The school musical “Beauty and the Beast”, is up and running including weekend rehearsals. Performances will take place the first week after the Easter holidays.
  - Our 6<sup>th</sup> year graduation and student awards day will all take place on site.

### 8. Parents Association

Ms Mary Broderick reported on the following:

- a. The PA had a meeting with Ms. Clare Halpin and Ms. Lorraine Lawlor.
- b. It was noted at that meeting that the name “Parents Association” could be an issue for parents and it was discussed at the meeting of a possible change of name. This was acknowledged as a good idea by members of the board.
- c. The change of name proposal was delayed due to the cancellation of the last meeting due to Covid 19.
- d. It was decided at the last meeting to organise a walking group for parents in the morning time. This again was cancelled due to Covid 19.
- e. Flowers were sent to Ms Irene O’ Brien, for her dedicated years of service to the Parents Association
- f. The 6<sup>th</sup> year Debs committee lost their €600 deposits. Discussions have taken place with Mr McGill on the matter.
- g. The Parents Association are now aware that supervised and assisted study is taking place in school. They welcomed the initiative.
- h. The Parents Association noted that the incoming first year parents have not yet seen the building and it was suggested that small group tours could be organised to facilitate this. Mr McGill noted that was a possibility before the end of the year. He informed the board that Ms Audrey Howard Bowles, would be first year head this coming year and the first year team will be meeting shortly.



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- i. The Parents Association were looking forward to assisting in school activities and would be assisting at the School bake sale on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March. New members would be attending that day.
- Ms Audrey Howard Bowles supported that idea of a change of name for the Parent Association.
  - Mr McGill acknowledged the positive impact, the Parents Association has had on the school.

Mr Seamus Donohoe asked if Ms Mary Broderick would like to propose a change of name at this evening meeting. Mary declined the offer stating she had only a number of weeks left on the Parents Association and felt it would be more appropriate for the new members to decided that.

9. Mr. McGill thanked Mr. Fergal Browne for his recent generosity in securing a €600 euro grant from his County Council discretionary fund. This road safety awareness programme was provided by Body Light Ireland.

10. KCETB Ethos Présentation – Ms. Maria Quinn

The Chairperson thanked Ms Maria Quinn for her presentation.

The next meeting of the BOM of Tyndall College, will be Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, of April, at 4pm.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



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