

## Minutes of MSLETB Board Meeting

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Venue:** Swinford FET



**msletb**

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Mhaigh Eo, Shligigh agus Liatroma  
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim  
Education and Training Board

1.	Members Present
	<p>Cllr. Richard Finn Cllr. Gerry Murray Cllr. Gerry Coyle Cllr. Donna Sheridan Cllr. John Caulfield Cllr. Mary Bohan (Acting Chair) Cllr. Edel McSharry Cllr. Sean Carey Mr. Pat Forde Ms. Sabina McLoughlin Mr. Aidan Brogan Ms. Angela O'Brien</p> <p>Mr. Seamus Kilgannon Ms. Colette Brawn Mr. Malachy Molloy Ms. Pamela Ni Thaidhig</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Cllr. Paddy O'Rourke Cllr. James Gilmartin Cllr. Dara Mulvey Cllr. Joeseph Queenan, Chairperson Mr. Shane Goldsberry</p> <p><b>MSLETB Staff:</b> Mr Pat Howley DOSD Mr Peter Egan DFET Mr John McGoey, APO Finance Mrs. Sarah Mulroe, Corporate Services (took minutes of the meeting)</p>
2.	Declarations of conflict of Interest

	No conflict of interest declared.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Adoption of Minutes</b>
	The adoption of the minutes of MSLETB's Board Meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 2025, were proposed by Mr. Seamus Kilgannon and seconded by Ms. Pamela Ní Thaidhig.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>
	Cllr. Paddy O'Rourke was ratified onto the FET Committee, proposed by Mr Pat Forde and seconded by Ms Collette Brawn.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Risk Management</b>
	Deferred to the next board meeting on the 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
<b>6.</b>	<b>Approval of Lease agreements</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Benwiskin Centre, approval of lease extension, approved by the board on the 12.11.24 Ballintrillick Environmental Group have contacted MSLETB and are no longer proceeding with the extension of the lease.</li> <li>2. Beltra Hall, Sligo, Approval to lease hall to the Beltra Agricultural Show CLG.</li> </ol> <p>The Board approved on the proposal of Mr. Pat Forde and was seconded by Ms. Angel O'Brien.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Governance / Report from Sub Committees</b>
	DFET gave a comprehensive report from the FET aligned Sub Committees and the ongoing work in the Youth and Arts.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Chief Executive's Report</b>
	<p>The CE extended his welcome to the Board members.</p> <p>Votes of Sympathy The CE extended sympathies to a number of staff members and their families on recent bereavements, including our colleague Michael McIntyre Co-ordinator and Teacher. Peggy Neenan mother of our colleague Fiona Neenan.</p> <p>The CE congratulated Mayo College of Further Education and Training (MCFET) who were awarded Further Education Provider of the Year 2025 at the prestigious Education Awards in Dublin earlier this month.</p> <p>The CE advised the board that upcoming Chairperson Training will be taking place – ETBI will be in contact with Board and sub-committee Chairpersons regarding upcoming governance training sessions specifically targeted for Chairpersons.</p>

The CE advised the Board that the process of taking over the patronage of Cuilmore N.S update had stalled at the moment, he thanked all involved for their hard work.

Mr. Aidan Brogan ask what had happened with Cuilmore.

The CE advised that matters were stalled, due to an unforeseen personal school related matter that arose at a very later stage, for the moment and will possibly revisit this at a future date. He thanked Archbishop Duffy and Fr Tod Nolan for all their efforts with this matter.

The CE suggested that the Retirement function could be held on 24<sup>th</sup> June in Leitrim. The Board queried if it might be better in the Autumn as people would be away on holidays in June, so a venue and time connecting with the Board meeting in September is to be looked into before the next meeting.

The CE also informed the Board of some ongoing current events and items he is directly involved in or overseeing:

- Attended the ETB Flagship event in Croke park on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March
- Attended the ETBI headquarters for the meeting with ETBI representatives and 2 CE representatives with Minister for DFHERIS, James Lawless TD, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April
- Attended the Joint Forum of Directors and CEs in Carlow 9<sup>th</sup> April
- The official launch of the Youthreach Kiltimagh Wellness Garden was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April
- Visited Glasgow and Argile College on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, representing the ETBI CE Forum at the Nations Alliance on Further Education and Training.
- Attended a meeting with the Secretary General on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May in Department of Ed and Youth offices.
- The DFET Forum was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May (Co Chair)
- Attended the Education Awards in Dublin on the 8<sup>th</sup> May
- Attended the joint Steering and Working Group Tertiary programme meeting held in Galway on the 12<sup>th</sup> May
- Attended the CE Forum 2<sup>nd</sup> April and the 14<sup>th</sup> May
- ETBI/ESBS Information Security and Governance Seminar 2025 on the 13<sup>th</sup> May
- Attended the MSLETB FET Leaders meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> May
- And the MSLETB Foróige Youthwork Launch event on the 16<sup>th</sup> May for South Sligo in Tubbercurry.

Cllr. Edel McSharry enquired if there was an update on the Tertiary Programme.

The CE advised that the feeling was that as a collaborative group involved in the region, that we were in the same place as last year. Nursing is very strong, but this depends on clinical places available. Some of the new programmes are

	<p>looking healthy i.e. Sustainable Energy. Numbers remain relatively low in the other available areas, though it is early to predict as yet for September 2025. DFET advised that more work needs to be done in this area and we are working on it.</p> <p>Cllr. Edel McSharry stated that it is important that, if possible, all students doing a PLC have the opportunity to repeat exams if required.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>a. Schools Report</b></p> <p>DOS gave a comprehensive overview of the Schools Report including teacher allocations for 25/26 and the RSA. The DOS extended her congratulation to Rosspoint Girls- All Ireland Olympic Handball winner, a monumental win given the numbers in the school.</p> <p>The DOS advised that BOM training continues for members.</p> <p>The DOS advised that she will be attending the Overnight Seminar for Principals on the 9/10 June. She will also attend the Summer School Middle Leaders which will take place in Galway University on 18-20th June.</p> <p><b>b. Further Education and Training Report</b></p> <p>The DFET gave a comprehensive summary of the FET report, including that there is ongoing engagement with the NAO and SOLAS regarding the shortfall of funding for Apprenticeships. He advised that we must make challenging choices regarding the services we can deliver.</p> <p>DFET advised that VTOS has been integrated into PLC and some staff are transferring and core programmes will be discontinued.</p> <p>Mr. Seamus Kilgannon congratulated Michael Murphy and Mayo College of Further Education on the Award. He added that it was very disappointing regarding the shortfall in the apprenticeship shortfall and we should be training skilled people to address the housing crisis etc.</p> <p>Ms. Sabina McLoughlin enquired if all VTOS was merging into PLC and if there was an issue with age difference.</p> <p>DFET advised that yes, all VTOS merging and that lots of different age groups on lots of different programmes.</p>

Mr. Pat Forde advised that each year it is mentioned nationally how many learners go on to 3<sup>rd</sup> level colleges, it needs to be mentioned how many go on to take up apprenticeships.

Cllr. Edel McSharry stated that we need to make Apprenticeship's as attractive as possible. The apprenticeship journey is very valuable and needs to be promoted.

Cllr. Sean Carey advised that the Canal House Project was progressing well

DFET advised that he was hopeful it would be completed by the end of the summer.

The CE advised that other ETBs including our own will be writing to the NAO regarding the funding issues. Furthermore, if we don't have enough funding we can't pay allowances. There will be a meeting next Friday to discuss this further, and the CE will keep the Board informed.

Ms. Sabina McLoughlin enquired regarding the FET building in Leitrim

The CE advised that we are working with Leitrim Co Co to try and progress this, there will be a meeting next Thursday to discuss this matter.

**c. Organisation Support and Development Report including Buildings, Finance and ICT Report**

The DOSD gave a comprehensive overview of the Organisation Support & Development Report.

The DOSD advised that we had received a letter from Corran College regarding the acute accommodation pressures currently been experienced at the school. He further advised that we had to purchase a modular from our own funds. DOSD advised that the Department expect 98% usage of all rooms in a school – even if that means using the library. He advised that it is a huge challenge for school and very stressful.

Mr. Seamus Kilgannon advised that this was insulting information from the Department and that numbers were growing fast and if they get refused admission word will get out that they are not accepting students.

Cllr. Edel McSharry advised that Grange Parent Association are really distressed regarding the toilet situation there.

The DOSD advised that to rent a toilet block was €150,000 and to buy one is €250,000 and the Department are back and over on this with no decisions yet been made.

Regarding the Servery the DOSD advised we are still waiting to hear from the Department.

Regarding the additional accommodation – if the carparking issue is not addressed planning won't grant permission and the Department are not accepting this. The DOSD advised that there has been so much back and over on this it has been ongoing now for 1½ to 2 years, it's a huge challenge.

DOS advised that one school needed 7 rooms for a LCVP exam, and this was just not feasible.

Mr. Seamus Kilgannon advised that schools could grow but because of the Department they can't.

Cllr. Mary Bohan suggested putting political pressure on might help.

The CE advised that the Department's priorities are elsewhere, and that staff are going through many steps and many contacts with the Department Building Section trying to get any progress.

Ms. Pamela Ni Taidgh stated that she wouldn't refuse any student, and that the onus should be put back on the Department.

The CE advised that there was an admissions policy update and MSLETB schools aim to be fully compliant Furthermore, some schools are overloaded in the region, and some are single gender schools. In general, the Department are looking at the overall picture and don't prioritise parents having to drop a boy at one school and a girl at another school. Actual available school places are the priority.

The DOSD informed the Board about a number of under and over payments involving our pensioners. The discrepancies were uncovered during pay increase calculations and reported to the NSSO, but not all amendments were implemented as per MSLETBs instructions. 4 cases remain to be sorted out. MSLETB are working with ESBS to bring this matter to a close.

The CE wished to thank DOSD and Mr. Chris Callan for all their work on this matter.

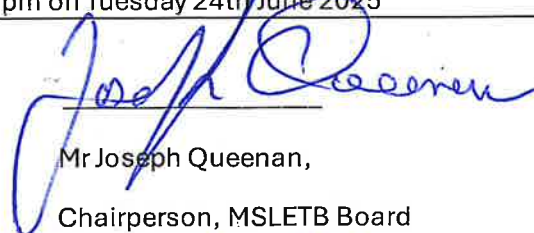
Ms. Donna Sheridan observed that pensions were very complex.

The DOS advised of a robot that was been used at Drumshanbo VS and was only one of 7 in Ireland. AV1 Robots are a telepresence solution for children and young people to access school and classroom settings from another location. A young student who is currently in hospital for some months can log into the robot remotely and it will be as if he is in the classroom, he can interact with the



	<p>teacher and with his peers. This could be a game changer for children with anxiety around school attendance, or complex and chronic medical needs, which may prevent regular in person lessons.</p> <p>Mr. Pat Forde observed that this could work really well with the elderly living alone.</p> <p>Ms. Pamela Ni Taidgh enquired if there was any update on Coláiste Comman Storm Damage</p> <p>DOSD advised that consultants have prescribed a remedy, and he was hopeful it would progress soon.</p> <p>Mr. Pat Ford enquired if there was any update on St. Brendan's</p> <p>DOSD advised that it was going to stage 2A in June.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Any Correspondence / documents for noting</b>
	No
<b>12.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
	The next board meeting will be held Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon at 4.00pm on Tuesday 24th June 2025

Signed:

  
 Mr Joseph Queenan,  
 Chairperson, MSLETB Board

Date:

24-6-25

24<sup>th</sup> June 2025.