City of Dublin ETB Board Meeting November 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the City of Dublin Education and Training Board held on Thursday 20th November 2025 at 5.00 p.m. in City of Dublin ETB, Head Office, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 and via Zoom.

Present:

Cllr. Keith Connolly (Chairperson)
Ms. Bernadette Bourke (online)
Ms. Audrey Cepeda (online)
Cllr. Donna Cooney (online)
Mr. Malachy Farrell
Cllr. Declan Flanagan (online)
Cllr. Jesslyn Henry (online)
Cllr. Rory Hogan (online)
Cllr. Vincent Jackson (online)
Cllr. Dermot Lacey (online)
Ms. Denise McMorrow
Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll
Cllr. Gayle Ralph (online)
Mr. Michael Smyth

In attendance:

Dr. Christy Duffy (Chief Executive)
Ms. Aideen O'Riordan (Director of OSD* - Finance)
Mr. Blake Hodkinson (Director of FET)
Mr. John Moriarty (Director of FET)
Ms. Wesleigh O'Hagan (Director of Schools)
Mr. Philip Connolly (Director of Services SUSI)
Mr. Damien Costello (Governance Officer)
**Organisation Support & Development*

Apologies:

Ms. Kay Cullinan (Director of OSD*)
Mr. Adrian Cummins
Mr. Niall Donald
Cllr. Michael MacDonncha
Cllr. Colm O'Rourke
Mr. Aidan Sweeney
**Organisation Support & Development*

The Chairperson informed the board that Dublin City Council will seek a Dublin City Council representative for the board of City of Dublin ETB at their council meeting in December.
The Board were advised that at their October Board Meeting, [redacted] was nominated as a City of Dublin ETB Nominee to the Board of Management of Rosmini Community School in error. This nomination is not a reserved function but an executive one. The minutes of the October board meeting will be amended to reflect this.

1. Signing of Attendance Record/Conflicts of Interest/Disclosure of Interests

In accordance with the provisions of CL 0083/2024 Code of Practice for the Governance of Education and Training Boards, members were requested to declare to the Chairperson of City of Dublin ETB or Chief Executive any conflict of interest in respect of any of the matters listed for consideration suitable in advance of meetings of City of Dublin Education and Training Board.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the City of Dublin ETB meetings held on the 16th of October were approved.

Proposed by: Mr. Michael Smyth ***Seconded by: Cllr. Dermot Lacey***

3. Reserved Functions

3.1 **City of Dublin ETB Financial Statements Year ended 31st December 2024 (Signed) – subject to DEY approval for publication** (Appendix 3A) was noted.

3.2 City of Dublin ETB Nominee Vacancies on Committees and Boards of Management (Appendix 3B) was noted.

The Board were advised that the Audit and Risk Committee are seeking a third member of the Board for representation on the committee.
The Board wanted to thank Mr. John Holohan for his work and commitment as a City of Dublin ETB nominee on the Board of Management of City of Dublin FET College Ballsbridge.

3.3 Approval of City of Dublin ETB Nominee, Parent/Student, Teacher, BoM Nominees to Boards of Management and Committees was approved as per Appendix 3C.
Proposed by: Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll ***Seconded by: Ms. Denise McMorrow***

3.4 Report – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting September 2025 (Appendix 3D) was noted.

3.5 Audit and Risk Committee Effectiveness Evaluation 2025 (Appendix 3E) was noted.

The Board were advised that from the evaluation it was highlighted the need for a full board representation on the Audit and Risk Committee is sought.

3.6 Report – Finance Committee Meeting July 2025 (Appendix 3F) was noted.

3.7 Finance Committee Effectiveness Evaluation 2025 (Appendix 3G) was noted.

A request was made within the Finance Committee Effectiveness Evaluation for an accountant to be sought as an external member on the Finance Committee.

4. Chief Executive's Report

The Board were given an update on the plan for the launch of Strategy Statement 2026-2030. The aim is for short two to three minute videos featuring students of City of Dublin ETB to be circulated the second week in January. A showcase event for the launch is planned for the end of March with the venue yet to be confirmed. The Board will be updated at the next meeting in January.

A discussion took place on the rebranding of names for schools and colleges in City of Dublin ETB. The Board were advised that learner surveys were part of the process prior to the rebranding.

4.1 **Director of Schools Report** (Appendix 4A) was noted.
(i)Oiche na hOige overview of events per night was noted.

The Board were informed of the Youth Work week from the 21st of November to the 28th of November with 47 minor grants awarded to support local events across the city and 100 volunteers taking part.

The Board were advised that the primary schools survey is currently being advertised throughout the organisation.

4.2 **Directors of FET Report** (Appendix 4B) was noted.
The Board were updated on the status of the two current FET audits.

4.3 **Director of OSD Finance Report** (Appendix 4C) was noted.

4.4 **Director of OSD Report** (Appendix 4D) was noted.

4.5 **Director of Services SUSI Report** (Appendix 4E) was noted.
The Board were informed of an 11% increase in 2025/26 grant applications.

5. Risk

6. Boards of Management and Committees Minutes for Noting

The Board noted the positive feedback received from parents of children attending An Cosán Community Special School, the board congratulated the principal, teachers and Board of Management of the school.

The following Board of Management and Committee minutes were confirmed.

- FET College Cathal Brugha held on 11th March 2025 (**Appendix 6A**)
- An Cosán CSS held on 18th June 2025 (**Appendix 6B**)
- Kylemore College held on 18th September 2025 (**Appendix 6C**)
- Coolock CC held on 9th September 2025 (**Appendix 6D**)
- FET College Plunket held on 26th May 2025 (**Appendix 6E**)
- FET College Ballyfermot, Ballyfermot Rd held on 19th May 2025 (**Appendix 6F**)
- FET College Ballsbridge held on 21st May 2025 (**Appendix 6G**)
- Solas Hospital School held on 7th April 2025 **(Appendix 6H)**
- Solas Hospital School held on 16th June 2025 **(Appendix 6I)**
- City of Dublin Youth Services held on 29th April 2025 **(Appendix 6J)**
- Presentation Community College held on 5th November 2024 **(Appendix 6K)**

7. Circular Letters, Inspection Reports and Correspondence

Noted.

8. Members' Business

9. Chairperson's Business

10. Next Meeting: Thursday 15th January 2025 at 5p.m.

The Board were informed of the Education Convention taking place in 2026. Over the course of four weekends 150 participants, including 30 students, 30 staff members, 30 parents and 60 different education stakeholders will be in attendance. The Board were advised of the importance of conventions like this, an example being the development of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013 heavily influenced by a prior education convention.