

MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 3rd JULY 2013

The first meeting of Cavan and Monaghan Education & Training Board took place in Monaghan Institute, Education Campus, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Wednesday, 3rd July 2013 commencing at 10 am.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Joe McGrath

BAILL I LATHAIR: Madeline Argue, Terry Argue, Owen Bannigan, David Blake, Grainne Brady, Mary Brady, Mary Carroll, Matt Carthy, Sean Conlon, Seamus Coyle, Des Crossan, Tony Farrelly, Paul Flynn, Deirdre Kelly, Freddie Kettle, Jacqui Lewis, Niall Lynch, David Maxwell, Aidan Murray, Sean McCooey, Michael McGinn, Pat McKenna, Brian McKeown, Sean McKiernan, P J O'Hanlon, Rosaleen O'Hanlon, Shane P O'Reilly, Paddy O'Reilly, Anna Rooney, Pat Treanor, Patricia Walsh, Martha Williamson Hunter.

LEITHSCEIL: Teresa Carolan, Jackie Crowe, James Cunningham, Mona Fitzpatrick, Marcella Leonard, Mary Lynch, Paul McGeown, Peter McVitty, John O'Brien, Niamh Smyth, Val Smith.

AR FREASTAIL: Martin G. O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia Monahan & Maura Smith, Assistant Principal Officers
Aisling O'Donnell & Marie Traynor, Admin Staff

- CLAR:**
1. **Introduction and welcome (CEO)**
 2. **Message from the Minister (CEO)**
 3. **Election of Chairperson (CEO)**
 4. **Election of Deputy Chairperson**
 5. **Education & Training Boards Act 2013**
 - 5.1 Regulation of business of an ETB (Schedule 3)
 - 5.1.1 Adoption of Standing Orders
 - 5.2 Reserved Functions (S.12) and Executive Functions (S.13)
 - 5.3 Committees (Section 44) re continuation of existing BOMs, etc.
 6. **Minutes**
 7. **Finance**
 8. **Sub-Committee and Reports**
 - 8.1 Further Education & Training/SOLAS
 - 8.2 Adult Education
 - 8.3 Community Education
 - 8.4 Arts Education/Theatre
 - 8.5 Youth Work Services
 - 8.6 Outdoor Education
 - 8.7 Youthreach
 - 8.8 School Boards
 - 8.9 ETB Strategy Statement
 9. **Correspondence**

Mr. McGrath acknowledged the difficult task undertaken by both Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons in both areas to come up with a solution that was both workable and fair which enshrines a partnership approach. He thanked Cllr. Madeline Argue and Cllr. Shane P O'Reilly for nominating him as the first Chairperson of CMETB which he said was a great honour and privilege for him. He promised to conduct the order of business of the Committee in a fair and impartial matter and in a spirit of co-operation and partnership.

Mr. McGrath stated that as per the Cootehill agreement of 5th April 2013 with the then Chair & Vice-Chair of Cavan VEC, he will hold the position of Chairperson for 6 months and will then tender his resignation and advised that he will be nominating Cllr. Madeline Argue as Chairperson.

4. Election of Deputy Chairperson

It was resolved: 02/07/13

“To nominate Sean McCooey as Deputy Chairperson”.

Proposed by: Cllr. P J O'Hanlon **Seconded by:** Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. McCooey thanked his proposer and seconder for their nomination. He stated that he will be resigning his position as Deputy Chairperson after 6 months and will be nominating Cllr. Shane P O'Reilly to replace him.

Following the election of Deputy Chairperson, the Chairperson addressed the Board and staff. He said that he was immensely proud and humbled to be involved in the tenure of amalgamation between both VEC's, into Cavan and Monaghan Education & Training Board. The marriage of two great ancient historic kingdoms of “Breffni and Farney” for the purpose of providing improved local educational services for the people of the north eastern region and indeed from many other areas, can only be seen as an exciting and positive step. Longstanding are the many parallels between the two great counties, both regions have small rural economies comprised mainly of Agriculture, Food Production and small supporting local industries. Both counties share extensive land borders with Northern Ireland and both are fervently, enthusiastic about their core cultural identities: religion, the importance of family, the GAA and the many other sporting and community enterprises which are the “life blood” of both rural constituencies.

Referring to the Ulster GAA Championship semi-final, the Chairperson said that the best of Ulster footballers were showcased in St Tiernach's Park, Clones with seven of the Cavan Team and eleven of the Monaghan Team & fourteen (on the Monaghan panel) are former students of VEC schools. He commended the teachers who helped in conjunction with their clubs foster and develop these fine young players. “While our schools pride themselves on ‘academic excellence’ it’s reassuring to see our schools also foster arts, drama and sport”, he said.

Mr. McGrath said “Located outside of the 'Pale' and commonly referred to as just the 'border counties' our people has set about to make our counties great, due primarily to our own steadfast and honest hard work ethic. Often we have had to eke out our own gainful employment; work and harvest our land, bettering ourselves by pursuing education and constantly striving to improve ourselves and our offspring at every turn. This is why at this juncture the merger of our two great counties for the purposes of improving educational opportunities is an exciting time. Cooperation and shared goals means that the possibilities are unlimited. Imagine the ingenuity, guile and professionalism that our two counties have in abundance - now uniting under one banner, which will undoubtedly leave us in the enviable position of becoming one of the finest Education & Training Boards’ in Ireland. Change can often be viewed with a degree of fear or indeed uncertainty. These are natural feelings because the unknown can be a challenge, but now