

Áine Lynch	Apologies
Ann Mulcahy	Present
Anne Howard	Present
Anne Loughnane	Present
Bryan O'Reilly	Present
Catherine Doolan	Present
Catherine Moynihan	Present
Ciaran O'Donnell	Present
David O'Sullivan	Present
Declan Fahie	Present
Eamon Dennehy	Present
Eamonn Shaughnessy	Present
Fergal McCarthy	Present
Gerry Leydon	Apologies
Gráinne Conachy	Present
Jean Beswick Duignan	Present
Kathleen Burke	Present
Liam Ó Néill	Present
Mai Fanning	Apologies
Mary Magner	Present
Mary Curley	Present
Michael Delargey	Present
Michelle Keane	Present
Niall Duddy	Present
Niamh Hourigan	Present
Niamh Dennehy	Present
Noel Cronin	Present
Paul Moroney	Present
Peter McCabe	Present
Rosena Jordan	Present
Séamus Ó Fearraigh	Present
Seán Ó hArgáin	Present
Seán Ó Dubhlaing	Apologies
Seán O'Neill	Present
Teresa O'Doherty	Present
Tracie Tobin	Present

**Staff in attendance:** Lynn Ramsey, Director; Phil Fox, Deputy Director; Harry McGeary, Head of Finance and IT; Siobhan Healy, Head of Registration; Finola O'Dwyer, Solicitor & Head of Professional Standards; Bríd Murphy, Head of Initial Teacher Education & Induction, Carmel Kearns, Head of Teachers' Learning and Research, Ruth Flynn Head of Corporate Affairs and Human Resources,

## 1. Attendance & Apologies

### 1.1. Opening Remarks by Chairperson

- i. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.
- ii. The Chair extended sympathy on behalf of the Council to Deputy Director, Phil Fox, on the recent death of her mother Phyllis Henson; to staff member Margaret Dempsey, on the recent death of her mother, Veronica Byrne; and to staff member Debbie Devitt on the recent death of her mother-in-law, Lily Devitt.

### 1.2. Noting of Apologies

Apologies were noted from Áine Lynch, Gerry Leydon, Mai Fanning, and Seán Ó Dubhlaing.

### 1.3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The following members were conflicted for item 5.1; Niamh Hourigan, Declan Fahie and Teresa O'Doherty.

## 2. Minutes & Matters Arising

### 2.1. Minutes

**The minutes of meeting 06 March 2023 were approved having been proposed by Bryan O'Reilly and seconded by Seán Ó hArgáin.**

### 2.2. Matters Arising

It was noted that these minutes would be published on the Teaching Council website in accordance with the requirements under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies with certain confidential information redacted.

## 3. Standing Item

### 3.1. Appointments to Committees & Panels

There were no appointments to Committees & Panels. The Deputy Director noted that the Council are awaiting a nomination from IBEC following the resignation of Mary Rose Cremin.

## 4. Directors Report

Avril Lennon, Communications Manager joined the meeting for this section.

### 4.1. Update from Director

The Director's report was taken as read and the following points were noted by the Director:

- The Director and Deputy Director met with officials from the Department of Education to discuss the Agency Governance Framework which provides a Framework for the governance of the organisations' relationship.
- The Periodic Critical Review (PCR) draft Terms of Reference are currently with the Secretary General of the Department for review. The Department are tendering, through the OGP, for a consultant to carry out this PCR. This will be the first PCR to be completed by an external consultant.

The following points were noted in the ensuing discussion:

- The issue of teacher supply was raised by a number of Council members, with concerns expressed about the impact of the teacher shortage on students and their ability to study their choice of subject.
- Of particular concern to the Council members was the perceived lack of CID contracts available, the number of teachers on reduced hours contracts, the cost of living in Dublin being an ever-increasing barrier to teachers taking positions in Dublin and the surrounding areas, and the high points required to get on some courses in the HEI's.
- The Director confirmed that following the last meeting of Council on 06 March an invitation had been issued to Minister Foley inviting her to meet with Council.
- The Deputy Director outlined the structure in place with the Department regarding Teacher Supply and various working groups that Teaching Council staff attend including Chairing the Communications Working Group. It is in these fora that the feedback of the Council is communicated to all stakeholders.
- Arising from this discussion on Teacher Supply, Council requested that the Director write to the Department to share the points discussed on Teacher Supply with particular regard to the risk to children's educational opportunities arising from the teacher supply issue.

## 5. Items for Decision (Finance Committee)

Avril Lennon, Communications Manager remained for this section of the meeting.

### 5.1. Procurement Process for Longitudinal Research

The Head of Corporate Affairs outlined the process, evaluation and outcome for the Longitudinal Research tender.

**The tender process and appointment of the preferred tenderer was approved having been proposed by Michael Delargey and seconded by Rosena Jordan.**

### 5.2. Féilte Contract extension (and update on Wrecktangle report)

The Communications Manager delivered a presentation on the outcomes of the Wrecktangle report into the value for money evaluation of FÉILTE and the implementation of the recommendations in FÉILTE 2023. The following points were noted in the ensuing discussion:

- The day has been shortened and the team are investigating the option of providing childcare to make the event accessible to as many teachers as possible.
- Where money can be saved in the production of the event, this will be implemented.

- An internal review following this year's event will be completed which will inform decision making on FÉILTE.

**The extension of the contract with Real Nation Event Management Ltd. for Féilte 2023 was approved having been proposed by Peter McCabe and seconded by Mary Curley.**

## 6. Items for Decision

### 6.1. Teaching Council Election Regulations

The Head of Corporate Affairs delivered a presentation on the proposed recommendations from the Audit and Risk Committee on the Teaching Council (Election of Members) Regulations amendments. The following points were noted in the ensuing discussion:

- It was confirmed that Route 5 registered teachers are eligible to be nominated and to vote.
- The gender of a nominee will be determined based on their registration information in the Teaching Council database.
- Changing the names of the constituencies to align with the names of the constituency names for the European parliament elections will be suggested to the legal drafter.

**Council, following a vote, approved the recommendation of the Audit & Risk Committee to amend the Teaching Council (Election of Members) Regulations as they appear in today's brief, subject to any technical legal drafting amendments that do not alter the substance of the regulations having been proposed by Rosena Jordan and seconded by Bryan O'Reilly.**

## 7. Item for Noting

### 7.1. Droichead Cluster Meetings Update

The Head of ITEI provided a procedural update in relation to the process of approval of a temporary amendment to Droichead policy for the 2023/2024 school year where the Executive Committee acted on behalf of Council, in accordance with section B.4.3 (e) (i) of the Council's Code of Practice. The Education Committee on 13 March recommended a temporary amendment to Droichead policy to Council for approval. Due to time constraints, the proposal was presented to Executive Committee on 5 April 2023 who acted on behalf of Council to consider the recommendation of Education Committee. The Committee agreed the approval of a temporary amendment to the Droichead policy for the 2023/2024 school year only, to facilitate Cluster Meetings 2 and 3 being provided online, with a view to returning to full face-to-face provision in subsequent years.

## 8. Items for Noting

### 8.1. Executive Committee

The Update from the Chair was noted.

The Deputy Director delivered a presentation (given to Executive Committee on 08 May) on the operationalisation of the legislation since its commencement in 2016 and suggested amendments which would be put forward to the Department of Education. She highlighted areas where high priority changes to the legalisation may be necessary to mitigate identified risk. It

was clarified that the process of legislative change is an iterative and lengthy process. It is noteworthy also that any changes to legislation will also take account of the Periodic Critical Review which has been initiated by the Sectoral Governance Unit of the Department of Education. The Deputy Director clarified that the Office of the Attorney General and the Minister are the decision makers in legislative change. The observations from the Senior Management Team have been requested by the Department of Education which is standard practice.

The following points were noted in the ensuing discussion:

- The observations will include a request to include a section with regard to teacher release for Council business in the legislation.
- Consideration of extending the membership of the Disciplinary Committee Inquiry Panels was discussed, to potentially include external membership.
- The observations will be submitted to the Department without reference to the potential extension of the Disciplinary Committee Inquiry Panels at this time, until Council had further time to consider its position.

## 8.2. Education Committee

The Education Committee Chair's report was noted.

The Droichead Update had been provided at agenda item 7.1

## 8.3. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee Chair's report was noted.

## 8.4. Registration Committee

The Registration Committee Chair's report was noted.

## 8.5. Investigating Committee

The Investigating Committee Chair's report was noted.

## 8.6. Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee Chair's report was noted.

## 8.7. Audit & Risk committee

The Audit & Risk Committee Chair's report was noted at agenda Item 6.1

## 9. Item for Noting

### 9.1. Teacher Release Update

The Deputy Director updated members regarding a meeting between the Chair, Director, Deputy Director and Council Member currently not approved for release by their school. The member confirmed that he had submitted a written request to the Board of Management in March, to be released for Teaching Council business for the academic year 2023/2024. The member confirmed he was awaiting a response.

An information session on the work of the Teaching Council, for the Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairs of Boards of Management, is scheduled for 15 June in the Teaching Council offices.

**AOB**

Teaching Council member, Niall Duddy, was congratulated for his excellent performance on "Ireland's Smartest" TV Quiz show.

**Meeting Ended 15:31**

Signed: Michelle Keane Date: 08.07.23  
Council Chair

Signed: Ruth O'Connell Date: 03/07/23  
Secretary to Council

## APPENDIX 1

### Actions Arising from Council Meeting 22 May 2023

Action	Owner	Timeframe
Write to the Department of Education regarding Teacher Supply	Director	ASAP

