

**Report on Minutes of Education Finance Board
21st January, 2009**

Date	Topic	Decision
21.01.09	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 2nd December, 2008 The reports for the website of the 8th, 9th and 10th Board meetings will be considered at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Noted</p>
	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes As a follow-up to the recent High Court judgement on the age limit in respect of persons who enjoyed in law the status of children during the time they were resident in a residential institution, it was reported that the Principal Officer in the Department of Education and Science (DES) had informed the Chairperson by email that if the Board wished to have its particular insights and views considered in relation to the Appeal of this case to the Supreme Court, then the Board should outline these views to the DES and the DES will bring them to the attention of the State's legal team.</p> <p>City of Dublin VEC (CDVEC) was thanked for its clarification on the payment of subsistence and travel allowances.</p> <p>The Board was presented with a draft document prepared by the Standing Orders Committee.</p> <p>The Chairperson, all members and the Secretary of the Board completed and signed the Ethics in Public Office (Prescribed Public Bodies, Designated Directorships of and positions in Public Bodies) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 forms in preparation for their lodgement with the Standards in Public Office Commission.</p> <p>A Motion was proposed to the Board asking that the Board re-examine the Criteria for Awarding Grants by the EFB, September 2008. Schedule 6. Schedule of grants towards tuition fees, related charges and educational assistance.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>It was agreed to adopt the document as part of the procedures of the Board, subject to a number of further minor adjustments approved at the meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend to the incoming Board, which will take office after 17.2.09, that the points raised, particularly in relation to the establishment of an appropriately funded Lifeskills element for former residents, be taken into account when the review of criteria for implementation in 2009/2010 is being undertaken. It was also agreed that, pending this review, any relevant applications would be considered as special cases.</p>
	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Letter received from Alliance – Munster – Support Group taking issue with the Chairperson's interpretation of the Alliance Group's issues in his reply on behalf of the Board.</p> <p>Letter received from the Minister for Education and Science requesting the Chairperson to ensure that appropriate control procedures and monitoring arrangements are in place to ensure compliance with prescribed procedures concerning travel, subsistence and associated expenses.</p> <p>Letter of acknowledgement of the Board's letter from the Ministers office.</p> <p>Letter of acknowledgement/receipt from the Minister's office of the Financial Statements for</p>	<p>Noted and agreed that the Chairperson would issue a suitable reply.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>the year ended 31st December, 2007 which are to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas as per Section 31.3 Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (Amendment) Act 2005.</p> <p>Letter of information on the Report of the Commission on Institutional Child Abuse from Right of Place, Support Group.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
	<p>Approvals, Appeals and Queries There were 155 approvals in respect of 146 applicants to a total value of €166,451.28. The Board also approved 11 applications under reasonable expectation to the value of €19,993.50. The breakdown of the approvals is as follows: former resident 35 (22.58%); child 77 (49.68%); grandchild 34 (21.94%); spouse 6 (3.87%); stepchild 3 (1.93%). The country analysis is: Ireland 106 (68.40%); United Kingdom 43 (27.75%); Australia 1 (0.64%); USA 2 (1.29%); Canada 1 (0.64%); Wales 1 (0.64%); France 1 (0.64%). Queries, Appeals and Reasonable Expectations were processed. The next approvals meeting – 4th February, 2009.</p>	
	<p>Criteria 2008 Advertising/Information Campaign Two Board members gave a presentation to a hearing impaired group on behalf of the Board in Waterford on 15th January. A report was given to the Board on a number of issues specific to this group of applicants to the Fund.</p> <p>The Board agreed to adopt the revised Criteria and the revised version will be uploaded onto the website.</p>	<p>It was agreed to put these issues to the review of the Criteria in the near future.</p>
	<p>Finance The English and Irish versions of the Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General of the annual Financial Statements of the Education Finance Board for the year ended 31st December 2007 were presented to the Board. NTMA Report: The total Fund value on 31.12.08 was €6,855.421.15. CDVEC Financial Statement of Education Finance Board to December 2008. CDVEC requested draw-down from National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA)</p>	<p>The Board expressed their thanks to the staff of the EFB in preparing the accounts.</p> <p>Noted Noted Noted</p>
	<p>IT and Communication Requirements The upgrade of the database is yet to be finalised in the preparation of a Commitment Report for the Financial Statement 2008 and the Annual Report 2008.</p>	
	<p>Staffing The secondment of a member of staff for a second year from 9th February, 2009 was approved. The Board also sought to review the staffing levels within the Board and the Secretary agreed to look at the contractual obligations of the Board and report back at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
	<p>AOB The updated travel and subsistence form prepared by CDVEC was approved. It was agreed that the Chairperson could delegate another Board member to sign members' expenses on his behalf whenever he is not in attendance at Board or approvals meetings.</p>	
	<p>Dates of future meetings The date for the next meeting of the Board was fixed for 11th February, 2009. The next approvals meeting to be held on 4th February, 2009.</p>	