

**Report on Minutes of Education Finance Board**  
**30<sup>th</sup> April, 2009**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
30.4.09	<p><b>Minutes of meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2009</b>            The minutes of the Fourth meeting were adopted subject to a number of minor adjustments. Reports of meetings two and three were approved subject to amendments. The report of the Fourth meeting was deferred until the next meeting.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the draft minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> March accurately reflected the position of the Board. It was further agreed that a revised format would be used in the future when reporting in the minutes the outcome of the Board's consideration of motions notified by members.</p>
	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b>            A request from a Board member that the election of a Deputy Chairperson for the new Board should be deferred until he could be present was brought to the attention of the Board.</p>	<p>The Board agreed to accede to this request.</p>
	<p><b>Notification of Motions</b>            There were no Motions notified for this meeting.</p>	
	<p><b>Introduction to the work of the Board for new members (as agreed at the meeting of 03 March 2009)</b>            This item was deferred until all new members of the Board are present.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>The Board was informed that the DES had contacted the Chairperson in connection with a potential proposal to designate the Board as a public body under the Official Languages Act 2003.</p> <p>E-mail from Connect, National Adults Counselling Service, requesting that their Helpline contact details be put on the EFB website.</p> <p>Request from Irish Deaf Women's Group for the Board to meet with them on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2009. Three members of the Board agreed to meet with the group as part of the publicity campaign of the Board.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>It was agreed to inform DES of the Board's view that such designation should not take place and if such designation were to proceed then funding to meet the costs arising would be sought from DES or some other source rather than from the Board's own funds. It was also agreed that the Board would continue to publish on its website Irish language versions of the Criteria and other key documents, so long as CDVEC is in a position to provide translation services.</p> <p>The Board agreed to request more information on the Helpline before taking a decision on this request.</p> <p>The Board agreed to pay for the services of an interpreter for the evening.</p>
	<p><b>Approvals, Appeals and Queries</b>            There were 168 approvals in respect of 152 applicants to a total value of €154,663.44. The Board also approved 4 applications under reasonable expectation to a total value of €9,038. The</p>	

	breakdown of the approvals is as follows: former resident 38 (22.62%); child 99 (58.93%); grandchild 25 (14.88%); Spouse 5 (2.98%); stepchild 1 (0.59%). The country analysis is: Ireland 147 (87.50%); UK 17 (10.12%); Australia 1 (0.59%); USA 3 (1.79%).	
	<p><b>Criteria</b> It was agreed by the Board that a special meeting to deal with the review of the criteria for Awarding Grants by the EFB should be part of the next meeting of the Board. The members agreed that a two-day meeting would be sufficient whereby on day one the business of the Board would be discussed and day two would be dedicated to the review of the Criteria.</p>	Agreed
	<p><b>Publicity</b> A member informed the Board that the radio station had offered him a slot for publicity and advertising for the Board at a cost of €250. The Board commended the member for his initiative and asked that he explore the matter further to see if he could make an arrangement for the publicity slot without the necessity of advertising.</p>	It was agreed to consider this matter again at the next meeting.
	<p><b>Finance</b> The Board approved the estimated annual commitments of €1,433,071.36 which include applications to the Board under reasonable expectation from the Interim Criteria and multi-annual courses under the present Criteria.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the annual audit by the Comptroller &amp; Auditor General (C&amp;AG) would start on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The draft Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008 and the Book of Accounts would be available for the C&amp;AG from the Board's accountants. The Statement of Internal Financial Control would be available from the Board's office.</p> <p>A member took issue with the salary and administration expenses of the EFB being paid for by the Fund and asked that these expenses be paid by the DES. The Chairperson quoted the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (Amendment) Act 2005, paragraph 30: section 2.</p> <p><b>NTMA Report:</b> The total Fund value on 31/3/09 was €6,278,345.58 City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee (CDVEC) Financial Statement to February 2009. CDVEC requested draw-down from the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA)</p>	<p>It was agreed to explore the possibility of providing monthly updates on the level of commitments and to report back to the Board at the next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that the most appropriate period to look at this issue was when the fund was coming to completion.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted and agreed.</p>
	<p><b>Annual Report 2008</b> It was agreed to get publishing estimates for the Annual Report 2008 for the next meeting. The Irish version of the Annual Report should be completed for the next meeting.</p>	
	<p><b>IT and Communication Requirements</b> The Board was informed that the website needs to be updated to include new members of the Board.</p>	
	<p><b>Staffing</b> The Chairperson informed the Board that he expected to meet with the CEO of CDVEC prior to the next Board meeting to explore the Board's contractual obligations arising from the recent Government decisions in relation to salary and public sector levies.</p>	Noted

**AOB**

The next meeting of the Board was tentatively fixed for  
Wednesday, 3rd June at 4.00 p.m. and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 1009.