

**Report on Minutes of Education Finance Board
24th September 2009**

Date	Topic	Decision
24.9.09		
	<p>Minutes of Meeting held on 26th August 2009 The Minutes of the eighth meeting were adopted.</p>	
	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes The Chairperson informed the Board that he had been in contact with a support group and a meeting would be arranged when a date would become available for both parties.</p> <p>The Board agreed the contents of the draft letter written by the Chairperson to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs with a copy to the Residential Institutions Redress unit of DES.</p>	Noted
	<p>Notification of Motions No Motions were notified for this meeting.</p>	
	<p>Correspondence The revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, which had been circulated at the previous meeting, was considered.</p> <p>Arising from the discussion it was agreed that a Finance Sub-Committee would be formed to consider the quarterly management accounts and any other relevant financial matters prior to their consideration by the full Board.</p> <p>It was also agreed to explore with Crowleys DFK the requirement to review annually the Board's Statement of Internal Financial Control.</p> <p>The notification from the Department of Finance on the Revised Foreign Travel Policy guidelines were noted by the Board.</p> <p>Letter of acknowledgement received from Minister for Education and Science in relation to the Board's letter drawing the Minister's attention to the Fine Gael Justice Spokesman's remarks regarding the EFB in the Dáil on 8th July, 2009.</p> <p>Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Education & Science for receipt of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2008. Pursuant to Section 31 (2) of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (Amendment) Act 2005 the Minister will make arrangements for them to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas not later than three months after his receipt of them. Arrangements will then be made for their publication on the Board's website.</p> <p>Email from support group requesting members of the Board to be present at their next meeting on Friday, 16th October.</p> <p>Acknowledgement from the Standards in Public Office Commission in relation to receipt of Statements of Interests in respect of the year 2008 for the Designated Directors of the EFB.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the Chairperson would contact the Department of Education and Science to consider how the Code might be adapted in the Board's case following which the matter would be considered further by the Board.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Noted.</p>
	<p>Approvals, Appeals and Queries The Board was informed that since the last meeting there had been three approval meetings in an effort to stop any backlog arising.</p> <p>The Board also noted that a meeting would be arranged with its Accountants, the City of Dublin VEC and the office to consider some tax issues relating to tuition.</p> <p>There were 183 approvals in respect of 159 applicants to a total value of €178,716.57. The Board also processed 4 applications under reasonable expectation to a total value of €6,393. The breakdown of the approvals is as</p>	

	<p>follows: former resident 47 (25.68%); child 108 (59.01%); grandchild 20 (10.93%); spouse 7 (3.83%); stepchild 1 (0.55%). The country analysis is: Ireland 139 (75.96%); UK 38 (20.76%); Australia 1 (0.55%); USA 2 (1.09%); Sweden 2 (1.09%); Germany 1 (0.55%).</p>	
	<p>Criteria It was agreed to amend the application forms and the Criteria for Awarding Grants 2009 to include the changes agreed at the review of the Criteria.</p> <p>The quotation for the printing of 2000 copies of the Criteria for Awarding Grants 2009 was agreed.</p>	
	<p>Publicity Following discussion on the useful input from the former resident support groups, a number of innovative steps were agreed by the Board.</p>	
	<p>Finance The invoice from the Comptroller and Auditor General on the completion of the audit of the EFB financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2008 was presented to the Board.</p> <p>The invoice for the quarterly management accounts for three months ended 30th June 2009 from Crowleys DFK Accountants was presented to the Board.</p> <p>NTMA Report: The total Fund on 31.7.09 was €5,993,746.31</p> <p>City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee (CDVEC) Financial Statement to July 2009.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed.</p> <p>Noted and agreed</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
	<p>IT and Communications Requirements The printed version of the Annual Report 2008 Education Finance Board was available for the Board.</p> <p>The quotation for the redevelopment of the website was approved after the elements required for its modification were approved.</p> <p>The Board agreed that the issue of storage should be looked at by the office and a report be given at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Agreed</p>
	<p>Staffing The issues arising under this heading were noted.</p>	
	<p>AOB Two issues were brought to the Board under this heading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The lack of privacy in the hall when people leave in documents to the Board - The necessity of an original birth certificate for a former resident. <p>The Board was informed that if people wished to talk with an office member there was an appointment system and a room could be arranged. However, in a drop-in situation regrettably there was not private space available but the point raised will be taken into account in seeking to ensure the maximum privacy possible in such situations. The Board hoped that with the new improvements as approved under the Criteria for Awarding Grants 2009 the issue of an original birth certificate would no longer arise.</p>	
	<p>Next Meeting The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 15th October at 14.00 in the Board Room, Frederick Court.</p>	