



St. Columba's College, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal.

Phone (074) 9131246 Fax (074) 9132528

Board of Management

Agreed Report of Meeting of 5th February, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Management of St. Columba's College took place on Thursday 5th February, 2026 at 6.00p.m.

1. Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the 3rd December, 2025 were read and approved.

The minutes of the 15th December, 2025 were read and approved.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Presentation from the Student Council

4.1 The Chairperson welcomed seven members of the Student Council to the meeting.

4.2 They presented a very informative presentation to the Board with all the activities and events organised by the Student Council over the year and their future plans. Discussion took place with the Board members after the presentation.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Department circulars were listed to the Board:-

- Circular Letter 0001/2026: Changes to 1:50,000 Discovery Series Maps
- Circular Letter 0002/2026: Application of Bonus marks for all components of State examinations through Irish to be examined in Leaving Certificate 2027 and in subsequent years
- Circular Letter 0003/2026: Teacher Fee Refund Scheme 2025
- Circular Letter 0003/2026: Revision of Salaries for Post-Primary Teacher under the Public Service Agreement 2024-2026
- Circular Letter 0006/2026: Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) under The Public Service Agreement 2024 - 2026 effective from 01 February 2026
- Circular Letter 0008/2026: Revision of Salaries of Clerical Officers and Caretakers employed under the 1978/1979 Scheme under The Public Service Agreement 2024 - 2026 effective from 01 February 2026
- Circular Letter 0010/2026: Revision of Salaries for School Secretaries Previously Grant Funded and Bus Escorts Effective from 01 February 2026
- Circular Letter 0014/2026: Grant Scheme for ICT Infrastructure
- Circular Letter 0017/2026: Extension to the Waiver of Abatement of Public Sector Pensions under Section 52 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.
- Circular Letter 0018/2026: Standardisation of the school year in respect of primary and post-primary schools for the years 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29

5.2 A letter was read from Rob Halford CEIST acknowledging receipt of Board minutes for the 16th and 20th October '25.

5.3 A letter was read from Secretary Parents Council proposing that students who do not wish to attend Wellbeing and SPHE/RSE class be accommodated in a study class in school during these classes. Discussion took place and it was agreed that the school could not resource this request.

5.4 An email was read from Advanced Medical Services (AMS). AMS is Ireland's leading mobile cardiac screening company who perform cardiac screening in schools. Discussion took place on same and the Board agreed to provide the service for staff and students.

6. Finance

A report to the Board on the Accounts. Budgets are online to date. The Irish water outstanding account has been settled. To date the heating cost has decreased from last year which is due to the new boilers being installed.

7. Ongoing Plant Development and Maintenance

7.1 Major Building Project

The Board were informed that the building project was included in the Education National Development Plan and funding has been granted. The Principal has been in contact with the Building Unit to progress the appointment of the main contractor.

7.2 Ongoing Maintenance

A number of items were addressed since the last meeting which included:

- Replacement of burner/boiler in canteen.
- Repairs to Lifts
- Lighting in car park and exterior lights replacement
- Visit by the Environmental Health and Safety

8. Policies for Ratification

New Child Safeguarding Statement and Procedures – The Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment was completed by the Board. The Board ratified Mr. Tom Rowan as Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Ms. Georgina White as Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP).

Substance Use Policy – the Board were happy to ratify same.

Artificial Intelligence Policy – the Board were happy to ratify same.

Admissions Policy (if Special Class is sanctioned) – the Board were happy to ratify same.

9. Principals Report including Teaching and Learning

9.1 Teaching and Learning

- **School Closures:** The college was closed on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th January 2026 due to health and safety concerns with snow icy conditions. All local schools were closed due to unsafe conditions on school grounds and local roads. The Principal is confident at this stage that all courses can be completed despite the recent interruptions.
- **Enrolment for 2026-2027:** The college have currently 122 students enrolled into 1st Year for the 2026-2027 school year. Half the incoming students attended CAT 4 Assessments on Saturday 17th January and the remainder attended the assessments on Saturday 24th January. Many thanks to staff members - teachers, assistants and canteen staff, who came in to school to facilitate the assessments.
- **Opening of Special Class in 2026/27:** The Principal was asked to submit further information and feedback regarding the opening of a Special Class. The Chairperson, Deputy Principal and Principal attended a JMB conference in Tullamore on 28th January. The college has received no correspondence/letter of sanction to date.
- **Catholic Schools Week (CSW) and Ceiliúradh CEIST:** The RE Department organised a number of activities during Catholic School Week from 18th to 24th January, including a poster competition for all Junior Cycle classes. The winner in each class has received a €25 voucher. Each morning during CSW the staff and students took the time to listen to a prayer for the day. This was a time to be still, a time to reflect and be thankful for all that is good in our community. A big thank you to Fr. Vincent for sharing these moments. Ceiliúradh CEIST was celebrated on Friday 30th January. The college organised a number of events to celebrate the day.
- **Full attendance:** Students who had full attendance in the 1st term were acknowledged and received certificates at assemblies after the Christmas break. This is one of the SSE strands. The following is a summary of full attendance in each year group:
22 students in 1st Year
9 students in 2nd Year
4 students 3rd Year
5 students in TY
2 students in 5th Year
8 students in 6th Year
- **End of Term Assessments for 1st, 2nd and 5th and Transition Years:** End of term assessments took place for 1st, 2nd and 5th Year students from Thursday 4th December to Wednesday 10th December. Reports were issued via VShare on Monday 22nd December. Reports were issued to parents that had difficulty accessing the results online.
- **CBA's, SLAR Meetings and Junior Cycle Profile of Achievements 2025/26:** Classroom Based Assessments and SLAR meetings are on-going for current 2nd and 3rd Year students. The portal opened in early January to upload CBA results and 'Other Areas of Learning' for the JC Class of 2025 so that the JCPA can be created for these students. This facility will remain open until the 24th February 2026.
- **The Candidate Self Service Portal for Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied students (CSSP):** The CSSP reopened on Wednesday 21st January and will close on Thursday 12th February. LC students registered on the portal in October. However, a small number of students did not register/activate their account and did not select their subjects. LC students must now confirm their subjects and levels. LCA 2 students must now create their accounts on the portal and confirm their subjects/modules.

- **Mock Exams:** LC Mock examinations commenced on Friday 30th January and will continue up to Friday February 13th. The JC Mock exams will take place from Friday 6th to Friday 13th February.
- **Parent Teacher Meetings:** Three sets of Parent Teacher meetings took place since the last Board of Management meeting as follow:
1st Year PT meetings on Tuesday 13th January
5th, TY and LCA 1 PT meetings on Thursday 22nd January
2nd Year PT meetings took place on Tuesday 3rd February
There was a very good attendance at all three sets of meetings.
- **Evening Study:** The third block of Evening Study commenced on Monday 12th January and continues on four evenings per week until Thursday 12th February. The numbers attending has increased compared to earlier in the year.
- **RACE Applications:** The RACE applications JC students for the 2025 state exams have been being finalised and submitted on 12th December 2025. There will be an opportunity for late application where circumstances have changes or new issues have arisen for both LC and JC students.
- **Information meeting parents of 3rd and TY students regarding Senior Cycle Programmes:** A meeting for parents of 3rd/TY students was held on Thursday night, 15th January, regarding Senior Cycle subject and Programme choices for the 2026-27 school year. 3rd Year students are asked to opt for the TY Programme by Friday 27th February. The remainder of 3rd Years and Transition Year students must select their 5th Year subjects by Friday 20th March to assist forward planning for next year.
- **National Grouped Reading Tests (NGRT):** The 2nd Year students completed their second NGRT at the end of January. The college expects to receive the results (Standard Scores and Reading Ages) after the mid-term break. The SEN team will meet to assess where additional support is required. The results for each class group will also be uploaded to VShare.

9.2 Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities

A comprehensive report was given to the Board regarding curricular activities since the last meeting.

9.3 Extra-curricular Activities

A broad range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities took place since the last meeting in December. A summary of these activities were outlined to the Board.

9.4 Parents Council

The Parents Council continue to meet on a monthly basis.

They have organised and launched a 50/50 Easter Draw in aid of the college Development Fund. The draw will take place on Friday 27th March 2026.

The Parents Council will also host a Quiz Night in the B&S Golf Club on Wednesday 11th February.

The Parents Council have also been involved in the recent policy reviews.

9.5 Upcoming Events

A number of upcoming staff events were outlined to the Board

10. A.O.B.

The Meeting concluded with the preparation of the Agreed Report. The next meeting is scheduled for the 12th March, 2026.