



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

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Board of Management

Agreed Report of Meeting of 12th March, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Management of St. Columba's College took place on Thursday 12th March, 2026 at 6.00p.m. Present at the meeting were Mr. P.J. Mc Gowan (Chairperson), Ms. Daireen Laverty (Trustee) Mr. Joey O'Leary (Trustee), Ms. Bernie Mc Intyre (Parent), Ms. Lucinda O'Gorman (Teacher), Mr. Shane Mc Ginty (Teacher), Mr. Tom Rowan (Secretary) and Ms. Bernie Rowan (Recording Secretary).

Apologies were received from Ms. Georgina O'Brien (Trustee) and Mr. Conor Malone (Parent).

1. Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the 5th February, 2026 were read and approved. Proposed by Mr. Joey O'Leary and seconded by Ms. Bernie Mc Intyre.

The minutes of the 10th March, 2026 were read and approved. Proposed by Ms. Lucinda O'Gorman and seconded by Mr. Shane Mc Ginty.

3. Matters Arising

The Principal informed the Board that he received notification from CEIST re the approval of the Admissions Policy and the policy will be put on the website. The college can now proceed with enrolments for the Special Class.

4. Correspondence

4.1 Recent Department circulars were listed to the Board:-

4.2 A letter was read from the NCSE regarding the opening of a Special Class in September, 2026.

4.3 An application was received from a staff member commencing maternity leave in May 2026

4.4 An application was received from staff member requesting 9 weeks Parent's Leave

4.5 There was a number of applications for Personal Day Leave from the last meeting and are all within the school policy.

4.6 Confirmation was received from Tim Cooke – AMS (Advanced Medical Screening) which will take place on the 12th and 13th May.

4.7 Correspondence was received from Allianz regarding a recent survey.

5. Ratification of Policies

Data Protection Policy – the Board were happy to ratify same. Proposed by Ms. Daireen Laverty and seconded by Mr. Joey O'Leary.

Data Retention Policy – the Board were happy to ratify same. Proposed by Mr. Shane Mc Ginty and seconded by Ms. Bernie Mc Intyre.

Digital Learning Plan – the Board were happy to ratify same. Proposed by Ms. Bernie Mc Intyre and seconded by Ms. Lucinda O'Gorman.

Whole School Guidance Policy – the Board were happy to ratify same. Proposed by Mr. Joey O'Leary and seconded by Ms. Daireen Laverty.

6. Finance

Mr. Joey O'Leary gave a report to the Board on the Accounts. Budgets are online to date. The Board were happy to ratify same.

7. Ongoing Plant Development and Maintenance

7.1 Major Building Project

The Principal informed the Board that the Letter of Intention to appoint the main contractor for our major building project was received on the 10th March, 2026.

7.2 SEN Classroom

The letter of sanction was received from the Department to set up the SEN Classroom for September, 2026. A grant has been sanctioned to repurpose a classroom for same.

8. **Bi Cinealta (Anti-bullying) Report**

A number of issues which were dealt with under the Bí Cinealta procedures since the last meeting on 5th February, 2026 were outlined to the Board.

9. **Child Protection Issues**

The Principal presented the CPOR to the Board which was signed the Chairperson and Principal.

10. **Principals Report**

10.1 **Teaching and Learning included:**

- School Prospectus.
- CBA's, SLAR Meetings and Junior Cycle Profile of Achievements 2025/26
- The Candidate Self Service Portal for Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied students (CSSP)
- Mock Exams
- Evening Study
- RACE Applications
- Senior Cycle Programmes for 2026/27

10.2 **Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities included**

- Career Guidance events
- Transition Years activities
- Aspire Programme:
- Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)
- JCSP Class Activities
- Safer Internet Day 10th February
- Seachtain na Gaeilge

10.3 **Extra-curricular Activities**

The Principal thanked staff members who give so much of their time to facilitate extra-curricular activities for the students. Some of the extra-curricular activities since the last Board of Management meeting includes:

- **Gaelic teams** – the exploits of the football and hurling and hurling teams were listed
- **Soccer:** The Senior Soccer team were congratulated on winning the Ulster final Unfortunately, they were defeated by Colaiste Baile and Chlair in the all-Ireland final. The progress of the other teams were also outlined.
- **Rugby:** a number of our teams took part in county and Ulster blitz.
- **Basketball:** A number of teams have competed
- **Athletics:** The Senior Boys team won a team silver medal in the Ulster Cross Country finals in Belfast on 18th February. Odhran Mc Brearty won the individual gold medal. The Minor Girls team won team silver with Caoimhe Mc Neill winning individual silver medal. The teams progress to the All-Ireland finals
- **Golf:** The golf team played in the school's golf competition in Murvagh
- **Baking Club:** Our Baking Club has continued into the 2nd term with a full house attending every Wednesday afternoon
- **Darts Club:** They have progressed to the final of the competition.

10.4 **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 ICT facilities in the college. The draw will take place on Friday 27th March 2026.

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

They have also been involved in the recent policy reviews.

10.5 **Upcoming events**

- Lá Glas – no uniform day and fundraising for our Lenten Charity Appeal on Friday 13th March
- TY Tour to France on 26th March
- LC Oral Exams beginning on 28th March
- Staff meeting on Thursday 11th May
- TY Strictly Come Dancing on 22nd April
- Prize-giving on Thursday 14th May
- Leaving Cert Mass on Tuesday 19th May
- TY End of Year on Wednesday 20th May

11. **Staffing 2026/2027 and OLCS Claims**

The Principal informed the Board that the staffing allocation has not been received from the Department to date.

A list of staff paid through the OLCS were outlined to the Board.

12. **A.O.B.**

Mr. Tom Rowan read a letter informing the Board that he will be retiring from his post as Principal on the 31st August, 2026. The Board expressed their regret and sadness to hear of his retirement but took the opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation for all his hard work and dedication throughout the past nine years as Principal and his contribution to the college since 1988.

The Principal read a letter informing the Board that Bernie Rowan (Secretary) will be retiring from her post on the 31st August, 2026. The Board thanked Bernie for all her hard work and dedication to St. Columba's College over the last 43 years and wished her well in her retirement.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 16th April, 2026.