



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

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## **Board of Management**

### **Agreed Report of Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Management of St. Columba's College took place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2025 at 6.00p.m.

#### **1. Prayer**

The meeting opened with a prayer.

#### **CEIST Representative – Rob Halford**

Mr. Halford sincerely thanked members for agreeing to serve on the Board for the 2025-2028 terms. He outlined the role of the Board of Management and also advised members to avail of upcoming Board of Management Training.

#### **2. Ratification of Designated Liaison Person, Deputy Designated Liaison Person and Recording Secretary**

The Board ratified Mr. Tom Rowan as Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Ms. Georgina White as Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL).P).

The Board ratified the Recording Secretary, Ms. Bernie Rowan. Proposed by Mr. Conor Malone and seconded by Ms. Georgina O'Brien.

Power to suspend was granted to the Principal up to a maximum of three days. The Principal may suspend a student up to five days following consultation with the Chairperson of the Board. The Board may suspend a student for a maximum of 10 days or consider expulsion for very serious breaches of the Code of Behaviour.

#### **3. Election of Finance Sub-committee**

The Board proposed to elect Mr. Joey O'Leary, Mr. P.J. Mc Gowan, Mr. Tom Rowan and Ms. Bernie Rowan to the Finance Sub-committee.

#### **4. Minutes**

The minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2025 were read and approved.

The minutes a special meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 to appoint Assistant Principal I's were read and approved.

#### **5. Matters Arising**

None

#### **6. Correspondence**

6.1 Department circulars were listed to the Board:-

- Circular Letter 0047/2025: Home Tuition Grant Scheme 2025/2026: Special Education Component
- Circular Letter 0048/2025: Teacher Supply Post Primary: Teaching Hours Extension Scheme for 2025/2026
- Circular Letter 0051/2025: Revision of Salaries for Post-Primary Teacher under the Public Service Agreement 2024-2026
- Circular Letter 0053/2025: Revision of Salaries of Clerical Officers and Caretakers employed under the 1978/1979 Scheme under The Public Service Agreement 2024 - 2026 effective from 01 August 2025
- Circular Letter 0055/2025: Revision of Salaries for School Secretaries Previously Grant Funded and Bus Escorts Effective from 01 August 2025
- Circular Letter 0056/2025: Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) under The Public Service Agreement 2024 - 2026 effective from 01 August 2025
- Circular Letter 0057/2025: Home Tuition Grant Scheme for Children with No School Place (NSP) 2025/2026
- Circular Letter 0058/2025: Grant Scheme in respect of Maternity Related Absences (for students)
- Circular Letter 0059/2025: Home Tuition Grant Scheme for Children in Care (CIC) 2025/2026
- Circular Letter 0061/2025: Senior Cycle Redevelopment – Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Examination 2027, 2028, 2029 (For student cohort commencing 5th year in Sept 2025, 2026 & 2027)
- Circular Letter 0063/2025: Senior Cycle Redevelopment – Supports for Selected Phase One Schools Introducing Climate Action and Sustainable Development in the 2025/26 School Year
- Circular Letter 0064/2025: Senior Cycle Redevelopment – Supports for Selected Phase One Schools Introducing Drama, Film and Theatre Studies in the 2025/26 School Year

- Circular Letter 0066/2025: Revision of Capitation Grant Rates for Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme
- Circular Letter 0068/2025: Senior Cycle Redevelopment (SCR) Implementation Support Measures
- Circular Letter 0069/2025: Assessment of Need (This Circular supersedes Circular 0025/2024)

## 7. **Bi Cinealta (Anti-bullying) Report**

The Principal gave an oversight report to the Board.

## 8. **Child Protection Issues**

The Principal presented the CPOR to the Board.

## 9. **Pastoral and Discipline issues**

The Principal outlined the work of The Student Support Teams (Deputies, Year Heads, Career Guidance & SEN Coordinators), supports provided by the School Completion Programme, meetings with the EWO and parents.

Number of suspensions since the last Board meeting were outlined.

## 10. **Policies for Ratification**

**Health and Safety Policy** – the Board ratified same.

## 11. **Analysis of Junior Certificate Results 2025**

An analysis of the Junior Cert Results was presented to the Board by the Principal.

## 12. **Ongoing Plant Development and Maintenance**

### 12.1 **Major Building Project**

The DEY Building Unit sought some additional information and clarification from the Design Team on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The Design Team are in the process of responding.

### 12.2 **Ongoing Maintenance**

A number of issues were addressed following an inspection by Allianz in March 2025

### 12.3 **Lifts**

The lifts were serviced as part of our maintenance programme

## 13. **Principals Report including Teaching and Learning**

### 13.1 **Teaching and Learning**

- **Middle Management and Leadership Team**

The recent retirements and temporary absences have left AP II vacancies in the middle management and leadership. Interviews will take place next week.

- **Cluster Meetings - JCT and Senior Cycle Redevelopment / Child Safeguarding Training for all staff**

The next round of JCT/Senior Cycle Cluster Day will take place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

- **Senior Cycle Redevelopment – Change to agreed school calendar**

The Department of Education and Youth has issued Circular Letter 0068/2025. This circular provides details of an 'interim amendment to the operation of the whole school component of the Croke Park Hours (CPH) for teachers in the post-primary sector'.

- **CBA's and SLAR Meetings**

3<sup>rd</sup> Years are currently working on their CBA's in Wood Technology, Graphics and Engineering. 3<sup>rd</sup> Year will also commence work in Visual Arts, CSPE, History and PE after the mid-term break.

- **Parent Information Evening**

Information evenings were held for each of the year group in September.

- **Coursework**

The college received confirmation regarding the assessment requirements for JC and LC 2026 in early October. This information was emailed to staff and parents and is available on our website.

- **Evening Study**

The second 6-week block will begin on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

- **RACE Applications**

The RACE applications for LC students for 2026 are being prepared at the moment and submitted to the SEC before the end of 21<sup>st</sup> November.

- **Opening Mass/First Year Mass/Retreats**

Thanks to all who were involved in the opening mass, 1<sup>st</sup> Year mass and LC retreats. A mass is planned for the Faithful Departed on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 1.10pm.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Year and 6<sup>th</sup> Year Parent Teacher**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meeting took place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October from 4.15pm to 6.45pm and was very well attended.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Year PT meeting will take place on Monday evening, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 from 4.15pm to 6.45pm.

- **Midterm Assessments and End of Term Assessments**

Midterm assessments for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year students will take place from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October, before the mid-term break.

The end of term assessments for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Year students take place on from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December to Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025. The results will be issued before the Christmas holidays on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

- **Career Guidance**

A number of Career Guidance activities have been organised in the first half term.

- **Trip to Euroscola in Strasbourg**

In March, a group of students who took part in the EU Mock Council Debate in Dublin Castle emerged as overall winners of the competition. Their prize was a subsidised trip to the Euroscola session in Strasbourg for 24 students and 2 teachers. They will travel to Strasbourg from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

- **Student Council**

Election of Student Council members took place in September. Congratulations to all the students who were elected to the Student Council for 2025-2026.

- **Parents Council**

Two meetings of the Parents Council have taken place to discuss policies and fundraising activities.

The Parents Council will assist again this year with the programme for the musical and plan to have a 50-50 Draw.

- **Senior Prefects**

Many thanks to the Senior Prefects who helped out at the Transfer Programme. The Head Girl and Head Boy were selected by the staff. Congratulations to Chelsea Gallagher and Jack Mc Laughlin – both students will represent the student body well during the year.

### **13.2 Curricular Activities**

The Principal gave an account of various curricular activities.

### **13.3 Extra-curricular Activities**

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

### **13.4 Open Day and Open Evening**

The Open Day will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

The Open Evening for parents and 6<sup>th</sup> class primary school students is scheduled for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **13.5 Upcoming Events**

- Mid-term Reports
- Mid-term assessments/Reports
- School Musical – matinee on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November and evening performances from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November
- 6<sup>th</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November
- Safeguarding/Child Protection training for all staff on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November – college closed to students
- Christmas Charity Appeal and Carol Service
- End of term exams for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Year begin on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December – results to be entered by midnight on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December
- Staff meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## **14. Staff Issues – OLCS Claims**

A list of staff paid through our On-Line Claim System was outlined to the Board.

## **15. A.O.B.**

The Meeting concluded with the preparation of the Agreed Report.