

**Educational Research Centre
MEETING OF THE BOARD
25th April 2018**

A meeting of the Board of the Educational Research Centre (ERC), was held on April 25th 2018 at the offices of the organisation.

Board Members Present:

Pauric Travers (PT), Chairperson; Denise Burns (DB), Deputy Chairperson; Prof Michael Martin (MM) (Via Skype Link), Jude Cosgrove (JC); Edward Murtagh (EM)

In Attendance:

Peter Archer (CEO), Anne Comey (AC) who took the minutes

Absent: N/A

Counsel Present: N/A

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2.15 pm.

The Agenda was adopted (Appendix I).

1. Minutes BMin 2 – 0318

The minutes of the last meeting were adopted and signed..

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

The CEO noted that given the number of items to be reviewed and the fact that the changes of reporting arrangements with DES have not taken place yet, he decided to move Alan Wall's introduction to the Board to the following meeting.

No other matters arose from previous minutes that were not covered anywhere else on the agenda.

3. Report on developments since previous meeting (See Appendix II)

The Report from the CEO was noted.

4. Governance matters

The Board noted with concern difficulties in relation to the payroll being faced by the ERC. It was agreed that the CEO should remind the DES to issue letter to DCU to rectify matters.

The Board is concerned that the delays in the appointment of the new CEO is further delaying the development of a Strategic Plan for the ERC.

Board will assess developments in the appointment of the CEO at the next meeting and make a decision on its approach to the matter then.

11. AOB

DB will be away on September 19th with prior commitments so the Board meeting has been rescheduled for September 12th.

There was no other business.

12. CEO Recruitment

The CEO and JC withdrew from the meeting at this point.

- Minutes of special meeting (B3-04-18)

The minutes of the Special Meeting of April 16th were approved. It was confirmed that they should not be included on the ERC website.

- Update on Developments

The Chairperson gave an update on developments. He met with the complainants for an informal meeting as per the requirements of Clause 8 of the Code of Practice - Appointment to Positions in the Civil Service and Public Service.

The complainants had objected to individual meetings and requested to be met as a group. After discussions with Sigmar and clarifications on matters of Data Protection, the Chairperson granted the request. A representative from IFUT (Ms Joan Donnegan) was also present at the meeting.

The Chairperson related the various points presented by the complainants to the Board members. The Board considered all points raised and was satisfied with the process to date. The Chairperson will revert to the complainants to confirm same.

Following this informal process, should the candidates still be dissatisfied, they may resort to the formal process under Section 8.3 of the Code within 2 working days of receiving notification of the outcome of informal process.

The Board discussed whether, in the event of such an appeal, it should continue with the appointment. The Board decided not to proceed with the appointment pending the outcome of an appeal under Section 8.3.

In the meantime, the Board agreed to seek further references from the most recent employers of the recommended candidate.

The Board wished to thank the Chairman for all his work on the CEO recruitment to date.



1. I attended a meeting of the Board of Participating Countries for PIAAC. The DES has indicated that it wants the Centre to continue to represent Ireland on this board with the CSO taking responsibility for management of the project. I have proposed a meeting with DES and CSO.
2. Caroline and I attended a meeting of the PISA Governing board earlier this week. Caroline presented an update on the proposed symposium (in ETS) and workshop (in Dublin). Several countries expressed interest in getting involved.
3. As reported previously, there have been discussions with the Teacher Education Section and PDST about a possible evaluation of CPD relating to wellbeing. Following a meeting on January 29, terms of reference have been drafted and it looks like the necessary funding may be available.
4. We received formal notification of Tom's bequest of his art collection to the Centre. Some implications will arise at Item 4 of our agenda.
5. I have agreed to be part of a panel (with two others) to review teacher allocations for special education. This follows on from our work on the 'new' allocation model.
6. The centre is mentioned in some documents about an evaluation of the Gaeltacht schools recognition scheme. Gerry has attended meeting about this and has now prepared a proposal for some initial work.
7. David has done some item analysis on tests devised by NEPS. We expect a proposal from NEPS for what is likely to be a substantial collaboration.
8. PISA testing is nearing completion, the data collection for the test Standardisation is under way and TIMSS field trial has started.