



Minutes of a Meeting of the Special Governing Body (the “GB”)  
held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 17:00, via Microsoft Teams

Agenda Item 1: Chair’s Business:

a) Attendance and Apologies for Absences:

**Present:**

Mr John Nugent (Chair of the Governing Body), Mr Tommy Martin (Principal/CEO), Mr Alan McCrum, Mr Darren Stewart, Ms Majella Corrigan, Mr Derek Wilson, Mr Samuel Hagen, Mrs Nuala Reid, Mrs Pauline Leeson, Mr Mark Brashier, Mr Steven Lee, Ms Grainne McVeigh, Dr Danny McConnell, Ms Catherine McKay

**In Attendance:**

Mr Colin McGuckin (Deputy CEO), Mrs Claire Williamson (Secretary to the Governing Body)

**Apologies:** Mr Paul Finnegan, Mrs Carolyn King, Mrs Nicola Wilson,

**In the Chair:** Mr John Nugent

b) Declarations of Conflicts of Interest:

The Chair invited members to declare any known or perceived conflicts of interests.

- Ms Corrigan declared she is employed by DENI. She is a current member of the Governing Body of Stranmillis College.
- Mr McCrum declared his wife is employed at ETI.
- The Principal & CEO declared his daughter is employed as a lecturer at the College.
- Mr Lee declared his wife is employed as a Deputy Head of School at the College.

No action was taken in relation to any of the declared conflicts. Members were reminded that they should declare any potential conflicts to agenda items should they arise during the meeting.

## 2) Items for Approval

### a) Annual Report and Financial Statements for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

In beginning the discussion, the Chair highlighted that the presented Annual Report and Financial Statements had been reviewed independently by the FGP and Audit committees.

On the invitation of the Chair the ARC Chair advised that the committee's review focused primarily on the Accountability Report (pages 33–79).

The outcome of the Internal Audit (page 71) was noted as satisfactory and consistent with findings previously presented to the Committee.

The Committee considered the RTTCWG, noting that it provided a more detailed assessment.

Members acknowledged the unqualified audit opinion, with no qualifications attached, and received an overview of its key elements.

Two audit findings were identified and are set out in the Annual Report (page 28). Both findings have been fully accepted by management.

On behalf of the FGP Chair, Mr. Wilson, Vice Chair of the Committee, noted that it was unfortunate that the report on the Accounts arrived late from NIAO to the Committee, but commended the organisation on the production of an excellent annual report & financial statements.

For the record, the Accounting Officer advised that the delay in circulating the final papers to FGP had been due to NIAO, and not the College. While this was not ideal, he agreed to discuss with NIAO to ensure members have adequate time for review in future.

The Accounting Officer expressed that he was immensely encouraged by the report and the progress of the audit. He commended Colin and his team for the excellent way in which they had worked with NIAO.

He noted his satisfaction that the College had achieved a largely clean audit, with only minor findings, remarking that it was commendable that such standards were maintained year after year.

Looking ahead, he highlighted the challenge the organisation will face next year as it transitions to a shorter financial year.

The Accounting Officer confirmed he was content to sign off the Accounts as presented and emphasised the high quality of financial governance within the College.

The Chair confirmed that the Governing Body wholly endorsed these remarks.

The Deputy CEO highlighted that the Finance Team had performed exceptionally well and deserved significant credit for their work on the Accounts and the audit process.

**Agreed:** The Governing Body approved the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 July 2025 on the proposal of Derek Wilson and seconded by Sam Hagen.

3) Any other business

No other business was discussed.

**The meeting concluded at 5.13pm.**

**Date of next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Governing Body is scheduled for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 5.30pm, Lisburn Campus

Signed:



Date: 12.02.26

**John Nugent**

**Chair of the Governing Body**