

# Report of ACCS Constitution and Convention Sub-Committee 2020/2021

Members: **Paul Fiorentini, President, James Duignan, Chairperson, Paul Thornton, Tomás Ó Nidh, Pat McKenna, Susan Cunniffe, Debbie Riordan, Áine O’Sullivan, Assistant General Secretary, Anne Marie Dillon, Director of Human Resources and John Irwin, General Secretary.**

The Sub-Committee met on 18th June, 2020, 13th August, 2020, 7th October, 2020, 11th November, 2020, 7th December, 2020, 7th January, 2021 and 10th February, 2021.

## Review of Convention 2020

The Sub-Committee was very pleased with the arrangements for the 38th ACCS Annual Convention – Promoting Quality in Education held in the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry. Convention was attended by 182 delegates on behalf of 86 schools.

Convention represents an opportunity for ACCS to conduct its necessary business as an organisation while also affording delegates an opportunity to reflect upon and discuss current issues relevant to our schools and the wider education landscape. ACCS welcomed the following speakers to Killarney to present to delegates:

- Dr. Harold Hislop, Chief Inspector, Department of Education & Skills: “Leading, Learning and Collaborating for Quality”.
- Tony Nolan, Chairperson, School Chaplains Association: “Chaplain For All”.
- Professor Mel Ainscow, Emeritus Professor of Education, University of Manchester: “Collaboration for Success”.
- Seán Ó Foghlú, Secretary General, Department of Education and Skills.



- Dr. Harry Barry, Best-Selling Author and GP: “Mental Health and Wellbeing & the Importance of Emotional Resilience a Whole School Approach”.

The hotel facilities and level of service were favourably commented on by all present. Delegates felt that there was a good balance between time off and sessions with the format of Convention 2020 commencing on Wednesday, continuing Thursday, and closing on Friday lunchtime.

The annual Convention Banquet took place on the evening of Thursday 5th March attended by all delegates and guests representing educational organisations throughout Ireland. The Banquet was preceded by an exciting and excellent musical recital by students of Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine. Congratulations and sincere thanks were conveyed to the Principal, Staff and Students for an enjoyable performance.

ACCS also expressed its appreciation to VSware (Main Sponsor), PCI (Co-Sponsor) and to all the Exhibitors for their ongoing support and participation at ACCS Convention 2020.

## ACCS Convention 2021

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions in place, the Sub-Committee agreed to recommend to the Executive that Convention 2021 be held virtually on the 11th March 2021. The Conference theme “Innovation, Inclusion & Impact: ACCS Schools Rising to the Challenge” was recommended to the Executive and subsequently agreed.

It was agreed to commence the opening session at 10.00 a.m. and close Convention at 3.15 p.m. The agenda will focus on essential governance issues and will include the following:

1. Address by the Minister for Education and Skills, Ms. Norma Foley, T.D.
2. Presentation from Ms. Mairéad McGuinness, EU Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union
3. Address by Mr. Paul Fiorentini, Uachtarán, ACCS
4. Reports from John Irwin, General Secretary, Paul Thornton, Treasurer, Anne Marie Dillon, Director of Human Resources, Catherine O’Sullivan, Director of ACCS/JMB Further Education Support Unit and Ms. Hilary Treacy, Data Protection Advisor.

ACCS’s Web and IT Support Officer David Cahill will oversee the virtual production which will be run on the Zoom platform and will be live streamed from ACCS Head Office.

## ACCS Convention Handbook

The Convention handbook which records the work of the Association since Convention 2020 will be made available to all delegates. In order to reduce our carbon footprint the Sub-Committee decided to continue to produce a reduced size handbook. The printed version will contain all reports of the work of the Association but excludes appendices. The handbook will also contain the Memorandum and Articles of Association of ACCS to comply with requirements of the Charities Governance Code. A digital version of the handbook incorporating the appendices will be available on the ACCS website [www.accs.ie](http://www.accs.ie) for downloading.

Three copies of the handbook will be posted to the Secretary Board of Management in every school to present to accredited delegates in advance of the event. Delegates will be asked to read reports of the various sub-committees and submit any questions in advance of Convention or through the chat function in Zoom on the day.

## Sponsorship

| Convention Handbook 2021 | Cost |
|--------------------------|------|
| Back Cover, full colour  | €800 |
| Inside Front Cover       | €500 |
| Inside Back Cover        | €500 |
| Full Page                | €350 |
| 2 Page Spread            | €550 |
| ½ Page                   | €250 |

Correspondence has been sent to potential companies requesting sponsorship. The advertising rates for the ACCS Convention handbook, video/PowerPoint advertising are outlined below:

**Video Advertising: Cost: €125 per minute (3-minute maximum time per advert)**

Sponsors can include a pre-recorded video advert to be played on screen during the intervals/breaks.

**PowerPoint Advertising: Cost: €75**

Sponsors can include a jpeg PowerPoint advert to be used as a rolling presentation which will be played on screen during the intervals/breaks.

**Additional Benefits to Sponsors:**

In addition to the above options, sponsor's logo and website URL will be uploaded to the ACCS website and companies will also be acknowledged in the handbook and post event newsletter.

**Convention Motions**

Motions from schools were reviewed and agreed with the original schools. These have been submitted and circulated to Boards of Management and will be considered during the course of Convention.

**Nominations to the ACCS Executive Committee 2021/2022**

Executive nominations are to be submitted in advance of Convention (closing date for receipt 10th February, 2020). Following on from several requests it was decided to forward Executive nomination forms to schools in December to allow Boards plenty of time to nominate candidates. It was agreed by the ACCS Executive that only when nominations to fill the positions of area representatives exceed the number of vacancies for a constituency, then an election will be required and a postal ballot will ensue.

**Standing Orders for ACCS Convention 2021**

Standing Orders at Convention 2021 have been reviewed due to the online nature of the event.

**James Duignan,  
Chairperson.**