

# Minutes of the 35th Annual Convention 2017

## Theme: Community and Comprehensive Schools: Inclusion and Diversity

Convention 2017 took place in the Malton Hotel, Killarney on 23rd, 24th, 25th March 2017 attended by 193 delegates representing 81 schools.

The President Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt opened the Convention extending a warm welcome to all delegates.

### Adoption of Standing Orders

Standing Orders for Convention were adopted on the proposal of Ms. Noralene Ní Urdáil (Beara Community School) and seconded by Mr. Pat McKenna (Pobalscoil Neasáin).

### Appointment of Timekeepers

Ms. Noralene Ní Urdáil was appointed timekeeper on the proposal of Mr. Paul Thornton (Tullow Community School) and seconded by Mr. Frank Moran (Killinarden Community School).

### Appointment of Members of the Steering Committee

Convention was advised that the Executive had appointed the members of the Constitution and Convention Sub-Committee 2016-2017 to act as a Steering Committee to assist the Chairperson in the business of Convention in accordance with Standing Orders.

Proposed by Ms. Mary O'Sullivan (Beara Community School) and seconded by Mr. Denis Ring (Blackwater Community School).

### Appointment of Tellers

The following tellers were appointed:

1. Mr. James Duignan  
Proposed by: Mr. Gay McManus (Dunmore Community School)  
Seconded by: Mr. Michael Brett (Gort Community School)
2. Ms. Mary O'Sullivan  
Proposed by Ms. Noralene Ní Urdáil (Beara Community School)  
Seconded by Ms. Mary Lehane (Beara Community School)
3. Sr. Breda Shaughnessy  
Proposed by Mr. Jarlath McDonagh (Dunmore Community School)  
Seconded by Mr. Seán McCann (St. Wolstan's Community School)

### Minutes of 34th Annual Convention, 2016

The Minutes of the 2016 Annual Convention as published on pg. 21 of the 2017 Convention Handbook were adopted on the proposal of Mr. Peter Keohane (Donahies Community School) and Seconded by Mr. Des Cullen (Moynes Community School).

### Executive Reports

Reports from Executive Staff members were considered under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Crone, ACCS Executive Member.

## General Secretary's Report

The General Secretary Ms. Eileen Salmon in her report gave an overview of the work of the Association during the course of the past year as outlined in the Convention Handbook.

Her report was adopted on the proposal of Mr. David McEvoy (St. Attracta's Community School) and seconded by Mr. Denis Ring (Blackwater Community School).

## Special Resolution: Memorandum and Articles of Association

The General Secretary proposed the following special resolution which outlined essential revisions of the Association's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

### THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY AND COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS

**Company Number: 374433**

**(the "Company")**

### IT IS RESOLVED as Special Resolutions

1. That, subject to receipt of the consent of the Revenue Commissioners the Company's memorandum of association be and is altered so that:
  - (a) it states that the Company is a company limited by guarantee registered under Part 18 of the Companies Act 2014 and the memorandum of association of the Company be and is altered so that there is substituted "company limited by guarantee" for "limited" in the Company's name;
  - (b) existing clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are renumbered as clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8;
  - (c) existing clause 2, duly renumbered as clause 3 is amended so that its existing first and second paragraphs are replaced with the following paragraphs:
    3. "The main object for which the Company is established is:
      - (i) to contribute by every means at its disposal to the advancement of Education; and
      - (ii) to advance and develop the concept of broad comprehensive curricula as enshrined in the deeds of the schools; and
      - (iii) to advance and develop the wider "community" concept of the schools; and
      - (iv) to incorporate as a Company limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital the Body known as The Association of Community and Comprehensive SchoolsThe following are the powers of the company which may only be carried on in furtherance of the main object and for no other purpose:"
  - (d) existing clause 4, duly renumbered as clause 5 is amended so that it is replaced with the following:
    - "5. No amendments of any kind shall be made:
      - (a) to the provisions of clauses 4 and 8 of the Memorandum of Association and no amendments shall be made to the Memorandum and Articles of Association to such extent that they would alter the effect clauses 4 and 8 of the Memorandum of Association, such that there would be non compliance with the requirements of the Section 1180 of the Companies Act 2014; and
      - (b) to or in the provisions of this memorandum of association for the time being in force unless the same shall have been previously approved in writing by the Revenue Commissioners."
  - (e) existing clause 7, duly renumbered as clause 8 is amended so that it is replaced with the following:
    - "8. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Company there remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Company but shall be given or transferred to another company whose objects comply with paragraph (a) of 1180(1) of the Companies Act, 2014 and which company meets the requirements of paragraph (b) of Section 1180(1) of the Companies Act, 2014, such company to be determined by the members of this company at or before the time of dissolution, and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to such provision, then to some charitable object."
  - (f) a new clause 9 is added as follows:
    - "9. For so long as the Company benefits from a charitable tax exempt status from the Revenue Commissioners, annual audited accounts shall be kept and made available to the Revenue Commissioners on request."

2. That the amended articles of association as distributed be adopted as the articles of association of the Company that together with the amended memorandum of association will comprise the Constitution of the Company in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing articles of association of the Company.

The proposal was subjected to a vote of members with result as follows:

Yes: 106 votes

No: 0 votes

Abstentions 1 vote

The proposal was adopted.

## **Honorary Treasurer's Report**

The Honorary Treasurer's report and the report of the ACCS Auditors, McFeely and McKiernan, were presented by Mr. Séamus Ó Ceallacháin (Honorary Treasurer).

The Treasurer's report was adopted on the proposal of Mr. Pádraig Firtéar (Pobascoil Chorca Dhuibhne) and seconded by Mr. Paul Mulhern (St. Mark's Community School).

The Auditor's Report was adopted on the proposal of Mr. Pádraig Firtéar (Pobascoil Chorca Dhuibhne) and seconded by Mr. David McEvoy (St. Attracta's Community School).

The reappointment of McFeely and McKiernan as ACCS auditors for the coming year was approved on the proposal of Mr. Des Cullen (Moyne Community School) and seconded by Mr. Adrian Jackson (Carrick-on-Shannon, Community School).

## **Human Resources Manager's Report**

Ms. Anne Marie Dillon, ACCS Human Resources Manager, presented this report which was adopted on the proposal of Ms. Maria Barry (St. Wolstan's Community School) and seconded by Mr. Joe Sweeney (Coláiste Chiaráin, Leixlip).

## **ACCS Sub-Committee Reports**

Reports on the activities of ACCS Sub-committees and Task Groups throughout the year were considered under the chairmanship of Mr. Gay McManus, ACCS Executive Member.

### **Report of ACCS Continuous Professional Development Programme 2016/2017**

Presented by Ms. Eileen Salmon, General Secretary and adopted on the proposal of Ms. Patricia McPhillips (Coolmine Community School) and seconded by Mr. Denis Magner (St. Brendan's Community School, Birr).

### **Report of ACCS Constitution and Convention Sub-Committee 2016/2017**

Presented by Mr. Paul Fiorentini, ACCS Executive Member and adopted on the proposal of Mr. Patsy McVicar (Carndonagh Community School) and seconded by Mr. Seán McCann (St. Wolstan's Community School).

### **Report of ACCS Education Sub-Committee 2016/2017**

Presented by Mr. Paul Crone, ACCS Executive Member and adopted on the proposal of Mr. Pádraig Firtéar (Pobascoil Chorca Dhuibhne) and seconded by Mr. Fergal McCarthy (Kinsale Community School).

### **Report of ACCS Further Education Sub-Committee 2016/2017**

Presented by Mr. John Irwin, Assistant General Secretary and adopted on the proposal of Mr. Adrian Jackson (Carrick-on-Shannon Community School) and seconded by Mr. Paul Byrne (Carrick-on-Shannon Community School).

### **Report of ACCS Human Resources/Industrial Relations Sub-Committee 2016/2017**

Presented by Mr. Paul Thornton, ACCS Executive Member and adopted on the proposal of Mr. David Trost (St. Wolstan's Community School) and seconded by Ms. Nuala Fox (St. Kilian's Community School).

### **Report of ACCS Information and Communication Technology Sub-Committee 2016/2017**

Presented by Mr. Paul Thornton, ACCS Executive Member and adopted on the proposal of Mr. Seán MacDonncha (Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, An Cheathrú Rua) and seconded by Mr. Malachy Molloy (Carrick-on-Shannon Community School).

### **Report of ACCS In-School Management Task Group and Conference 2016**

Presented by Mr. Denis Ring, Chairperson of Task Group and adopted on the proposal of Mr. Paul Mulhern (St. Marks Community School) and seconded by Mr. Cahil Doherty (St. Louis Community School, Kiltimagh).

### **Report of the Integrated Workplace Health Management Project 2016/2017**

Presented by Mr. John Irwin, Assistant General Secretary and adopted on the proposal of Mr. Jim Twohig (John the Baptist Community School) and seconded by Ms. Mary Mullarkey (Clifden Community School).

### **Report of ACCS Special Education Needs Sub-Committee 2016/2017**

Presented by Ms. Eileen Salmon, General Secretary and adopted on the proposal of Mr. Seán McCann (St. Wolstan's Community School) and seconded by Ms. Áine O'Sullivan (Ashbourne Community School).

### **Report of National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) 2016**

Presented by Ms. Áine O'Sullivan, ACCS nominee on Council, and adopted on the proposal of Ms. Eithne Coyne (St. Mark's Community School) and seconded by Ms. Mary Jackson (Ardee Community School).

### **Report of ACCS School Building Projects Advisor 2016**

Presented by Mr. Jim Twohig, ACCS School Building Projects Advisor, and adopted on the proposal of Ms. Patricia McPhillips (Coolmine Community School) and seconded by Mr. John Murphy (St. Kilian's Community School, Bray).

### **Report of ACCS Schools ICT Advisor 2016/2017**

Presented by Ms. Eileen Salmon, General Secretary on behalf of Ms. Deirdre Redmond, ACCS Schools ICT Advisor and adopted on the proposal of Mr. Paul Byrne (Carrick-on-Shannon Community School) and seconded by Mr. Jim Twohig (John the Baptist Community School).

### **Report of Teacher Conciliation Council (C&A) 2016**

Presented by Ms. Eileen Salmon, General Secretary and adopted on the proposal of Ms. Máire Ní Cheidigh (Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara, Carna) and seconded by Ms. Ursula Finnegan (Gallen Community School).

### **Report from the Teaching Council**

Presented by Ms. Eileen Salmon, General Secretary and adopted on the proposal of Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt, President, ACCS and seconded by Mr. Jim Twohig (John the Baptist Community School).

## **Election of President of ACCS for 2017/2018**

Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt was nominated for the office of President for 2017/2018 by 62 Boards of Management. Her appointment was proposed by Mr. Peter Keohane (Donahies Community School) and seconded by Mr. Seán McCann (St. Wolstan's Community School) and was unanimously elected.

## **Ms. Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission on “Providing Leadership through Inclusion and Diversity”.**

Chair: Ms. Áine O'Sullivan, ACCS Executive Member.

Ms. Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission delivered a comprehensive presentation on the work of her Commission and its relevance to the theme of Convention and to the work of ACCS and its members.

Mr. Séamus Ó Ceallacháin, ACCS Executive Member replied on behalf of delegates.

The chairperson thanked Ms. Logan and a presentation was made to her on behalf of the Association.

## Election of 2017/2018 ACCS Executive (Board of Directors)

The election of the incoming Executive for 2017/18 took place at constituency meetings and the following were elected

CITY AND COUNTY OF DUBLIN:	Mr. Paul Crone Mr. Frank Moran Mr. Pat McKenna
LEINSTER:	Mr. Paul Thornton Ms. Áine O’Sullivan Ms. Geraldine Keena
MUNSTER:	Ms. Noralene Ní Urdáil Mr. Dermot Healy Mr. Séamus Ó Ceallacháin
CONNACHT:	Mr. Gay McManus Mr. Michael Brett
ULSTER:	Mr. Paul Fiorentini Ms. Maureen Curran
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS:	Mr. Derek Lowry An t-Úas Tomás Ó Nídh
Co-Opted	Mr. David Leahy Mr. James Duignan

## Convention 2017 Motions

Motions proposed by school Boards of Management were considered under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Thornton (ACCS Executive).

- Motion 1 *That ACCS would engage with the relevant parties to ensure that teachers are not summoned for Jury service during the academic year as this is placing a further burden on sourcing qualified replacements and disrupting teaching and learning.*  
**Carndonagh Community School, Donegal**  
Proposed by Mr. Paul Fiorentini (Carndonagh Community School) and seconded by Mr. Derek Lowry (Newpark Comprehensive School).  
While recognising the particular difficulties for schools outlined in the motion some members considered it contrary to a fundamental “citizen right”.  
**The motion was not carried.**
- Motion 2 *That the ACCS would ask the DES to abolish the requirements to spend 84 days in an acting up role before the acting up allowance is paid.*  
**St. Brendan’s Community School, Birr**  
Proposed by Mr. Denis Magner (St. Brendan’s Community School, Birr) and seconded by Mr. Malachy Molloy (Carrick on Shannon Community School).  
**The motion was carried.**
- Motion 3 *That the ACCS would ask the DES to develop a policy in relation to the release of teachers for State Examinations. School management are finding it increasingly difficult to get substitutes for teachers released for State Examinations and almost impossible to get same subject replacements.*  
**St. Brendan’s Community School, Birr**  
Proposed by Mr. Denis Magner (St. Brendan's Community School, Birr) and seconded by Mr. Malachy Molloy (Carrick-on-Shannon Community School).  
**Following discussion, the motion was referred to the incoming Executive for further consideration.**

## Presidential Address Convention 2017

### Presidential Address by Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt

The Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Richard Bruton, together with senior members of staff from the DES attended for the Presidential address. All were welcomed on behalf of the ACCS by the Chairperson Mr. Paul Fiorentini (Vice President of ACCS).

### Presidential Address

Ms. Nic Gearailt opened her address with a special acknowledgement of the 50th anniversary of the foundation in 1966 of the first 3 Comprehensive Schools in Shannon, Carraroe and Cootehill. She offered the good wishes of ACCS to the current Principals who were present - Mr. Morgan Heaphy (St. Patrick's Comprehensive School, Shannon), Mr. Seán MacDonncha (Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, An Cheathrú Rua) and Ms. Mary Ann Smith (St. Aidan's Comprehensive School, Cootehill).

Ms. Nic Gearailt continued with a comprehensive overview of current school governance issues. She particularly emphasised the shortage of teachers in certain subject areas and the increasing difficulty in ensuring the recruitment of qualified teachers to undertake substitute work for teachers on leave. She appealed for a robust ongoing process to analyse supply and demand of teachers.

The Chairperson, Mr. Paul Fiorentini congratulated the President on her address and thanked her for her continued work on behalf of the Association.

The full text of this address is contained in this handbook on page 29.

### Address by Mr. Richard Bruton, Minister for Education and Skills

In his address, the Minister acknowledged the issues raised by the President. He noted particularly the significance of the Convention theme "Inclusion and Diversity" and the considered efforts of ACCS to address this issue. He reviewed the current DES "Action Plan for Education 2017" and the objectives outlined therein.

Ms. Eileen Salmon thanked the Minister for his attendance and his contribution to the Convention.

### Panel Discussion on Diversity and Inclusion in Irish Education

Chair: Mr. Pat O'Connor, ACCS Executive

Members of the panel were:

Mr. Dalton Tatton (Assistant Secretary, DES), Dr. Pádraig Kirk (Director of JCT), Mr. Jim Mulkerrins (Principal Officer SEN, DES), Ms. Caitríona O'Brien (Principal Officer, Social Inclusion, DES)

**Dr. Pádraig Kirk** outlined the perspective of the Junior Certificate Framework on Diversity and Inclusion.

**Mr. Jim Mulkerrins** described the supports provided for the inclusion of SEN students in mainstream education. He drew particular attention to the new allocation model for SEN support in 2017/18.

**Ms. Caitríona O'Brien** concentrated attention on the new DEIS plan as it applies to schools and their capacity for Inclusion and Diversity.

A question and answer session followed in which delegates were afforded the opportunity to raise issues of concern with the DES.

### A presentation from Portmarnock Community School Young Social Innovators of the Year 2016.

Mr. John Irwin, Assistant General Secretary, introduced students from Portmarnock Community School with their project *Global Citizens Mapping the Future* for which they were awarded the title *Young Social Innovators of the Year 2016*.

The students made a presentation of their project to delegates which involves ongoing work in the global mapping of Lesotho in Africa and continued work throughout poor and deprived areas in Africa and elsewhere. They displayed an extensive knowledge and ability in the use of Information Technology for the benefit of all.

Sincere thanks and congratulations was expressed to the Principal and relevant teaching staff for their contribution to the work of the students.

## **Workshop on School Governance Issues**

Chair: Mr. Pat O'Connor, ACCS Executive

The final morning of Convention Saturday 25th March was devoted to a workshop on School Governance Issues.

**Financial Responsibilities:** Presented by Ms. Eileen Salmon, General Secretary.

**The BoM as an Employer:** Presented by Ms. Anne Marie Dillon, Human Resources Manager and Mr. John Irwin, Assistant General Secretary.

**Health and Safety:** Presented by Mr. John Irwin, Assistant General Secretary.

A question and answer session provided the opportunity for further clarification of the issues raised.

## **Concluding Remarks**

The ACCS President, Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt, thanked all delegates and presenters for their participation in the business of convention and assured them of the continued dedicated effort of the Executive and Staff of ACCS in the coming year.

