

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
Board Meeting
25th July 2007
Trinity College,
Dublin.**

Present: **Deputy Chairman;** Jim Devenney
 Dr Linde Lunney
 Mr Pat Wall
 Mr Eddie O'Donnell
 Mr Alistair Simpson
 Dr Ian Adamson

In attendance: Mr George Patton
 Mr Michael McCullough

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Deputy Chairman, Mr Devenney welcomed the Board to the 69th Meeting of the Board at Trinity College, Dublin. He thanked Mr Wall for the facilities that he had arranged for the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Mr Thompson and Mr Stoker.

3. Minutes of Meeting 22nd June 2007

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting.
Proposed and agreed; that the Minutes be accepted.

Interreg

Mr Patton informed that Board that he had made enquiries about the two closing dates issues for applications. The earlier date on their website was the correct one therefore the Agency missed the closing date.

David Healy Fitba Day

Mr Devenney suggested that a letter be sent on behalf of the Board to groups that had been let down at this event because of Translink. In the western counties 2 buses did not appear and a third bus was 2 ½ hours late.

Mr McCullough advised the Board that Translink have accepted responsibility and have offered the Agency compensation of £3,000 due to the impact the delays had on the event. This has been rejected and the Agency is waiting on another offer from Translink.

A copy of Translink's letter accepting responsibility is to be sent to groups that were affected.

Action: Mr McCullough

Mr McCullough informed the Board that David Healy was happy to engage with the Agency on a three year contract. The Board were enthused by this years event and proposed that the Agency take this opportunity as it had a high PR value and Ulster-Scots education element for the children.

Proposed and agreed.

Mr Devenney thanked the Executive and staff for all their work organising the event.

It was suggested that the Agency should run a competition in the next Ulster-Scot on "Tell us about your day with David Healy".

Action: Mr McCullough.

4. Matters Arising

Letter to NSMC

Mr Patton updated the Board on this issue. He had previously advised the Board that it was anticipated there would be a definite response in the next few weeks. To date nothing has materialised.

This issue will continue to appear on the agenda until resolved.

Mr Patton had circulated the USAIG Business Plan. It is open for consultation until 24th September 2007. The Board agreed to hold a special meeting of the Board to discuss this paper on 24th August 2007

Primary School Project

This matter cannot progress further until the above issue is resolved.

TV Programme Proposal

Vinegar Hill Productions have now started recording for the programme.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman highlighted events that he had attended.

The Raphoe festival was very successful with over 800 people attending.

Mr Devenney also attended an interview with Eamon McCann RE: Raphoe Festival on Radio Foyle.

6. Executive Report

Mr Patton highlighted contact that he had with the "Home Coming Scotland 2009" festival committee. Lord Semple also made contact with Mr Patton on this issue.

Mr Patton informed the Board that he has approached potential partners to form a partnership with the Agency to taken this event forward.

Action: Mr Patton to progress this.

7. Budget and Business Plan 2006/7

The figures of spend to date were tabled.

To date the Agency budget for the financial assistance scheme has been fully committed. The Executive proposed a moratorium on financial assistance. Applications can continue to be accepted where committed spend will be paid in 2008 e.g Tuition.

Proposed and agreed.

It was felt that the Agency are now in a strong position to approach southern Education Departments as previously suggested by the Board to arrange a meeting.

Proposed and agreed.

Once links have been made the Agency could use this opportunity for a Dublin Showcase to show living history, play, Stranmillis project, music and dance.

8. Grants

(1) Altnaveigh House Cultural Society

Proposal:	£10,790 of £18,570
	"A Celebration of Ulster-Scots" This event will run for 8 days. It will consist of highland dance competition, workshops, historical visits, Piping Hot show, cookery and craft classes, exhibitions and a Ulster-Scots Family night.

The Board were in agreement to fund this application for the recommended amount of £8,492.

Proposed and agreed.

Gillian Jones – Fellowship in Dance

The Board were in agreement to fund this sponsorship application that had been deferred at the previous Board meeting after further information was provided. The Executive are to meet with Gillian to confirm details before a letter of offer is sent. The Board suggested that a condition of conducting workshops be applied.

Proposed and Agreed.

York Island Website

The Board agreed to defer this application until the next meeting as Mr Patton only received requested paperwork this morning and was unable to provide the Board with a recommendation.

Proposed and agreed.

Kilmegan and Aughlisnafin

After the last Board decision a letter of offer was sent to this group. The offer included funding that other Funders had already agreed to provide for. As double funding cannot be provided in line with corporate governance the Board were supportive of Mr Patton's action to recall the letter of offer.

During this procedure Mr Patton was made aware that confidential information from the previous Board meeting had been disclosed. It was proposed that Mr Patton carry out an inquiry into how the information had been leaked.

Proposed and agreed.

This application for funding will proceed with adjustments made accordingly.

Ulster-Scots Language Society

Mr Patton informed the Board that the new Ulster-Scots Grammar book approved by the Board early in the year had been printed. The Board agreed recommended expenditure.

9. Amendments to Financial Assistance Scheme

The Executive presented a paper which included two new initiatives to the Board for amendment to the financial assistance scheme. They are:

- Tranche funding for festivals
- Development Grant proposals

The Board agreed in principal to support the tabled paper from the Executive

Proposed and agreed.

10. Stranmillis College

The Board were informed that the Stranmillis contract will come to an end on 31st August 2007.

It was noted that the work of Stranmillis education projects could be used when the Agency approach the southern Education Departments for a meeting.

11. Staffing

The CEO briefed the Board on staffing issues.

12. AOB

SEUPB Project Update

Mr Patton briefed the Board on the work of the SEUPB workers. They are building on Library week and hope to develop this project in September 2007. At present they are running a summer school in special needs schools.

It is hoped to develop a joint after schools project with Foras na Gaeilge in Special schools.

Belfast/Nashville Event

Executive informed the Board that the Mayor of Nashville visited in June 2007. He is keen to grow and develop links with Belfast.

Community Radio

Mr Patton took time away from the office to visit the radio station at Rathfriland. This has proven to be very successful. The radio is still to travel to Ballycarry, Bready and Dromore. The station can be reached within a 5 miles radius.

The Board asked that it be noted that they thanked Mr McCullough who organised the radio station for all his work and enthusiasm.

David Healy Coaching

This issue was dealt with at item 4 – matters arising.

Summer Schools

Summer Schools have been successful to date. Mr Devenney informed the Board of the success of the Raphoe Summer School.

After Schools Clubs

The pilot schemes in Omagh, Bushmills and Belfast are now successfully completed. The Agency now has demand for 20 clubs in September before they have even advertised this project.

Reivers Festival

The Reivers Festival will talk place at Castle Coole on 18th August 2007. The Londonderry Festival will take place from 6-11th August 2007. All Board members are welcome to both events.

Ulster-Scots Newspaper

This item was agreed to be adjourned and a special meeting to be arranged to discuss this item.

Executive to ask Ms Gilmore to prepare a briefing on the Ulster-Scot paper for next month.

St Andrews Society, Dublin

Dr Lunney thought that it might be an idea for the Agency to make connections with this group when showcasing Ulster-Scots in Dublin.

Joint Language Body Meeting

Mr Patton advised the Board that the accounts were due to be signed in September and that a Joint Language meeting may be arranged around that time.

Colin Brookes

Dr Lunney told the Board that Colin Brookes was visiting from America. It was suggested that Mr Brookes be interviewed and recorded for the Ulster-Scots promotional DVD.

13 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in Monaghan on 6th September 2007.

A special meeting of the Board has also been agreed by the Board to discuss the USAIG Business Plan and issues raised by the Deputy Chairman on 24th August 2007 in Belfast.

The next Internal Audit Committee meeting will take place on 31st August 2007 in Belfast.

SIGNED:

DATED: