

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Paul Givan, Minister
Rathgael House, Balloo Road
Bangor, BT19 7PR

Pat Sheehan MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

18 February 2025
AQW 21842/22-27

Pat Sheehan has asked:
To ask the Minister of Education whether he will publish the minutes of any meetings he has had with Lisneal College.

ANSWER

A copy of the meeting note will be deposited in the Assembly library.



Paul Givan MLA
Minister of Education

MINISTER'S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

☐ PRE-BRIEF

☒ MEETING

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING:		Monday 3 June 2024 at 10.00am	
TITLE/ORGANISATION: [Include INV number where possible and ensure title on re-brief and meeting notes are the same]		INV-1234-2024: Lisneal College	
VENUE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PB	<input type="checkbox"/> Rathgael	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
LIST OF ATTENDEES: <i>(As follows)</i>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SpAd:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister PS	<input type="checkbox"/> Minister APS
OFFICIALS:	[REDACTED] (EOT)		
OTHERS: [include PDF copies of any presentations delivered]	Minister Gordon Lyons MLA (DfC) Peter Johnston (DfC SpAd) Kate McClements (DfC Sports Branch) Gary Middleton MLA Michael Allen MBE (Lisneal College Principal) Craig Johnston (Lisneal College Vice Principal) Karen McAvoy (Lisneal College Learning Support Co-ordinator) Paul Kee (Director of Coaching – Maiden City Soccer Academy)		
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Allen set out the school context – enrolment has risen from 576 in 2015/26 to 1195 for September 2024. As the only controlled school between Limavady and Castlederg it is an important school in the community. The school opened a new SPiMS in September 2023 and are very happy with the provision. However, due to increases in SEN and mainstream enrolment there is significant accommodation pressures. An accommodation scheme was agreed but has not yet been delivered. A licence agreement is in place between the Education Authority and Maiden City Football Club for use of the 3G pitch and associated facilities and private funders have invested in the site. However, the pitch is 17 years old and needs replaced and the floodlights, which were installed by EA, are broken and lying on the ground. 			

- The school and the club wish to expand the provision and explore alternative funding streams but the school feel this is being constrained by the EA and the fact that the projects are not 'shovel ready' to avail of in-year funding.
- The Education Minister referred to Ballymacash Rangers and the 10-year development journey the club is undertaking.
- The Communities Minister noted that his Department hopes to make progress on 'Your School, Your Club' but advised that due to the funding model, any schemes progressing under this initiative would need to be 'shovel ready' so that they could complete in year.

ISSUES AGREED:

1. The Education Minister agreed to link the school with Ballymacash Rangers to share their experience.
2. The Education Minister agreed to follow up with EA in relation to the accommodation project; resurfacing the 3G pitch and assisting the school to be 'shovel ready' to avail of any future funding opportunities, such as 'Your School, Your Club'.

ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- Follow up with EA on additional accommodation, pitch resurfacing and support for external funding applications – [REDACTED] (EOT)

NOTE WRITTEN BY: [REDACTED] (EOT)

DATE: 7 June 2024

Signed and dated by Private Secretary: _____.

Ministers clearance : _____.