COLEG CYMRAEG CENEDLAETHOL

Coleg Board, 24 June 2026 (10:30 – 3:00), Sport Wales National Centre, Cardiff and Teams

Present

Board Members:	Dr Aled Eirug (Chair) Ann Beynon Nia Elias (Teams) John Hayes Yusuf Ibrahim Meri Huws Professor Anwen Jones (Teams) Angharad Roberts (Teams) Professor Enlli Thomas (Teams)
Observers:	Nia Edwards-Behi (Cynllun Llywio) Alan Jones (Welsh Government) Dr Caroline Turner (on behalf of the Chair of the Appointments and Governance Standards Committee)
Officers:	Dr Ioan Matthews (Chief Executive) Gwenllian Griffiths (Director of External Affairs) Dr Dylan Phillips (Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary) Rebecca Williams (Director of Tertiary Education) (Teams) Nia Brown (Governance Officer) Mari Fflur (Senior Manager for Policy) (Teams) Ffion Hughes (Senior Manager for Higher Education) (Teams) Suzanne Lewis (Senior Manager for Corporate Services) (Teams) Dr Lowri Morgans (Senior Manager for Further Education) (Teams)

Meeting Minutes 24 June 2026

1. Item 1 – Welcome, apologies and introductory matters

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
1.1	All those present were welcomed to the meeting.		
1.2	Yusuf Ibrahim was welcomed to his first meeting.		
1.3	Dr Caroline Turner, who would be presenting the report of the chair of the Appointments and Governance Standards Committee, on behalf of Rhian Huws Williams who had apologised for not being able to attend, was welcomed.		
1.4	Nia Edwards-Behi who was present as an observer of the Cynllun Llywio which provides practical experience of Welsh-medium governance to prospective leaders from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds was welcomed.		
1.5	Rebecca Williams was welcomed to her first meeting in her role as Director of Tertiary Education and congratulations were extended to her as Dr Dafydd Trystan's successor.		

2. Item 2 – Declarations of interest

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
2.1	Members were reminded of the procedure in which they are asked to note any declarations of interest in addition to those already noted in the Register of Interests.		

3. Item 3 – Appointments and Governance Standards Committee

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
3.1	**Minutes (Item 3i)** The minutes of the Appointments and Governance Standards Committee meeting held on 6 May 2026 were noted. The Secretary reported: • that this was Wyn Mears' last meeting after two terms as an experienced and supportive member of the committee; • on the plan to appoint a new Chair on a non-payment basis following recent correspondence from the Charity		

	Commission; interviews are scheduled to take place at the end of July; • on the plan to appoint new members to the Board as soon as possible as membership is thin. The report was received.		
3.2	**Evaluation questionnaire report (Item 3ii)** The report of the Board's evaluation questionnaire was presented on behalf of the chair of the Appointments and Governance Standards Committee by Dr Caroline Turner. It was reported: • that the process is beneficial in gathering skills and opinions on the Board's performance; • on the format of the questionnaire and the need to elaborate on the 'don't know' response; • that the system of submitting the questionnaire anonymously causes difficulty in discussing the feedback later. During the discussion the comments to update the process for the future were agreed.	Adapt the questionnaire to ask for an explanation when there are 'don't know' answers, and distribute the questionnaire openly (including members' names) rather than an anonymous questionnaire.	2027

	The report was received.		
3.3	**Annual Report (Item 3iii)** An annual report was presented on behalf of the chair of the Appointments and Governance Standards Committee by Dr Caroline Turner. It was reported: • that the report summarises the Committee's work for 2025/26; • that the governance review is timely; • on the discussions regarding paying the Chair; • on the usual programme of appointing members. The annual report was received.		
	At this point Dr Caroline Turner left the meeting.		

4. Item 4 – Minutes 25 March 2026

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
4.1	Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2026 were approved.		

5. Item 5 - Matters arising

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
5.1	Item 4.3 – Governance review report under Item 16. It was reported that a draft copy of the governance report had not arrived until late the day before. Following the incorporation of some corrections and revisions, the report will be shared with members tomorrow. The timetable for discussing the recommendations of the governance review was discussed in the context of the Strategic Plan and the new Chair. It was agreed that the recruitment of Board members should continue according to the current timetable. It was also agreed that the recommendations of the review should be discussed soon in order to align with the Strategic Plan.		
5.2	Items 7.5 and 7.6 – Strategic Plan under Item 8.		
5.3	Item 9.5 – Risk training and risk appetite. The interim Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee reported that	Risk appetite and risk management training for all Board members	Autumn Term 2026

	TIAA, the Coleg's internal auditors, had emphasised the need for the Board to take ownership of risk appetite. There will be training in the autumn term for all Board members prior to the revision of the Risk Register as a result of the new Strategic Plan.		

6. Item 6 - Chief Executive's Report

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
6.1	The Chief Executive's written report on recent activities was received and the updates were noted.		
6.2	**Awards Night – 17 June 2026** A report was given on the Awards Evening when a special contribution award was presented to Dr Simon Brooks.		
6.3	**Context** The transformative external climate was noted following the outcome of the Welsh Parliament Election and the formation of the new government. It is in this context that the Coleg will develop and launch a new Strategic Plan, appoint a Chair and new members to the Board, and		

	implement the recommendations of the governance review, as well as playing a full role in the expectations of the new Welsh Government.		
6.4	**Welsh Government** A meeting was reported which is in the process of being arranged before the end of July with the Minister for Education and the Welsh Language and the Deputy Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education. Meetings with the acting Head of the Welsh Language Division were also reported. The Government has emphasised the importance of clarity on the responsibilities of a range of bodies in order to work together effectively and avoid duplication.		
6.5	**Medr** The need to ensure full clarity on the responsibilities of Medr and the Coleg and the relationship between those responsibilities was reported and discussed. A workshop will be held in due course involving officials from the Welsh Government, Medr and the Coleg.		

	It was reported that work on the preparation of a National Plan is ongoing and the Coleg will submit formal advice later in the year.		
	On this point Professor Anwen Jones joined the meeting.		
6.6	Alan Jones, Welsh Language Division, Welsh Government, noted that there will be a consultation on the National Framework on Welsh Education and Learning Welsh in the autumn term which will relate to Medr's National Plan and the Coleg's Strategic Plan.		
6.7	**Further Education and Apprenticeships** Discussions at the ColegauCymru Headteachers' Forum were reported. Medr's process of providing new agreements for apprenticeships in the autumn was also reported with the Coleg advising on the need to mainstream the Welsh language.		
6.8	**Qualifications Wales** The qualifications review in England and its impact on vocational qualifications in Wales was reported. Qualifications Wales will provide high-		

	level advice to the Government at the beginning of the summer.		
6.9	**Irish Government Department for Education** A meeting between the Chief Executive and the Secretary with representatives from the Education Department of the Government of the Republic of Ireland to share information on the development of Welsh-medium higher education over the last twenty years and the role of the Coleg was reported.		
6.10	In response to a question it was reported that the Strategic Plan places emphasis on the wider use of research and data in order to set the direction of the Coleg's work and to inform policy planning and measuring impact.		

7. Item 7 – Chair's Matters

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
7.1	The Chair reported that it was a pleasure to present Dr Simon Brooks with a special		

	contribution award at the Awards Evening on 17 June. On the occasion of his last usual meeting he thanked the members for their support throughout his term of service.		
7.2	He reported that he will hold conversations with the members during the summer term.		

8. Item 8 – Strategic Plan 2026-30

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
8.1	A draft Strategic Plan was presented by the Chief Executive.		
8.2	It was reported that a meeting had been held between the Chair and the chairs of the sub-committees to discuss the draft.		
8.3	He reported that there will be a significant amount of work to align the Coleg's activities and processes, including the recommendations of the governance review, with the new Strategic Plan.		
8.4	He reported that a series of meaningful metrics and indicators will be identified in order to		

	continuously evaluate the progress and success of the Coleg's work through the action plan.		
8.5	A summary of the Plan including vision, strategic objectives, priority areas, approaches and values was provided by the Director of External Affairs.		
8.6	During the discussion: • reference was made to the strategic forwardness of the Plan; • it was noted that CEFR will be a string to measure progress and progression; • it was reiterated that the priority areas will be able to be tailored as needs develop and vary; • the importance of value to the learner was identified; • reference was made to the fact that the Coleg is at the heart of Welsh identity and culture.		
8.7	Alan Jones, Welsh Language Division, Welsh Government, welcomed the Strategic Plan with reference to Medr's regulatory powers, workforce		

	needs, and lifelong and community language practices.		
8.8	Following discussion the draft Strategic Plan was agreed with minor amendments in order to commence consultation during the summer term. A meeting of the Board will be held on 1 October 2026 (*date confirmed following the meeting) to finalise the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will be launched in the Senedd on 17 November.		

9. Item 9 – Financing provision paper

9.1	A financing provision paper (Item 9i) was presented by the Senior Manager for Policy.		
9.2	Some ideas were outlined to be presented as advice under the designation to Medr in terms of funding Welsh-medium and bilingual provision.		
9.3	The Alma Economics report (Item 9ii) and the Coleg's Response to Alma Economics' recommendations (Item 9iii) were noted.		

9.4	Following a discussion that agreed with the principles, the advice in the paper was approved.		

10. Item 10 – Audit and Risk Committee

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
10.1	**Minutes (Item 10i)** The minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 20 May 2026 were noted. Ann Beynon, interim chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, reported: • on the need for Board members to undergo risk appetite and risk management training to be provided by the internal auditors to be held in the autumn (Item 5.3 above); • that she has held one-on-one conversations with the members; • that Paul Peters had agreed to continue as an external member for a second term. The recommendation was agreed. The report was received.		

10.2	**Strategic Risk Register (Item 10ii)** It was reported that the Risk Register will be revised following the governance review and the Strategic Plan. It was recommended to include a reference to risk regarding the decline of Welsh-medium students in schools. The Coleg's strategic risk register was noted, for information.	John Hayes to share information on this for consideration when updating the Register.	Immediately
10.3	**Annual report (Item 10iii)** The annual report was received.		

11. Item 11 – Finance and General Purposes Committee

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
11.1	**Minutes** The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10 June 2026 were noted. Professor Anwen Jones, chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, reported:		

	• on the appointment of investment managers in September 2026; • had received a Welsh Government Grant Letter for 2026/27; • that they have received an interim end-of-year report on the 2025/26 budget; • that the final accounts were being transferred to the External Auditors for the annual audit of the Coleg's accounts; • that she will hold talks with members in the summer term. The report was received.		

12. Item 12 – Academic Board

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
12.1	**Minutes** The minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held on 13 May 2026 were noted. Professor Enlli Thomas, chair of the Academic Board, reported: • on the concern expressed by learner representatives that the Curriculum for		

	Wales will have a negative impact on the number of students studying certain higher education subjects in the future; • on income challenges due to falling numbers of international students and the impact of that on job losses. The report was received.		

13. Item 13 – Post-16 Strategic Board

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
13.1	**Minutes** The minutes of the Post-16 Strategic Board meeting held on 3 June 2026 were noted. Meri Huws, chair of the Post-16 Strategic Board, reported that since Yusuf Ibrahim chaired the meeting he could give a summary of the discussions. He reported that while there was an increase in provision, there was great diversity and gaps within colleges and apprenticeship providers in terms of staff skills and learner approach. The report was received.		

13.2	Meri Huws' wish to step down as chair of the Post-16 Strategic Board was noted and Yusuf Ibrahim was nominated and accepted as her successor. Meri Huws was thanked for her work in establishing and leading the Post-16 Strategic Board.		
	At this point Nia Elias departed		

14. Item 14 - Any other matter

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
14.1	**National Eisteddfod** It was reported that the Coleg's Eisteddfod programme will be circulated in due course. This year's annual lecture will be delivered by Tudur Dylan Jones.		

15. Item 15 – Dates of next meetings

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
17.1	**Next meeting dates** The dates of the next meetings were noted:		

	• 1 October 2026, Cardiff and Teams • 18 November 2026, Cardiff • 17 March 2027, Swansea • 30 June 2027, Aberystwyth		
	At this point Nia Edwards-Behi, Mari Fflur, Ffion Hughes and Alan Jones left		

16. Item 18 – CLOSED

No.	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
16.1	Separate minutes.		